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The Council of Europe and demographic change - a human rights perspective

UNECE Conference „How Generations and Gender Shape Demographic Change - Towards Policies Based on Better Knowledge“, 14-16 May 2008

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How Generations and Gender Shape Demographic Change, Geneva 14-16 May 2008



Demographic change – a human rights perspective

- Reconciling work and family life: Granting to women the right to equal opportunities
- Child-friendly societies: Protecting children's rights against violence and promoting positive parenting
- Aging societies: Respecting the human dignity and rights of elderly persons



Tools and working methods

1. Standard setting
2. Monitoring
3. Policy development
4. Co-operation and technical assistance
5. Awareness raising

Working with governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and civil society



1. Standard-setting – Key legal texts

- European Convention on Human Rights
- European Social Charta (revised)
- Recommendations of the Committe of Ministers
 - on reconciling work and family life
 - on gender mainstreaming
 - on child day care
- Recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly
 - on the situation of elderly persons in Europe



2. Monitoring

Commissioner for Human Rights - Viewpoint on
the rights of elderly persons

3. Policy Development

Conference of Ministers responsible for Family
Affairs – Vienna, June 2009



4. Co-operation and technical assistance

Joint Programmes with the European Commission
– Programme on enforcing the rights of the child
in Russia

5. Awareness raising

Programme „Building a Europe for and with
children“ - Initiative against corporal punishment
of children (www.coe.int/children)



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