



Utrecht University

Violence Against Women Webinar Series

A little over a year ago, many countries experienced the severity of the COVID-19 virus when the World Health Organisation announced the outbreak as a global pandemic. The virus itself does not biologically discriminate on the basis of gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity. However, systemic racism and sexism, and other institutional and societal structures in today's world cause an uneven distribution of the burdens of its repercussions across racial, ethnic, gender and socio-economic classes. This can be seen during economic crises, the climate crisis, as well as the current health crisis. As a result, those who are generally already worse off experience greater losses and are faced with more severe hardship than those who are privileged. What becomes clear is that crises tend to exacerbate inequalities and social injustice.

The Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law working group on COVID-19 and Global Inequality represents a collective concern of researchers, activists, educators, and practitioners across the globe in the field of law and healthcare on the impacts of COVID-19 on equality. This initiative organises conferences and online courses in collaboration with universities from different countries. Within the theme of gender, this working group is partnering with Utrecht University to host a webinar series on Violence Against Women. In light of the pandemic, basic human rights specifically for women have been put under pressure, in issue areas such as access to health care, reproductive care, and the increased risk of domestic violence and abuse. This is why this webinar series aims to increase awareness and stimulate debate on this topic.

April 16th - Online Violence

6 UTC|GMT / 8 am CEST / 4 pm Sydney / 11 pm PST

Please confirm your participation by emailing shealynmassey@berkeley.edu.

The webinar will focus on the nature and the scope of the problem of online violence and on effective ways and means to tackle it. What can we learn from different approaches from different regions in the world to combat online violence?

Adriane van der Wilk: “Online and Technology-facilitated Violence Against Women during the Pandemic, a European perspective”



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Bio: Adriane van der Wilk is an International Consultant. Her work focuses on the intersections between Human Rights, Gender Equality & Technology. She advises organisations and public institutions on best policy and legal practices to respond to the various forms of Online and Technology-facilitated Violence Against Women. She is the author of three recent studies on the phenomenon of Online and Technology-facilitated Violence Against Women, including the #HerNetHerRights project by the European Women's Lobby¹, a study on Cyber Violence and Hate Speech Online against Women for the FEMM Committee of the European Parliament² and a soon to be published study on the complementarity of the Istanbul and Budapest Conventions on the issue of Online Violence against Women, a background work for the first Istanbul Convention's General Recommendation

Karen O'Connell (University of Sydney)³: “Safety or Censorship? Tackling online sexual harassment in Australia post-pandemic”

Bio: Dr. Karen O'Connell is an expert in sexual harassment and discrimination law, with over twenty years' experience in legal research, policy, practice and law reform. She is currently researching intersectional sexual harassment and harassment as a public health issue. Dr O'Connell advises public and private institutions on evidence-based, innovative ways to prevent and respond to sexual harassment.

Moderator: Linda Senden

Bio: Prof. mr. Linda Senden is a professor of European Union Law at the University of Utrecht. Additionally, she is the coordinator of the gender stream of the European Commission's Equality Law Network⁴. And finally, she is co-director of the Utrecht University Gender and Diversity Hub⁵.

Upcoming webinars:

May 19th – Femicide, domestic violence, rape

July 9th – Women's health and sexual and reproductive rights and abortion

¹ https://www.womenlobby.org/IMG/pdf/hernetherrights_resource_pack_2017_web_version.pdf

² [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/604979/IPOL_STU\(2018\)604979_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/604979/IPOL_STU(2018)604979_EN.pdf)

³ <https://profiles.uts.edu.au/Karen.OConnell>

⁴ <https://www.equalitylaw.eu/>

⁵ <https://www.uu.nl/en/research/institutions-for-open-societies/gender-and-diversity/gender-diversity-and-covid-19>