Survey on Anti-rights attacks against women's human rights in UNECE Region

In the framework of the B+25 process and the preparation of the UNECE regional meeting in Geneva (October 2019)

The past decade has witnessed increasingly systematic, well resourced and well connected attacks on the human rights in general, and women’s human rights in particular. In fact, these attacks have mobilized well enough to move beyond the national political sphere and reach the multilateral institutions, such as the UN and the Council of Europe, jeopardizing the human rights and women’s human rights norms that have been built in the recent decades. This has led to the shrinking space of civil society, the reduction in funds available for CSOs as well as UN agencies and the purposeful de-legitimisation of human rights discourses.

We would like to collect info and testimonials on attacks of the anti-right groups against women's human rights in UNECE countries (The UNECE region covers 56 member States including European countries, but also countries in North America (Canada and United States), Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and Israel) . We thought that we could utilize this information for our pre-meeting messaging, during our advocacy in the UNECE Beijing+25 official meeting, as well as beyond.

The anti-rights movements claims to be authentic to each country/locality, but we know from our experiences that they use the same tactics and same terminology to attack the rights women and LGBTI+ groups. This undermines hard-won human rights that have been fought for decades. We hope that this compilation can help us make this more visible. We appreciate all forms of information, however understand safety concerns. Please keep this in mind while sharing your experiences, and let us know if there are any parts of your input that you would not want to be public or anonymised.

Thank you all so much for your input !

DEADLINE for completion of the survey is 04 October 2019 (Friday).

Country

Italy

Organization (Voluntary information)

D.i.Re Donne in rete contro la violenza

Do you have antirights groups in your country?

Yes X

No

Altro:

If YES, could you, please, name some of them?

Pro-life organisations; ultra-catholic and far-right organisations and parties, outside and inside Parliament; organisations of separated fathers; groups supporting the idea of traditional and natural family; groups against the so-called “gender theory” or against “gender”; groups denying male violence against women and femicide.

Since when are they active (or active enough to be publicly visible) ?

They have been active since 2014, and they have gained public visibility since 2018

What are the activities they undertake?

Public protests or sit-in against the right to abortion; cyber violence against women feminists and women’s centres; public initiatives, often with the support of local/regional/national institutions, such as the World Congress of Families held in Verona in 2019; advocacy for the approval from local institutions of pro-life resolution; advocacy and lobbying to table law proposals aimed at amend family laws and custody rights; initiatives as a dedicated section of local cemetery for foetus, regardless the mother consent.

What are their main slogans/discourse, and/or areas of interest?

* Some slogan include “God, homeland, family”; “the first cause of femicide is abortion”; “No gender”
* Main areas of interest: right to abort; gender; male violence against women; femicide; rights of separated fathers; divorce.

Have there been active attacks against feminist and/or LGBTİQ+ organizations/activists?

Yes X

No

Altro:

If YES, could you please give examples?

Cyber violence; physical violence against feminist activities

How anti-rights strategies have affected your own work?

* Increasing difficulties to work on the issue of gender stereotypes, especially at school, on account of the fear of school managers and teachers to talk about “gender”
* such strategies curb our freedom of expression and manifestation for fear of attacks / contestation

Any other comments: