



Bulgaria

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POSITION OF BULGARIA REGARDING RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN THE DRC



General information

The main basis for Bulgaria's gender-equality framework is the Law on Equality between Women and Men (2016) and the Law on Protection from Discrimination (2004), which prohibit sex-based discrimination and promote equal treatment. Bulgaria has high female educational attainment and solid labor force participation, but the country struggles with weak female political representation and economic equality. Bulgaria's institutional mechanisms for gender equality are below the EU average, with limited resources, weak monitoring, and no mandatory gender impact assessments. A national strategy for 2021–2030 aims to reduce the gender pay gap, strengthen women's participation in decision-making, and combat gender-based violence, but implementation remains weak.

Position on the matter

Bulgaria consistently supports the EU's official position condemning conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls, including in the DRC. It aligns with calls for accountability for armed groups and improved protection for women and children in conflict zones.

Proposed solutions

As Bulgaria aligns with the EU's position in condemning conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls, it would likely push for the same goals as other EU nations, such as strengthening institutions responsible for tracking sexual violence and holding perpetrators accountable, improving humanitarian aid access for women and girls, and encouraging gender-equality laws to be reinforced and monitored. Given Bulgaria's own institutional challenges in gender-equality policy, it would probably focus on supporting coordinated EU and UN efforts rather than providing direct assistance to the DRC.

Potential Blocks

As an EU member, Bulgaria is likely to align with its EU partners, which collectively express concern over conflict-related sexual violence in the Eastern DRC. These countries maintain cooperative relations with the DRC and back UN-led protection efforts.

Read More

[Gender Mainstreaming Approach - Bulgaria Country Fact Sheet | UN Women Data Hub](#)
[Democratic Republic of the Congo - European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations Statement-DRC.pdf](#)

