



Gender equality and quality of life –
how gender equality can contribute
to development in Europe.
A study of Poland and Norway



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PROGRAMME**



UiO : University of Oslo



**JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY
IN KRAKÓW**

DEMOCRACY, GENDER EQUALITY POLICIES AND THE WAR ON GENDER IN POLAND

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PROJECT INFORMATION

- “Gender equality and quality of life – how gender equality can contribute to development in Europe. A study of Poland and Norway”
- October 2013 - March 2016
- Funded by the Polish-Norwegian Research Programme
- Consortium:
 - Institute of Sociology, Jagiellonian University of Krakow
 - Centre for Gender Research (STK), University of Oslo
 - Department of Medical Sociology, Jagiellonian University Medical College
 - Institute of Health and Society (Helsam), University of Oslo

BACKLASH AGAINST GENDER EQUALITY

- Abortion and reproductive rights
- In vitro and biopolitics
- Gender-equality education
- Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

CONVENTION ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - CALENDARY

- **March 2012** – the Prime Minister Donald Tusk announced that the government would make a decision regarding the ratification of the Convention „soon”.
- **April 2012** – Jarosław Gowin, the Minister of Justice, stated that the aim of the Convention is to promote „same-sex marriage” and „the Convention stands in direct conflict with a ‘healthy, traditional model’ for marriage (as a union of one man and one woman) and child-rearing allegedly delineated by the Polish constitution”.
- **9 July 2012** – The Presidium of Polish Bishops’ Conference issued a statement against the ratification of Convention
- **18 December 2012** – Poland signed the Council of Europe Convention
- **28 August 2014** – first reading of the bill introducing the Convention in both Commissions. The Commissions proposal: adopt the bill without amendments
- **6 February 2015** –the bill passed. Voting: 254 for, 175 against, 8 abstentions
- **5 March 2015** – Senat approved the bill introducing the Convention. No amendments were suggested
- **14 March 2015** – the President Bronisław Komorowski signed the bill introducing the Council of Europe's Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women
- **13 April 2015** - the President Bronisław Komorowski signed the Council of Europe's Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women

MEDIA COVERAGE ON THE CONVENTION

Convention:

- highly ideological, imposed by Western Other
- poses a threat to traditional family values and children
- introducing same-sex marriages and non-traditional family models
- promotion of feminism
- Promotion of homosexuality

MEDIA COVERAGE ON THE CONVENTION

- “She [Małgorzata Sadurska, Law and Justice] called the convention "pure ideology". The similarities with Marxism is evident. The latter is about class struggle, the former – gender struggle” (Gazeta Wyborcza, 25.09.2014).
- “Convention is being criticized by right-wing parties and organizations and the Church. They believe that the document threatens the "traditional family" and would "lead to the promotion of homosexuality". The bishops fear that the convention will introduce "gender ideology". They disagree with the statement that religion is the source of violence against women. Right-wing parties are concerned that the Convention aims to prevent violence against women and girls by combating cultural stereotypes, hence, by attacking the traditional family” (Gazeta Wyborcza 01.24.2014).
- “Local politicians: The Convention means dismantling of Polish society. We can not be passive” (Gazeta Wyborcza, 27.03.2015)

IMPLICATIONS FOR GENDER EQUALITY POLICIES

- Public – private division
- Reducing violence to violence in the family
- Gender-equality education
- Gender stereotypes
- Importance of collective over individual rights
- Church-state relations

CONCLUSION

- Resistance to gender equality policies
 - Gender equality – hotly contested concept
 - Gender equality – subject to political struggle
 - Gender equality – travelling, external concept
 - Anxiety for gender in political discourse: threat to family, nation and democracy
 - Limited impact on society
- Media coverage reveals hegemonic discourse and power in framing gender equality policy



Thank you for your attention

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