The adoption of legislation and policies and significant progress in the field of gender equality are rising in number in Estonia. Violence against women remains a pervasive human rights violation in Estonia. Estonia’s adherence to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) makes it so that gender equality is earned. Estonia trains law enforcement and judicial officials, strengthening legal assistance to victims.

For many years, the United Nations faced serious challenges in its efforts to promote gender equality globally. In [July 2010](https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2010/7/un-creates-new-structure-for-empowerment-of-women), the United Nations General Assembly created UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality, and the Empowerment of Women. In doing so, UN Member States took a historic step in accelerating the Organization’s goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women. It merges and builds on the important work which focused exclusively on gender equality and women’s empowerment like Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work.

## The Estonian Research Council (ERC) aims to ensure equal opportunities for all women and men researchers. It seeks gender equality in all of its activities and supports all researchers, regardless of their gender (or their sexual orientation, nationality, age, or other personal characteristics). The ERC believes that society will benefit most from science when researchers are diverse and the research itself considers gender aspects. Estonia is progressing towards gender equality faster than other EU Member States. Its ranking has improved by three places since 2010. The Gender Equality Act (GEA) entered into force on the 1st of May 2004. The purpose of this act is to ensure gender equality and to promote equal treatment for men and women as a fundamental human right and a public good in all areas of social life. The act provides for the prohibition of discrimination based on sex in private and public sectors.

We further encourage the authorities to take comprehensive measures to tackle the range of factors causing the rather wide gender pay gap which causes mobbing in the first place. Pursuing public campaigns against gender-based violence and domestic violence and ensuring an effective response from the law enforcement and judicial system is also a very good solution. The authorities should strengthen efforts to raise awareness about the negative impact of structural inequality between men and women, and support an education system able to promote gender equality throughout the countries.