

Not settling or giving up

The year of accountability for gender equality



European Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management, Hadja Lahbib and
EIGE Director Carlien Scheele

Welcome to EIGE's newsletter. If you're new here, it's great to have you; if you've been receiving these updates for a while, welcome back!

We are feeling the darkness of the world right now and imagine you maybe feeling the same. A world that is shifting tides by the minute, leaving us all in a state of uncertainty. Which is why we need hope and action more than ever before to keep up our morale.

The gender equality actors and advocates who participated at our [Gender Equality Forum 2024](#) last December gave us a powerful reminder that no one is settling or

giving up anytime soon. If anything, the challenges impacting gender equality is igniting more motivation to overcome them.

Our rich agenda over the two day event saw critical conversations across many pertinent topics such as how we can achieve an inclusive green and digital transition, how we can strengthen gender equality and democratic institutions and why gender equality is so important even during times of full-scale war. You can watch all the sessions back [here](#).

The new European Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management, Hadja Lahbib, who attended the Forum, summed up the mood in [her keynote address](#) with her moving story of how she rose to the highest office, defying society's limited expectations of her as a child.

"I wasn't expected to go to university, to become a war reporter ... Foreign Minister and now EU Commissioner. But here I am!"

Her rallying cry should inspire everyone – especially young women and girls– to not only believe in themselves but to use their voice and actively shape the future for gender equality.

We leave you with Director Carlien Scheele's [words](#) from her LinkedIn recently to keep you encouraged and galvanised:

2025 is the year we will not settle or give up.

We will not give up on ending violence against women.

We will not give up on getting more women in power.

We will not give up on changing the state of care.

We will not give up on making an even stronger case for mainstreaming gender in policymaking.

Because every single person should feel that Europe is designed for them.

We will not give up on protecting progress on gender equality against pushbacks.

We will not give up on our union of equality.

2025 is the year of turning paper into practice.

We've come this far. Now it's for our commitment and action to march forward!

Latest News

Gender Equality Forum 2024: Chair Statement

In the face of changing and challenging times in Europe, we need to protect our Union of Equality more than ever before. The Gender



Equality Forum 2024 proved that no one in our community is settling or giving up.

Director Carlien Scheele's Chair Statement outlines the key learnings and outcomes from the inspiring sessions and workshops held during the two-day event, to keep our momentum going from now until we reconvene for the Gender Equality Forum 2026. Read it [here](#).

Publications

In review: Publications 2024



In case you missed any of our publications from 2024, we've published the full list on EIGE's website.

We covered a wide variety of gender equality issues. From sexual and reproductive healthcare to financial independence to the labour market post parental leave, good practices in gender mainstreaming in the European Green Deal and the release of our flagship Gender Equality Index 2024. You can access everything [here](#).

Words Matter: Thinking before speaking



In a bid for greater inclusivity in language and communication, we updated our 2019 toolkit on gender-sensitive language and communication.

In our new guide, 'Words Matter: Supporting Gender Equality through Language and Communication' we give broader visibility to the needs and lived experiences of different groups of women and men in all their diversity.

This guide is intended for practical use for anyone who wants to improve their language and communication approaches. It's got everything from self-reflection exercises to better understand gender biases and gender stereotypes through to guidance on how to

build up gender-inclusive communication messages for a variety of formats such as voice overs, panels and videos.

Start off by taking our self-knowledge [quiz](#) and download the full guide [here](#).

Good to know

Thematic Focus: Tackling Violence Against Women



We released our Gender Equality Index 2024 at the end of last year. With the EU standing at 71 points out of 100 (where 100 represents full gender equality) we have a way to go for advancing progress. In the Index 2024 report we present country scores in key domains [work, money, knowledge, power, time, health] and how these scores link to violence against women.

Now, delving deeper, the Index 2024 Thematic Focus on Tackling Violence Against Women, Tackling Gender Inequalities, presents recent policy and legal developments, sheds light on the latest data on violence against women and societal attitudes and reveals how far the EU is from eradicating this issue - along with the cost of inaction.

Ahead of International Women's Day, we will be publishing the report, so keep your eyes on your Inbox for its release.

Impact Driver: Beijing Platform for Action

For the incumbent Polish Presidency, we have a big milestone coming up.

The Agency has conducted a horizontal overview to mark 30 years since the adoption of the [Beijing Platform for Action](#).

We looked at how much progress we've achieved on gender equality in the EU since the last review in 2019: what challenges have emerged in recent years and what opportunities they open for gender equality.



The full report will be live later this year.

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