

## **Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action - Slovak Commitments**

- The Government of the Slovak Republic adopted the new National Strategy for Gender Equality for years 2014-2019 and related Action Plan for Gender Equality for years 2014-2019. Specific activities and measures were prepared and discussed in cooperation with NGOs and the Government Council for Human Rights, Ethnic Minorities and Gender Equality. The Strategy and the Action Plan are interconnected and represent a comprehensive conceptual framework for the promotion of gender equality into practice. Both documents contain new tasks and targets in the future gender equality policies such as:

- 1) reduction of salary differences between men and women;
- 2) creation of conditions in family life with the task to enable the better employment of women;
- 3) strengthening of the principle of non-discrimination and equal conditions in social policy focused especially on women from marginalized social groups such as Roma immigrants and handicapped women;
- 4) reduction of gender differences in participation of women in decision-making positions;
- 5) continuing in elimination of all violent and degrading behavior against women in accordance with the Istanbul Convention. Following the tasks set in the current National Action Plan, two national projects on violence against women supported by the European Social Fund have been already launched. With respect to preparation of the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, we prepared and submitted a project of setting up a Coordination-methodical Centre for Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence.

- The total financial allocation for activities focused on combating violence against women and domestic violence represents 12 million euros in total. A significant contribution in this area was made through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism; it amounts to 7 million euros.

- A grant scheme for NGOs' operational expenses and activities aimed specifically at implementation of gender equality principles was established. Seven new shelters and 15 new counseling centers will be open in the following year with the support of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. The establishment of these new shelters will result in providing 170 family spaces altogether. Our goal is to approach the standards of the Council of Europe requiring us to provide 225 spaces.