



Strasbourg, 14 March 2019

EPAS(2019)01

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport

Expert Conference on Sexual Violence against Women and Children in Sports

A conference bringing together experts, policy-makers, practitioners, researchers/academics and victim support specialists to scale up actions to tackle sexual violence against women and children in sports.

Monday, 29 April 2019, 12:00 – 17:00

Tuesday, 30 April 2019, 09:00 – 17:00

Conference venue: The National Museum of Finland
Mannerheimintie 34, Helsinki, Finland

Working languages: English, French (with simultaneous interpretation)

Factsheet



BACKGROUND AND NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK

Sport attracts huge attention and is the most popular cultural practice of millions of Europeans including women and children. The important role sport plays for European societies is overshadowed by the cases of sexual violence against women and children. Despite the efforts undertaken by decision makers to create safer sport environments such as the [European Sport Charter](#) of the Council of Europe or the [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2015\)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on gender mainstreaming in sport](#), sexual violence still happens - as shown in the context of the #metoo movement - against women and children.

“Sexual assault against children is an urgent human rights issue and fighting it should be a political priority”. (Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, 2011)

The [Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#), also known as “the Lanzarote Convention”, requires criminalisation of all kinds of sexual offences against children. It sets out that states in Europe and beyond shall adopt specific legislation and take measures to prevent sexual violence, to protect child victims and to prosecute perpetrators.

[The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence](#) is based on the understanding that violence against women is a form of gender-based violence that is committed against women because they are women. It is the obligation of the state to fully address it in all its forms and to take measures to prevent violence against women, protect its victims and prosecute the perpetrators. Failure to do so would make it the responsibility of the state. The convention leaves no doubt: there can be no real equality between women and men if women experience gender-based violence on a large-scale and state agencies and institutions turn a blind eye.

SCALING UP ACTION

To enhance the effectiveness and to achieve better progress of the actions taken in the fight against sexual violence, a holistic approach bringing together relevant stakeholders is considered crucial. The Council of Europe flagship initiative Start to Talk on children protection in sport pursues this multi-stakeholder approach. It aims at supporting capacity-building and at providing technical assistance for stakeholders on developing and implementing concrete, practical actions to:

- raise awareness and implement a campaign;
- develop or improve safeguarding and protection frameworks;
- organise training sessions/ workshops.

EPAS considers a similar approach, as developed in the framework of Start to Talk, to address sexual violence against women in sport.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The conference shall foster the dialogue between public authorities, the sport movement and relevant stakeholder organisations such as victim support organisations to tackle sexual violence against women and children in sport in concrete ways. It will offer the opportunity to receive hands on information to address and deal with sexual violence against women and children in sport effectively.

ORGANISERS

The conference is co-organised by EPAS and the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Finland in the context of the Finnish Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

DATES

Monday, 29 April 2019, 12:00-17:00

Tuesday, 30 April 2019, 9:00-17:00

CONFERENCE VENUE

National Museum

Auditorium

Mannerheimintie 34

Helsinki, Finland

<https://www.kansallismuseo.fi/en/yhteystiedot>

ACCOMMODATION

Participants are free to choose their accommodation.

Rooms have been blocked for one night (29-30 April) at the following hotels at a guaranteed preferential rate, if you register before 30 March 2019. Please register as soon as possible to guarantee your preferential rate! (You will have to pay for your room upon arrival at/ or departure from the hotel.)

SCANDIC PARK HELSINKI (7 min walk/ 550 m walk to Conference venue)

Room price: Standard single 136 €

Address: Mannerheimintie 46, 00260 Helsinki

Tel: +358 9 47371

Breakfast: included

Website: <https://www.scandichotels.com/hotels/finland/helsinki/scandic-park-helsinki>

HOTEL HELKA (12 min walk/ 900 m walk to Conference venue)

Room price: Smart Single 108 € / Comfort Single 128 €

Address: Pohjoinen Rautatiekatu 23, 00100 Helsinki

Tel: +358 9 613 580

Breakfast: included

Website: <https://www.hotelhelka.com/>

WORKING LANGUAGES

English and French

PARTICIPANTS

The conference will be attended by:

Representatives of public authorities from Council of Europe member states

- Officials from public authorities from Council of Europe member states
- Officials from relevant public authorities in charge of children protection and gender equality

Representatives of civil society

- International/European sports organisations or federations
- National, regional and local sports associations and clubs
- Relevant NGOs in the field of children protection and gender equality
- Youth organisations

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

- Participation is free of charge.
- Travel and accommodation costs are at the participants' own expense.
- Different conditions apply for speakers and one governmental expert per EPAS member State.
- Coffee breaks, buffet lunch and dinner on Monday 29 April as well as lunch on Tuesday 30 April will be offered to all participants by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture.

WEBSTREAM

The conference will be streamed on the internet and recorded.

REGISTRATION

Interested individuals shall register electronically:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/online-registration-helsinki-conference>

AIRPORT AND TRANSFERS

Further information on ground transportation from/ to Helsinki Airport can be also found at:

<https://www.helsinki-airport.com/transport.php>

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN AND AROUND HELSINKI

You can check up-to-date routes and timetables for public transportation with HSL's Journey Planner.

Journey Planner

HSL app:

https://www.hsl.fi/en/app?gclid=EA1aIQobChMIybj9wvLg4AIVEJAYChOT2A93EAAYASAAEgKr8PD_BwE

Browser version:

<https://www.hsl.fi/en/timetables-and-routes>

Tickets for public transportation can be bought from ticket machines, R-kiosks, bus drivers or via HSL app.

Ticket options

➤ Regional ticket

Via Hsl app 4,20€

From a bus 5,50€

From a ticket machine 5,00€

*Train tickets need to be bought **before** entering the train from a ticket machine.*

Two-zone ticket for 3 days costs 28€ (includes airport area and unlimited use of public transport).

➤ Helsinki area ticket

Via HSL app 2,20€

From a bus 3,20€

From a ticket machine 2,90€

How to reach the conference venue and hotels from the airport

AIRPORT --> HELSINKI CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION (3 options)

Option 1: By train

- Take train **I** or **P** to Helsinki Central Railway station ("Rautatientori").
There are good instructions at the airport to the Airport train station.
You can take both the trains to either direction, both ways arrive at Central Railway station.

Option 2: By bus

- Take bus 615 towards Rautatientori Helsinki (Helsinki Central Railway station).
The bus stop is located in front of Terminal 2.

Option 3: by taxi

HELSINKI CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION --> CONFERENCE VENUE

- When you arrive to Central Railway Station take tram 4 towards "Munkkiniemi" or tram 10 towards "Pikku Huopalahti".
- Hop off at the stop "Kansallismuseo"

HELSINKI CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION --> HOTEL SCANDIC PARK

- When you arrive to Central Railway Station take tram 4 towards “Munkkiniemi” or tram 10 towards “Pikku Huopalahti”.
- Hop off at the stop “Hesperian puisto”

HELSINKI CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION --> HOTEL HELKA

- When you arrive to Central Railway Station take tram 1 towards “Käpylä” and hop off at the stop “Kauppakorkeakoulut” or take tram 7 towards “Länsiterminaali” and hop off at the stop “Kampintori”.

Duration & price

1. Train + tram (~1h – 1h 15 min) cost 4,20€ – 5,50€
2. Bus 615 + tram (~1 h 15 min) cost 4,20€ – 5,50€
3. Taxi (25-30 min) cost 40€ – 50€. Taxi number: **0100 0700**

VISAS

- Participants are responsible for checking visa requirements and making their own visa arrangements before departure.
- The Council of Europe can prepare “notes verbales” for registered participants requiring a visa. Visa-related expenses are to be borne by the participants.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter hashtags: #epasconf2019

The Expert Conference on Sexual Violence against Women and Children in Sports encourages you to support the promotion of human rights in sport. You can do this by using the hashtags #WeSupportHumanRights and #FinlandCoE on social media.

CONTACT

For any further information, please contact the EPAS secretariat at the Council of Europe:

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