



Reykjavíkurborg

Borgarstjórnin í Reykjavík

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Borgarráð

***Heimssamkoma samtaka sem berjast gegn kynferðislegu og kynbundnu ofbeldi í Reykjavík í maí 2021***

Lagt er til að borgarráð samþykki að Reykjavíkurborg styrki fyrirhugaða heimssamkomu samtaka sem berjast gegn kynferðislegu og kynbundnu ofbeldi, um 10 mkr. en fyrirhugað er að halda heimssamkomu í Hörpu dagana 6.-8. maí 2021. Óskað var eftir fjárframlagi og samstarfi við Reykjavíkurborg með erindi sem barst frá forsætisráðuneytinu þann 10. ágúst sl. Gert er ráð fyrir að 1000-1500 fulltrúar taki þátt í fundinum alls staðar að úr heiminum og er kostnaður við ráðstefnuna áætlaður á bilinu 30-60 mkr. Fyrirhugaður styrkur er veittur að því gefnu að af heimssamkomu verði. Kostnaði vegna fjárframlags Reykjavíkurborgar er vísað til gerðar fjárhagsáætlunar.

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Hjálagt:

Minnisblað forsætisráðuneytisins um heimssamkomu í maí 2021.

The E, summit on ending VAW: May 2021, dags. 29.6.2020..

## Minnisblað

### **Efni: Heimssamkoma samtaka sem berjast gegn kynferðislegu og kynbundnu ofbeldi verði haldin á Íslandi 2021. Beiðni um fjárframlag og samstarf við Reykjavíkurborg.**

Árið 1996 – eða ári eftir að aðildarríki Sameinuðu þjóðanna sameinuðust um margvíslegar aðgerðir til að bæta stöðu kvenna (yfirlýsingin og framkvæmdaáætlunin frá Peking) – komu samtök sem berjast gegn kynferðislegu og kynbundnu ofbeldi saman í Brighton á Englandi. Sambærileg ráðstefna hafði verið haldin tuttugu árum áður, en síðan þá hefur ekki verið tækifæri fyrir slíkar grasrótahreyfingar að koma saman með skiplögðum hætti og á eigin forsendum.

Í kjölfar #metoo-ráðstefnunnar sem haldin var í Reykjavík í september sl. leitaði hluti aðstandenda Brighton-ráðstefnunnar til forsætisráðuneytisins til að athuga hvort möguleiki væri á að halda slíka heimssamkomu á Íslandi á vormánuðum 2021. Var í því sambandi sérstaklega nefnt að #metoo-ráðstefnan hefði búið til umgjörð um mikilvægt samtal um næstu skref í baráttunni gegn kynferðislegu og kynbundnu ofbeldi og áreitni.

Liz Kelly, prófessor við London Metropolitan University og formaður bresku samtakanna End Violence Against Women Coalition, fer fyrir hópnum en hún er einn þekktasti fræðimaður heims á sviði rannsókna á ofbeldi gegn konum og börnum.

Samtök sem berjast gegn ofbeldi standa frammi fyrir fjölmörgum áskorunum, þar má nefna umræðu um vændi þar sem sjónarmiðum um lögleiðingu vex fiskur um hrygg. Ný tækni hefur leitt til nýrra birtingarmynda kynbundins og kynferðislegs ofbeldis, s.s. stafræns kynferðisofbeldis, og löggjöf, forvarnir og stefnumótun hafa ekki haldið í við þróunina. Þá liggur fyrir að í sumum löndum verða samtök sem berjast gegn kynferðislegu og kynbundnu ofbeldi, þar á meðal kvennaathvörf, fyrir ofsóknum af hálfu yfirvalda og aktívistar geta þurft að óttast um líf sitt. Þá sýna tölulegar upplýsingar að ofbeldi gegn konum og heimilisofbeldi hefur aukist í heimsfaraldi COVID-19.

