



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND COOPERATION IN DEFENCE OF THE RIGHTS OF LGBTI PEOPLE BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF EQUALITY OF THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN AND THE FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR FAMILY AFFAIRS, SENIOR CITIZENS, WOMEN AND YOUTH OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

The Ministry of Equality of the Kingdom of Spain and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of the Federal Republic of Germany, hereinafter referred to as "the Signatories", with the aim of providing a basic framework of understanding to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the field of violence against women and, in particular, prevention and comprehensive care of victims of violence against women and in the field of LGBTI rights and, recognising the mutual benefits thereof, have decided, in accordance with their laws and regulations, to sign this Memorandum of Understanding.

I

The Signatories shall seek to promote cooperation between the two countries, with the aim of achieving mutual understanding in the field of combating violence against women, as stipulated in the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, signed in Istanbul in 2011, and on the fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and sex characteristics, in line with the European Commission's LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025.

To this end, the Signatories commit to review and advance all aspects linked to bilateral relations and therefore exchange views on issues of common interest in this field, with a particular focus on promoting cooperation, *inter alia*, in the following areas:

- a) Contribute to the development and implementation of legislation aiming to eliminate all forms of violence against women, with a special emphasis on prevention and comprehensive care for women victims and their children and that promotes the fight for equal treatment and against discrimination against LGBTI people, focusing in particular on the right to change the registration of gender based on depathologisation and gender self-determination;
- b) Contribute to meeting the specific needs of both countries in the fight against violence against women, both in terms of prevention and care for victims and their children and in the fight against LGBTI-phobia, both in terms of prevention and care for victims of discrimination or hate incidents or crimes;
- c) Share and support strategies designed in each country to develop public policies that contribute to the elimination of all forms of violence against women, promote equal treatment, and combat discrimination on the grounds covered by this Memorandum;
- d) Promote, carry out and evaluate common initiatives, both for the implementation of measures at the domestic level of the states and for the promotion of the fight against violence against women and of equality of LGBTI people at the European Union and international level;

e) Jointly defend the right of women to a life free of violence and the right to free movement of LGBTI families within the European Union and to international protection for people fleeing their countries for the reasons covered by this Memorandum.

The Signatories may identify new areas by mutual agreement to promote joint activities within the envisaged competencies.

II

The terms of cooperation stipulated in this Memorandum shall include the following:

- a) Exchange of experiences and information on regulations and good practices in public policies for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and on equal treatment in terms of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and sex characteristics;
- b) Mutual advice and technical assistance;
- c) Any other activities to be agreed between the Signatories.

In addition, the Signatories may promote and facilitate academic, scientific and social movement cooperation between the two countries and between their citizens.

III

For its follow-up, a meeting shall be held annually between the authorities responsible for combating violence against women and for the fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and sex characteristics. For its preparation and development, meetings or consultations may be held at a technical level on the areas mentioned in this Memorandum or any other areas of common interest that may be identified at a later date.

IV

The implementation of the object of this Memorandum does not entail any financial obligations for the Signatories. Each Signatory will assume, with its own material and personal resources, the cost of the actions to be carried out in compliance with the Memorandum.

All activities under this Memorandum of Understanding will be subject to the availability of ordinary annual funds to both Signatories. .

V

In application of Spanish and German domestic law, the information shared between the Signatories may only be used for the purposes specified in this Memorandum of Understanding and may only be shared with third parties with the express written consent of the Signatories.

VI



Bundesministerium
für Familie, Senioren, Frauen
und Jugend



The areas of cooperation set out in this Memorandum of Understanding may be expanded or modified by a mutual written declaration of intent by the Signatories.

VII

This Memorandum of Understanding is not legally binding, nor does it generate obligations under international law and therefore cannot serve as a legal basis for initiating legal proceedings or for issuing any kind of court judgement or arbitral award. Therefore, any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of this Memorandum shall be settled amicably through direct negotiations and consultations between the Signatories and may not be submitted to any court.

VIII

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be effective from the date of signature by the Signatories for an initial period of 2 years thereafter and will be tacitly extended for periods of 1 year unless either Signatory communicates the other in writing of its intention to terminate the application of this Memorandum of Understanding 3 months prior to the date of termination.

IX

The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding shall not affect the conclusion of programmes, projects or agreements that have been concluded during its implementation.

In witness whereof and in acceptance of the content of this Memorandum, the two Signatories have signed this Memorandum, this 5th day of the month of September in the year two thousand and twenty-two.

The Memorandum is concluded in two original copies in English, Spanish and German. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

Signatories

For the Ministry of Equality
of the Kingdom of Spain

For the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs,
Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of the
Federal Republic of Germany

Irene María Montero Gil
Minister of Equality
(appointed under Royal Decree 8/2020,
12th January, Official Spanish Gazette [BOE]
13th January 2020).

Lisa Paus
Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior
Citizens, Women and Youth



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