



Scientific Analysis and Advice  
on Gender Equality in the EU

# Obstetric Violence: Towards New Understanding and Responses

SAAGE Annual Seminar

06.11.2023

The Hotel  
Boulevard de Waterloo 38  
Brussels

# ABOUT THE EVENT

## Background

Addressing gender-based violence has been an ongoing commitment of the European Union (EU). Currently, the European Commission 'Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025' identifies that 'gender-based violence, in all its forms, remains under-reported and overlooked, both inside and outside the EU. The EU will do all it can to prevent and combat gender-based violence, support and protect victims of such crimes, and hold perpetrators accountable for their abusive behaviour'.

The Scientific Analysis and Advice on Gender Equality in the EU (SAAGE) network is funded by the European Commission to support EU level policy initiatives by providing expertise and knowledge in the field of gender equality, and is coordinated by Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini, an independent research centre.

As part of its commitment to addressing gender-based violence, the European Commission sought a study from the SAAGE network to inform the European Commission on the issue of obstetric violence in the EU Member States and contribute to a better understanding of this phenomenon. This study, 'Obstetric Violence in the European Union: Situational analysis and policy recommendations', was authored by Dr. Patrizia Quattrocchi and completed in 2023.

This study was further informed by four detailed cases undertaken in the third quarter of 2022 by national experts in France (Virginie Rozée and Clémence Schantz), the Netherlands (Rodante van der Waal and Marit van der Pijl), Slovakia (Barbora Holubova) and Spain (Stella Villarrea and Adela Recio Alcaide) to further inform the study and its recommendations.

The four Member States were selected for their diversity of geographical location, social and cultural context, obstetric practices and healthcare systems, and data availability. The case studies sought to: identify and understand the empirical evidence available on obstetric violence in these jurisdictions, manifestations and causes; identify initiatives in these jurisdictions, from government, institutions and associations, that have led to greater consideration and awareness of obstetric violence; and formulate recommendations to inform policy and practice.

## Purpose

The seminar seeks to:

- Share and deepen knowledge about and understanding of the issue of obstetric violence and the policies and practices required for its elimination.
- Stimulate insights to inform any potential response from the European level.

## Format

The seminar will be hybrid. The in-person event, will be hosted in Brussels.

## Participants

The participants at this seminar will be European Commission staff, a number of the experts involved in this work, and European level stakeholders relevant to this issue.

## Moderator

Niall Crowley, Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini (FGB).



# AGENDA



Activity

Speaking

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## 10.00 **Opening Session**

*European Commission perspective*

*Karen Vandekerckhove,*  
Head of Gender Equality Unit of DG JUST,  
European Commission

## 10.15 **Panel One: Across the EU**

*'Obstetric Violence in the EU: the issue, the Situation, actions taken, and recommendations'*

*Dr. Patrizia Quattrocchi,*  
Professor of Cultural Anthropology and Senior  
Researcher in Medical Anthropology and  
Reproductive Health at the University of Udine.

*Questions and Answers followed by Discussion*

## 11.00 **Break**

## 11.15 **Panel Two: At the Member State level**

*France: Evidence, initiative and recommendations*

*Dr. Virginie Rozee,*  
Researcher, Institut National d'Études  
Démographiques (INED).

*The Netherlands: Evidence, initiative and recommendations*

*Dr. Marit van der Pijl,*  
Department of Midwifery Science, Amsterdam  
Medical University Centre

*Slovakia: Evidence, initiative and recommendations*

*Dr. Barbora Holubová,*  
Independent national expert on gender equality,  
Bratislava, Slovakia.

*Spain: Evidence, initiative and recommendations*

*Stella Villarrea,*  
Professor of Philosophy at the Complutense  
University of Madrid and Associate Faculty  
Member in Philosophy at the University of Oxford  
*Adela Recio Alcaide,*  
Head of Research Studies, Instituto Estudios  
Fiscales, Madrid

*Questions and Answers followed by Discussion*



## Activity

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12.30 ***Lunch***

13.30 ***Plenary Session***

*Presentation of stakeholder perspectives*

*Plenary discussion of potential for action at the European level*

15.00 ***Close***