Að teknu tilliti til þessara áskorana er Ísland kjörinn staður fyrir samkomu af þessu tagi, meðal annars í samhengi við góðan árangur í kynjajafnréttismálum, opna umræðu um ofbeldi og áreitni og almenna virðingu fyrir lýðræði og mannréttindum. Aðkoma íslenskra stjórnvalda er jafnframt til marks um vilja Íslands til að leiða áfram umræðuna um jafnrétti kynjanna á alþjóðavettvangi, með hliðsjón af því að kynferðislegt og kynbundið ofbeldi er bæði orsök og afleiðing kynjamisréttis almennt. Þá myndi hér á landi skapast rými fyrir flókna og margþætta umræðu og stefnumótun, sem íslensk stjórnvöld geta notið góðs af, m.a. þegar kemur að stefnumótun um innleiðingu ákvæða samnings Evrópuráðsins um forvarnir og baráttu gegn ofbeldi á konum og heimilisofbeldi (Istanbul-samningurinn).

Á síðustu mánuðum hefur verið unnið að verkefnalýsingu og tímaáætlun fyrir skipulag fundarins. Fámenn verkefnastjórn hefur haft verkefnið með höndum og jafnframt hefur alþjóðlegum ráðgjafahópur verið settur á fót. Harpa, ráðstefnuhús er frátekin dagana 6.–8. maí 2021. Gert er ráð fyrir að heimasíða með skráningu og fyrstu drögum að dagskrá verði kynnt á alþjóðlegum baráttudegi gegn ofbeldi gegn konum þann 25. nóvember næstkomandi.

Gert er ráð fyrir að 1000–1500 fulltrúar tækju þátt í fundinum alls staðar að úr heiminum. Skipuð verður alþjóðleg verkefnisstjórn yfir verkefninu með þátttöku grasrótahreyfinga,

einkum til að undirbúa dagskrá og efnistöð. Fulltrúi Íslands myndi eiga sæti í verkefnisstjórninni. Sérstöð áhersla verði lögð á að tryggja þátttöku frá þróunarlöndum.

Gera má ráð fyrir að kostnaður við að halda fundinn á Íslandi geti numið á bilinu 30-60 milljónum króna, miðað við að ráðstefnan yrði haldin í Hörpu, en æskilegast væri að velta sem minnstum kostnaði á þátttakendum, sem þó þurfa að standa straum af flugi og gistingu. Æskilegt væri að samstarf næðist milli ríkisstjórnar, Reykjavíkurborgar og Alþingis um að styðja við þennan fund.

# A summit on ending VAW: May 2021

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The E! summit – joining the dots to End / Eradicate / Eliminate violence against women and girls

## Why a special event on VAW?

In 1976 the International Tribunal on Crimes against Women<sup>i</sup> created space for women from many countries to name and organise against said crimes: violence against women featured prominently there. Twenty years later, an international conference specifically focused on violence against women<sup>ii</sup> was again activist and practitioner led and it was held one year after the Beijing world conference on women<sup>iii</sup>. There have been few global, practitioner- or movement-led convenings on violence since then, now amounting to twenty-three years, particularly focusing across forms violence. This belies the growing and increasingly public actions on this topic – from changes in, and introduction of new, national legal frameworks, to provision of services, development of normative standards and phenomenal activism, most recently in the global MeToo movement and all that it has brought.

The intervening period has witnessed both a strengthening of public discourse and government level opprobrium against such violence, alongside an ongoing struggle for real changes in social, economic and political manifestations of sex discrimination and inequality that is shaped by and reflected in violence. The endless creativity of misogyny is reflected in the new or shifting forms of abuse that have been named – stalking, upskirting, cyber-violence – and its resilience evidenced in the persistence of violence against women.

The MeToo movement against sexual violence began with the work of Tarana Burke in 2006 and saw a huge boost through the social media movement that exploded in October 2017. Its reach and impact have been remarkable, prompting widespread denunciations, calls for accountability and justice as well as meaningful links across virtual space amongst women who for the most part have never met and planned this work and likely will never do so.

