

# AUSTRIA



PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Statement\***

by

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**of the Republic of Austria**

On the occasion of the  
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**Commission on the Status of Women**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

As a consequence, women are concentrated on a few and tendentially low-paid professional areas, which hampers their potential to benefit from the high wage differences previously enjoyed by women and men. One of the challenges we are facing is the reduction of the Gender Pay Gap, for example, through greater transparency by way of pay information reports according to the standard order in order to initiate a discourse and to provide a better knowledge for women on what their work "is worth".

In the Government Programme 2008-2013, the Austrian Government committed itself to develop a gender equality and national action plan for **Gender Equality on the Employment Market**. The Government's aim with this NAP is to ensure gender equality in the working world, to safeguard and widen women's opportunities on the employment market, to lower male-female income disparity and to promote women in top positions.

With the amendment to the Federal Constitution, which has been enshrined in the Austrian constitution since the beginning of 2009,

with the amendment to the Federal Constitution, which entered into force on January 1, 2009, the internationally established concept of **gender budgeting** was enshrined in the Federal Constitution as a goal to be reached by the state. The federal government, federal provinces and municipalities are obliged to aim for the actual equality of women and men when managing their budget. This is a clear statement that actual equality of women and men should also be achieved through the budget.

This goal set by the Austrian state forms part of the budget reform which will be implemented in two phases. Since 2009, pilot projects on gender budgeting have been carried out by the ministries. The second stage of the budget reform, from 2013 onwards, foresees performance budgeting in Austria, which will take into account the aim of actual equality of women and men.

Concerning violence against women, another key area of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action:

Austria has already since 1997 taken over a leading role on an international level with the entry into force of the 1<sup>st</sup> Protection Act against Violence. This Act introduced the principle of liability in tort suits against offenders and the criminal offence of the apartment and neighbourhood of the endangered person, with the latter also being held accountable accordingly by the state. A state establishment of so-called intervention centres against violence, which establish contact with the victim in a proactive way, has been statutorily laid down and set up in all Austrian Federal Provinces. Furthermore and in further consequence, a series of measures has been taken. These measures include in particular the anti-stalking law, which entered into force in July 2006, as well as the right to court-assisted psychological support for all victims of violence in the family circle. The right to free psychological legal court assistance in criminal proceedings. With the 2<sup>nd</sup> Protection against Violence Act, which entered into force in June 2004, a new statutory offence in case of long-term violent harassment was introduced which is intended to better capture violence suffered over a long period of time. With this law, also the Psychological Court Assistance, as well as the gender inequality provisions has been extended to civil proceedings.

In order to create an as low-threshold offer for women in emergency situations as possible, this year we have established the Online Women's Council for the whole of Austria. This provides a good opportunity particularly for women in a no place to go in their vicinity by offering them information on how to have access to free help via the Internet regarding the most diverse issues such as divorce, violence against women, health care, etc. It is possible to prevent violence against women to the greatest possible extent.

As a member of the Government Council Austria has signed to any available measure to improve the protection of women and girls from sexual and gender based violence, to increase the participation of women at all decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes, as well as to end impunity for serious crimes against women and girls. In 2005, Austria has also extended the scope of appointment of an OIGC from sexual violence and with the extension of the reporting mechanism in 2005 to include sexual violence. The establishment of a national OIGC will further strengthen

... SC resolution 1325  
(2000) ... adoption of SC resolution 1891 (2009) under the Austrian Presidency of  
... Security Council was another important step towards strengthening the protection  
... of civilians in armed conflict, in particular of women and girls. We will continue our  
... efforts to fight against gender-based violence throughout the entire cycle of  
... peacekeeping missions.

The upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption will be an important occasion to  
... commitment and to identify ways to address remaining and new  
... of SC resolution 1325 (2000). We stand ready to  
... work with all interested delegations towards this goal.  
... enhancing the situation of  
... women all around the world. 15 years later a lot of challenges are still lying ahead of  
... us. Let us work together to ensure de facto equality between women and men.  
... Austria's strongly committed to achieving this goal.

Thank you!