



Gender Gaps in Eurasia: The daunting effects of COVID-19

Webinar – Draft agenda

Tuesday, 9 February 2021

9:30 – 12:30 (GMT+1: France, Belgium, CET)

10:30 – 13:30 (GMT+2: Moldova, Ukraine)

11:30 – 14:30 (GMT+3: Belarus)

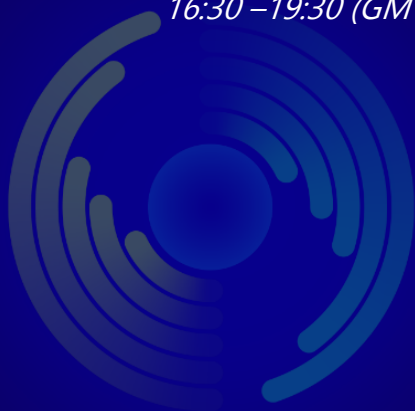
12:30 – 15:30 (GMT+4: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)

13:00 – 16:00 (GMT+4:30: Afghanistan)

13:30 – 16:30 (GMT+5: Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)

14:30 – 17:30 (GMT+6: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan)

16:30 – 19:30 (GMT+8: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia)



■ OBJECTIVE

The webinar will discuss the policy note *Gender Gaps in Eurasia*, which summarises the main challenges facing women in the region following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and presents priority actions and policy recommendations to ensure a more inclusive and sustainable recovery for all. As COVID-19 has exacerbated many of the problems that confront women in the Eurasia region and thrown gender inequalities into sharp relief, it is crucial for governments in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia to understand the issues, prioritise actions and exchange ideas on how better to plan the recovery. This webinar will present the main policy issues and options for supporting women and men across the region, building on OECD experience, in order to ensure that the recovery is as equitable and inclusive as possible.

■ CONTEXT

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the socio-economic vulnerability of women in the Eastern Partner region (EaP) and Central Asia. Domestic violence has increased dramatically; women have taken on more unpaid work; remittance flows to households have fallen; and labour market conditions have deteriorated, particularly in sectors relying heavily on female workers and with high levels of informality. Women are also at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19, representing around 70% of the medical staff worldwide. First OECD estimates show that the COVID-19 pandemic could set back gender parity in Eurasia by around 15 years.

The OECD policy note on ***Gender Gaps in Eurasia*** will serve as a basis for discussion during this webinar, during which participants and speakers will share experiences and good practices in OECD and Eurasia countries, react to the effects of COVID-19 on women and identify priorities to design an inclusive recovery.

■ PARTICIPANTS

This webinar will bring together senior policy-makers, experts and civil society responsible for the design and implementation of gender policies across OECD and Eurasia countries. Other participants include representatives from the private sector and the development community, as well as EU and OECD officials.

■ TECHNICAL DETAILS

Registration: Advance registration is required. A personalised confirmation link will be sent following registration.

Access: Please join the session 15 minutes prior to the start with the link provided following registration.

Working Language: English and Russian

■ CONTACTS

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■ DRAFT AGENDA

Please note that the timing of the agenda below is based on GMT+1 (Paris).

9:00-9:30 Online Access

Moderator: **Mr William Tompson**, Head, Eurasia Division, OECD

9:30-10:00 Opening remarks

- **Mr Andreas Schaal**, Director for Global Relations, OECD
- **H.E. Mr František Ružička**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the OECD, Slovak Republic
- **H.E. Mr Peter Burian**, Ambassador, Special Representative for Central Asia, European Union

SESSION I: The socio-economic costs of COVID-19

10:00-10:15 OECD presentation on the gendered effects of COVID-19 in Eurasia

The OECD Secretariat will provide an overview of the effects of COVID-19 on women in Eurasia, whilst drawing upon the most recent data across the region.

- **Ms Talisa zur Hausen**, Policy Analyst, Eurasia Division, OECD

10:15-11:00 Expert discussion: main effects on women in Eurasia widening the gender gap

Eurasia country representatives and experts will discuss the main effects of COVID-19 on women in the region and the effects on the economy and on gender equality.

- **Dr Karima Hamid Faryabi**, Minister of Economy, Afghanistan
- **Ms Kateryna Levchenko**, Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy, Ukraine
- **Ms Malika Kadirhanova**, Chair of the Senate Committee on Women and Gender Equality, Uzbekistan
- **Ms Elaine Conkievich**, Resident Representative in Mongolia, UNDP

Questions and open discussion with participants

Instant poll

All participants will be invited to take part in an instant poll to gauge the type of support mechanisms which can have a lasting impact for women and men in the region.

SESSION II: Planning the recovery

11:00-11:20 OECD presentation on policies to support women weather the crisis and ensure an inclusive recovery

OECD Secretariat will discuss good practices put in place to tackle gender inequality and actions to ensure immediate and long-lasting support to women following the outbreak of the COVID crisis.

- **Mr Willem Adema**, Senior Economist, Social Spending, Housing, Gender, Family and Child Policies Division, OECD
- **Ms Pinar Guven**, Policy Analyst, Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Goals Division, OECD

11:20-12:20 Expert discussion: efforts to support women during and post COVID-19

Eurasia country representatives will share initiatives to support women amidst the crisis, and make sure that an inclusive recovery is being planned.

- **Ms Elvira Surabaldieva**, Former Vice Prime Minister, Kyrgyzstan
- **Ms Nino Tsilosani**, Member of Parliament, Parliamentary Gender Equality Council, Georgia
- **Ms Lazzat Ramzanova**, Chair of the National Commission for Women and Family Demographic Policy under the President of Kazakhstan, member of the Mazhilis of the Parliament, Kazakhstan
- **Ms Charlotte Isaksson**, Senior Advisor on Gender, European External Action Service

Questions and open discussion with participants

12:20-12:30 Concluding remarks and next steps

- **Mr William Tompson**, Head, Eurasia Division, OECD
- **Ms Alia El-Yassir**, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, UN Women