



Statement

**by H.E. Dominique Hasler,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

**High-Level Side Event of the Group of Friends
for the elimination of violence against women and girls**

New York, 11 March 2024

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Liechtenstein is a proud member
of the "Group of Friends for the elimination
of violence against women and girls"
and I am grateful to have been invited to this event.

Gender-based violence affects women and girls disproportionately.
Despite efforts undertaken since the adoption of
milestone documents such as
the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women,
it continues to be one of the most
prevalent human rights violations in the world.
It is high time that **we redouble our efforts**
in our common fight.

Until May, I am **presiding over**
the Committee of Ministers
of the Council of Europe.

Even before we assumed our presidency,
Liechtenstein has long paid special attention
to preventing and combating gender-based violence.

Liechtenstein is a committed state party to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, also known as **“the Istanbul Convention”**.

Upon ratification, **we set up a national co-ordinating group**, a useful body to streamline synergies. It helps us **bundle our forces**, set targeted measures and ensure continuous work on the topic.

Under our presidency, **Liechtenstein will host the second meeting of all national co-ordinating bodies under the Istanbul Convention.**

Exchanges like these will show how sharing experiences and best practices is beneficial to all state parties when implementing related comprehensive and co-ordinated policies.

I am convinced that
this is one of the most effective ways
to combat violence against women and girls,
as well as domestic violence.

**The Istanbul Convention is open for ratification
to non-Council of Europe members as well.**

I invite all of you,
who have not yet done so,
to ratify this key instrument
– which is complementary to
relevant UN documents
and contributes to the work of the CSW.

I thank you.