



**Committee:** United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

**State:** Greece

**Institution:** Faculty of Law Ankara University Model United Nations

**Agenda:** Recognition and Visibility of Transgender Women

As Greece, we foresee that we will create a comprehensive discussion and work environment regarding the living conditions of transwomen in this committee with other delegates within the framework of respect. We would like to state that we follow the works of the UN on transwomen and their recognition.

UNCSW carries out important works on issues such as strengthening the rights of women and ensuring gender equality around the world. The UN uses effective methods in these works. The Commission adopts multi-year programs of work to appraise progress and make further recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the Platform for Action. These recommendations take the form of negotiated agreed conclusions on a priority theme. The Commission also contributes to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women<sup>1</sup>.

We, as a state, cannot ignore the difficulties of transwomen experience. Transwomen struggle with hate speech, harassment, and social oppression in many parts of the world. We have laws and conferences that exemplify the effort made for a peaceful life for every citizen in our country, as well as for transwomen. In this context, we carry out various works so that transgender people can adapt to society and move freely. In 2017, transgender people were

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<sup>1</sup> UN Women. 2021. *Commission on the Status of Women*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>> [Accessed 9 December 2021].

granted the right to have their gender identity recognized and change their legal sex without having to undergo a surgical alteration of their genitals to have key identity documents changed.

Laws become effective when societies adapt to them. According to a 2018 report carried out by International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA), which assesses LGBT rights in European countries, Greece achieved the highest improvements among the 49 countries in the legal and policy situation of LGBT people between the years 2014 and 2018, with an overall score of 52%.

Unfortunately, governments in many parts of the world do not recognize the rights and environment that Greece grants to transwomen. The most obvious example of this is that trans women, who are oppressed under the conditions in their countries, come to Greece as asylum seekers and try to maintain their lives. With the medical, economic, and psychological support provided by Greece, these citizens, who had to leave their homeland due to their sexual orientation, can create a new living space for themselves.

With the laws enacted to protect transwomen from such situations and the sanctions imposed on bullies in the society for their behaviour, an environment of peace and balance is tried to be ensured in the society.

The sanctions that Greece made stipulate that hate speech and violence against LGBT individuals or groups would be punished with imprisonment for three months to three years and a fine of 5,000 to 20,000 euros. If the actions have led to a crime, the penalty increases by six months more imprisonment and an additional 15,000 to 30,000 euros fine. If the final imprisonment exceeds one year, then the convict loses his/her political rights for one to five years. If the offender is a public worker, then they are punished with six months to three years imprisonment and a fine of 10,000 to 25,000 euros; if a crime is committed, they are punished with a fine of 25,000 to 50,000 euros<sup>2</sup>.

Greece re-examines its work and tries to make its country more just and livable by repairing any deficiencies it detects. Finally, we would like to say that we will be close followers and supporters of the work on the rights of transwomen.

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<sup>2</sup> *Amendment of Law 927/1979 (AD 139) and its adaptation to the Framework Decision 2008/913 / JHA of November 28, 2008 on combating certain forms and manifestations of racism and xenophobia Through criminal law (L 328) and other provisions. Article 1.*