



European  
Commission

# CHAMPIONING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE EU AND BEYOND

8 MARCH 2022

#InternationalWomensDay

“I want Europe to be at the side of women with protection and support. I want a society where violence against women is prevented, condemned, and prosecuted when it occurs. The time for justice and equality is now. That’s why we come forward today with the right rules to accelerate change.”

*Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission*

## **GENDER EQUALITY STRATEGY**

Sets out the Commission’s agenda for 2020-2025 to promote equality between women and men in all their diversity in the EU.

## **NEW ACTION PLAN ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN EXTERNAL ACTION (GAP III)**

Sets out the EU’s agenda for 2021 – 2025 to promote women and girls equality and empowerment around the world.

Justice  
and Consumers

## ○ COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Commission is taking systemic action to fight violence against women offline and online:

**Digital Services Act**  
(December 2020)

**Hate crime and hate speech**  
to become EU crime  
(December 2021)

**Strategy on trafficking in human beings**  
(April 2021)

New proposal for EU law on combating **violence against women and domestic violence**  
(March 2022)



## ○ CLOSING GENDER GAPS IN THE LABOUR MARKET

The Commission is active to ensure that women and men get equal opportunities at work:

**Strategy on Small and Medium Enterprises**  
(March 2020)

New proposal on EU framework for **minimum wages for workers**  
(October 2020)

**New proposal for EU rules on pay transparency for women and men**  
(March 2021)

New EU rules on **work-life balance** enter into application as of August 2022

## ○ PROMOTING WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING

The Commission leads by example and doubled down its efforts to increase women's representation in decision-making positions in Europe, also in times of crisis.

Expected breakthrough in March on **women on boards** proposal

**Gender-equal**  
College of Commissioners

Target of **50% gender equality**  
at all levels of Commission  
management.



## ○ INVESTING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE EU AND AROUND THE WORLD

Gender equality is now a key element of the new EU budget, NextGenerationEU and funding for EU's external action.

Over **100 different actions on gender equality** under Member States' Recovery and Resilience Plans.

**€1.55 billion over 2021-2027** under EU's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values funding programme.

**€500 million** allocated under the global EU-UN Spotlight Initiative

**85% of actions** under Global Europe financial instrument will promote gender equality

