

## LIECHTENSTEIN

### **Updates on the steps and measures regarding gender equality and women's empowerment since the Global Leaders' Meeting of September 2015**

**February 2017**

With the **establishment of an independent national human rights institution (NHRI)** in 2016, Liechtenstein has made a further step to promote and protect human rights in Liechtenstein and to further develop the already high protection level. In November 2016 the Liechtenstein Parliament adopted the Law on the Liechtenstein Human Rights Association (LHRA Act),<sup>1</sup> thus creating the Liechtenstein NHRI. The LHRA Act entered into force on 1 January 2017. Funding for the first three years was fixed at CHF 350,000 annually. The legal framework for the Human Rights Association was defined with the goal of fulfilling the Paris Principles. This includes a legislative basis, a comprehensive mandate for the protection and promotion of human rights, adequate infrastructure and funding, independence, and pluralist representation of the social forces.

According to article 4(2) of the LHRA Act, the NHRI has the following responsibilities, in particular:

- a) it advises authorities and individuals on human rights issues;
- b) it supports victims of human rights violations;
- c) it informs the public on the situation of human rights in Liechtenstein;
- d) it carries out investigations and recommends appropriate measures to authorities and individuals;
- e) it comments on draft laws and ordinances and on the ratification of international agreements to the extent they are significant to human rights;
- f) it promotes dialogue as well as national and international cooperation with offices relevant to human rights.

With its broad mandate the NHRI will also be able to monitor Liechtenstein's commitments regarding gender equality and women's empowerment and inform and advise the authorities regarding its findings.

Liechtenstein particularly welcomes the strong commitment to gender equality and the inclusion of a standalone goal on gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

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<sup>1</sup> Liechtenstein Law Gazette (LGBI) 2016 No. 504 ([www.gesetze.li](http://www.gesetze.li)).

Development. In 2016 the Liechtenstein Government mandated a **working group to evaluate the need for action in order to implement the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals**. The working group analysed the situation and is currently working out proposals of concrete steps and measures.

In November 2016 Liechtenstein **signed the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)**.

In the reporting period Liechtenstein started a new **awareness-raising and empowerment project ("Women decide")** regarding women's representation in decision-making positions. The project has been launched jointly with the Swiss canton of Graubünden and the Austrian state of Vorarlberg. It encourages women of all ages to strive for public office or a leadership or decision-making position. It provides information and supports sensitisation and awareness-raising regarding the representation of women in leadership and decision-making positions. The project includes brief courses entitled "Fit for politics", workshops on the use of social media, tutorials for journalists, a transnational expert symposium, and a Girls' Parliament for young women between the ages of 12 and 20. The project, which runs until the end of 2017, also includes data collection relating to the share of women in media coverage and leadership positions.