2020 has seen an explosion of anger, impatience for an end to racial discrimination, again spreading from the USA but resonating in many countries. More localised experiences of racial discrimination, outlawed by CERD in 1965<sup>1</sup> have both connected with the Black Lives Matter uprisings and fund new energies. Yet, in all contexts, the struggle to have women's lives and experiences of violence find primacy in these dynamics remains challenging. Intersectional approaches to violence against women take impetus and hope from contemporary demands for change yet they also show how much remains to be done so that women who have historically struggled for public recognition, have their lives and bodies carry value in our collective work. The leadership of movements that include SayHerName and Million Women Rise is important, as is recognising that violence against low caste, indigenous or aboriginal has been persistently erased or diminished. While the framing of intersectionality has progressed, what it means in practice has yet to find adequate follow through in work to end violence whether in relation to race, immigration status, disability, age or

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CERD.aspx>

sexual orientation. Discomforting and disruptive engagements are necessarily required for this to progress and for the elimination of violence from unseen or unheard women is intrinsic to our collective work.

2020 was due to see a raft of activities and possibly new agreements to mark twenty five years since the Beijing conference and twenty years since Security Council Resolution 1325. Civil society engagement is core to these deliberations with (inter-) governmental frames at the core. Previous conferences on crimes (1976) and violence (1996) have, in contrast, been driven by non-governmental actors. Postponed due to the CoViD 19 pandemic the influence of the summit could potentially be greater that had it been held a year after these events, as originally conceived.

Contestation of work to promote and realise the rights of women, including to end violence, is a constant and has taken particular shape in relation to sexual and reproductive rights and the sex industry. Women human rights defenders have been abused and, in some cases, killed for their work testifying to the profoundly dangerous nature of challenging patriarchy in contemporary times. From Europe to Latin America 'gender ideology' and 'genderism' have emerged as battlegrounds in this struggle. Intersectional understandings, analyses and organising have found increasing purchase and relevance in recent years.

A year after the marking of Beijing plus twenty five at the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2020<sup>iv</sup>, in the year of the Generation Equality Fora it will be timely to focus specifically once more on violence against women and how to hasten the eradication that has long been womens' vision and that has been enshrined in the SDGs (5.2).

### *In the context of Coronavirus*

*The current context contributes to the framing of discussion on VAW - with the primary focus being on domestic abuse. This echoes some of the previous approaches that have reduced VAW to domestic violence (or domestic abuse or intimate partner violence). But it is also distinct in that there is relatively less contestation of the importance of domestic abuse and acknowledgement of it (even if not addressing it adequately) compared to previous times. Power and control as a frame risks being displaced by 'stress, confinement and frustration'.*

*Pornography has also been (again) packaged as a 'relief' for men who can't go out, with porn hub making its services free. Pornography progresses on its journey of being seen as a "necessary good". Constructions of masculinity premised on the consumption of sexually objectified female bodies are inadequately problematized or addressed.*

*The core importance of secure and predictable funding for services run and shaped by women for women has still to have adequate attention.*

## **Objectives and principles**

- Bring intersectional framings and work to the fore in explaining and planning the future of the struggle.
- Find common ground and ways of working that also allow respectful debate.
- Review the outcomes and plans arising from the events of 2020 (Beijing Plus 25<sup>v</sup> review and events, SCR1325+20<sup>vi</sup>, ICPD + 25<sup>vii</sup>) and the various commitments and obligations of relevance to ending violence against women – eg SDGs 5.2<sup>viii</sup>, 16.2<sup>ix</sup>, 11.7.2<sup>x</sup> regional (the

Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence<sup>xi</sup>, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women<sup>xii</sup>, the Maputo Protocol<sup>xiii</sup>) and other instruments on ending violence and other relevant frames eg Akeyesu 1997<sup>xiv</sup>.

- Address topics that have been dominated by fissures rather than consensus, including the sex industry.
- Enable and demonstrate leadership that privileges the centring of previously and commonly marginalised voices and experiences.

### **Summit themes: joining the dots and ending the fragmentation**

This summit will coalesce around the overarching aim of ensuring the ownership and influence of activists in global work to end violence against women.

It is our starting point that knowledge arises from and resides in experience as well as in academic or policy framed research. Women's knowledge, that is - women as knowers, will be centre stage in our collective work. Women's voices began this work and must continue to shape it: at this point we need to ensure that the voices are diverse, across forms of violence and across global north and south.

