

CSW61 Review Theme -

**Progress made by Bulgaria in implementing
the MDGs from a gender perspective**

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Gender Equality – an important prerequisite for the full realization of all human rights

- * **Equality before the law** - a fundamental principle enshrined in the Constitution of Bulgaria
- * **Women and men in Bulgaria enjoy equal civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights**
- * **Gender-based discrimination is prohibited by law; all relevant legislation and government policies contain anti-discriminatory regulations**

Realizing the human rights of women and girls - Bulgarian legal framework

- ***Law for Protection against Discrimination**
- adopted in 2003
- ***Law for Protection against Domestic Violence** - adopted in 2005
- ***Law on Equality between Women and Men** - adopted in 2016 - establishes the principle of equality as a coordinated state policy

Realizing the human rights of women and girls in Bulgaria - international human rights instruments

- UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (**CEDAW**) and its Optional Protocol
 - In 2012 - consolidated periodic report to the CEDAW Committee
 - In 2013 - Action Plan for the implementation of the final recommendations of the CEDAW Committee
 - In 2017 - final report to CEDAW Committee
- Convention of the Council of Europe on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (**Istanbul Convention**)

Strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality in Bulgaria

- * **National Council on Equality between Women and Men**
 - consultative body to the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria
 - established in 2004
- * **Ministry of Labour and Social Policy** - coordinating the national policy on gender equality
- * **Commission for Protection against Discrimination** - the national equality body of Bulgaria - established in 2005
- * **Gender equality coordinator** - in every government institution - since 2016

Strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality in Bulgaria

- * **National Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality - updated in 2016**
- * **Annual Plans of Action for the implementation of the National Strategy**
- * **Integrating a gender perspective in all policies, strategies and programmes**
- * **Gender mainstreaming**

Measures for promoting Gender Equality in Bulgaria

- * equal participation of women and men in the labour market
- * equal pay for equal work
- * flexible working hours
- * professional mobility and opportunities to combine career and private life
- * protection of working women
- * equal treatment of women and men who are self-employed

Bulgarian women in decision-making

- * for 2 terms women hold the office of **President of the National Assembly** and **Mayor of the Capital City of Sofia**
- * the **Ombudsman of Bulgaria** is a woman
- * **Bulgaria ranks 3rd in the EU** in terms of women's participation in the executive boards of large companies
- * the 2 **EU Commissioners** from Bulgaria were women
- * the **Director-General of UNESCO** is a Bulgarian woman

Bulgarian women in decision-making

- * In the last 25 years the number of **female MPs** in the National Assembly of Bulgaria has increased **more than twice**
- * **30 %** of the **Bulgarian Members** of the European Parliament are women

Bulgarian women in decision-making

- * For the last 25 years women have held a number of high-level Government offices:
 - **Vice President of the Republic of Bulgaria (1992 - 1993, 2012 - 2017 and at present)**
 - **Prime Minister (1994 - 1995)**
 - **Deputy Prime Minister in several Governments**
 - **Ministers, Heads of State Agencies**

Bulgarian women in decision-making

- * the Head of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination is a woman
- * the majority of civil servants in the central and local administration are women

Bulgarian women in decision-making

- * Bulgarian women are well represented in the management and administration of the local authorities:
 - more than 30 % of the municipal counselors are women
 - 3 of the Mayors of big Bulgarian cities, including of the Capital City, are women

Bulgarian women in decision-making

- * 70 % of the **magistrates** in the national courts at all levels are women
- * 43 % of the **magistrates** in the Prosecutor's Office are women
- * 1 of the **Deputy Prosecutors** is a woman
- * 35 % of the **judges** in the Constitutional Court are women

Bulgarian women in decision-making

- * The majority of **journalists** and people working in the media in Bulgaria are women
- * The majority of **human rights activists** and people working in Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations are women

Bulgarian women in decision-making at all levels

- * The prevailing majority of the Managing Directors of Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations in Bulgaria are women

Civil Society participation - the Bulgarian model

Civil society in Bulgaria - very actively involved in promoting gender equality:

- elaboration of relevant **legislation;**
- **eliminating violence and discrimination;**
- **supporting victims of violence;**
- **fighting stereotypes;**
- **awareness raising;**
- **education and training**

Civil Society participation - the Bulgarian model

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THANK YOU!