



SAVE THE DATE

Breakfast Panel Belgium - Turkey

"Protecting Women and Girls from Harmful Practices: Sharing Best Practices"

Side event organized by Belgium and Turkey on the occasion of the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Tuesday 5th March 2013

8:30-10:00am

Turkish Permanent Mission to the UN

821 United Nations Plaza, 10th floor

Speakers:

Ms Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children

Ms Joëlle Milquet, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Equal Opportunities, Belgium

Ms Fatma Sahin, Minister of Family and Social Policies, Turkey

Ms Thérèse Legros, Coordinator INTACT, a Belgian NGO working on Female Genital Mutilation

Guldal Akşit, Head of Women's Branch at the Justice and Development Party Headquarters

Ms Patricia Olamendi, Member of the Working Group on discrimination against women, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Moderator:

Mr Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea, Director for Equality of the European Commission (DG Justice)

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS PANEL. If you would like to attend, please send your full name as on your ID to gizem.sucuoglu@mfa.gov.tr by March 1.

Background note

Millions of women and children across the globe continue to suffer from various forms of harmful practices, including female genital mutilation, early and forced marriages and honour killings.

Harmful practices, long-standing or emerging, have devastating consequences on the lives, development, health and well-being of women and children and continue to seriously hamper the enjoyment of women and children's rights.

The protection of women and children from violence, including harmful practices, is enshrined in international human rights instruments, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which both contain legally binding obligations in relation to the elimination of harmful practices affecting women and girls that are based on gender stereotypes and prejudices grounded in patriarchy. But in strong contradiction to this ethical and legal imperative, harmful practices remain pervasive and sometimes socially condoned.

The way forward is not to use impositions, but to learn from each other, and using each other's experience to pursue change from within. Therefore, this side event's overall objective is to exchange best practices on the way forward to eliminate harmful practices affecting women and children.

To this end, Belgium will focus on female genital mutilation while Turkey will focus on honor-related crimes.