We recognise that all forms of violence against women and girls are linked, both expressing and reinforcing structural inequalities of power. This drives our commitment to join the dots between different forms of violence, from rape to FGM to sexual harassment, neither privileging nor diminishing one nor another. Continuity has also to be recognized between conflict, post-conflict, humanitarian and so-called 'peace time' contexts. Racism, discrimination on the grounds of, inter alia, migration status, indigeneity, disability, sexual orientation shape the experiences and thus the knowledge that people bring and will inform discussion about the forging of common as well as complementary struggles.

Nothing less than a permanent revolution across time and place will bring lasting and substantive transformation in the lives of women and girls, moving beyond the current kaleidoscopic situation where different aspects of violence against women and girls vie with each other for policy attention and funding.

We remain concerned that despite decades of relevant and positive international standards, their realization in the lives of women and girls remains limited and challenged by a range of factors. These include precarious and unpredictable funding, a lack of safety for activists and geo-political dynamics that contest the justice and progress that these standards oblige.

Global and regional obstacles and blockages share similarities and have differences. This summit will enable exploration of these in order that common and complementary work can progress.

The role of states, governments, policy-makers in ending violence and in upholding these standards is given and essential. Their accountability to each other in inter-governmental processes has a place but their final accountability is to the women and girls who live with and experience violence across their lifetimes that can have fatal consequences. This direction of accountability has to be affirmed and strengthened. Traditional means of governance and

measurement will not be adequate to deliver the elimination of all forms of violence of women, promised in SDG5.2

From this vantage point, the summit will upend existing power dynamics to move from a focus on risk or vulnerability, to privilege the ending of harms and violations to ensure the realisation of rights and justice. The summit will make space for survivors of violence to name what justice means to them.

## Organisation

### *Location and direction setting*

- **Iceland will** host this dynamic and forward looking summit in May 2021. In the MeToo:moving forward<sup>xv</sup> conference of September 2019 and other initiatives Iceland has shown both a leadership role on issues of VAG as well as its enthusiasm to deal with complexity and make space for intersectional work to come to the fore.  
*Harpa Centre, Reykjavik*
- 3 days, with plenary and parallel sessions
- Space for song, dance, performance
- Participants to number between 1000-1500
- Scholarships/ financial and logistical support for attendance by those less well funded and from the global south
- One or a small number of government(s) to lend logistical and political support to the summit, without 'owning' content or participation.
- An **advisory /organising / oversight group** will be formed to channel and reflect priorities from across regions and with a majority of membership from the global south.
- A maximum of ten or twelve (TBC) people, drawing from each region, will meet virtually, initially every month, to determine a programme that will be launched on 25 November 2020. <sup>xvi</sup> Thereafter they will meet more frequently to finalise details.
- The group will consist of people who have engaged in work to end VAWG and who are committed to recognizing tensions but working through them with respect and with intent to learn so as to make creative progress together. There will also be two or three members who have an overview of global issues to complement regional debates. The principles, values and knowledge that have driven feminist work to end VAWG will together form a touchstone for this group and will follow through to the event itself.
- Iceland, or another state, may be interested in ensuring follow through from the summit by supporting the development of a mechanism through which thinking, learning and actions can continue after May 2021.
- The three-day summit will provide space for regional discussions, thematic work (the majority of the time) and protect 'free' time for participants to suggest other topics and coalitions.

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<sup>i</sup> Held in Brussels, Belgium: [https://archive.org/details/crimesagainstwomointe\\_o](https://archive.org/details/crimesagainstwomointe_o)

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- ii Held in Brighton, UK: **International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Women's Citizenship**
- iii <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/intergovernmental-support/world-conferences-on-women#beijing>
- iv <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw64-2020>
- v <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25>
- vi <http://un2020.org/timeline/timeline-unscr-1325-the-women-peace-and-security-agenda/>
- vii <https://www.nairobisummiticpd.org/>
- viii <https://indicators.report/targets/5-2/>
- ix <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16>
- x <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg11>
- xi <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/home>
- xii <http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/treaties/a-61.html>
- xiii [https://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/protocol\\_rights\\_women\\_africa\\_2003.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/protocol_rights_women_africa_2003.pdf)
- xiv <https://www.un.org/press/en/1998/19980902.af194.html> especially with reference to defining rape and sexual violence
- xv <https://www.metoo.is/home>
- xvi *Halla* – to discuss: relationship between Govt of Iceland /other states and the advisory group