

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

### WHAT ARE THE EUAA EXPERT PANELS?



The EUAA Expert Panels are aimed at members of courts and tribunals who wish to deepen their expert knowledge in specific areas of the CEAS covered by the [EUAA judicial publications](#). The panels facilitate the exchange of views, interpretations, best practices on challenging topics and recent developments in the case law of the CJEU and ECtHR or recent national case law.

### WHAT IS THE FORMAT?



- Webinar lasting 2 hours.
- Participants ask their questions to the panel beforehand, upon registration.
- Background note with applicable legal framework and *indicative* list of relevant case law available upon registration.

### WHO CAN JOIN?

Members of courts and tribunals from EU Member States and Associated Countries



#### WHEN?

**10 April 2024**  
**(10:00 – 12:00 CET)**

### WHAT IS THIS SESSION ABOUT?

- Defining and identifying violence against women in the context of international protection
- Are women victims of violence all refugees? Issues of qualification
- Women as a particular social group – looking at Country-of-Origin Information and ECtHR case law
- Unable or unwilling to protect?

### RELEVANT MATERIAL

- EUAA (2023), [Judicial Analysis on Qualification for international Protection - second edition](#),
- EUAA (2020), [Judicial analysis on Vulnerability](#),
- EUAA (2020), [Guidance on membership of a particular social group](#)
- EUAA (2024), COI Query - Democratic Republic of the Congo: [Forced marriage, including the \*Kintwidi\* practice; prevalence; legislation; possibility to refuse such a marriage; state protection; and support services; Sexual and gender-based violence against women \(January 2022 - 6 February 2024\)](#)
- EUAA (2024), COI Query – Cameroon: [Women victims of rape: legal framework and treatment by society](#); (2023): [Sexual and gender-based violence \(SGBV\) against women, including prevalence, legislation, availability of state protection, access to support services, in particular in Yaoundé](#)

## THE PANEL EXPERTS



### **Liesbeth Steendijk**

#### **Judge, Member of the Judicial Department of the Council of State, The Netherlands**

Judge Steendijk has been sitting as judge since 1995 and she dealt with cases of criminal and administrative law, including immigration/asylum. Since 2001, she has been appointed Vice-president of the Zwolle first instance Court and since 2011, she has been Member of the Judicial Department of the Council of State. Judge Steendijk has been lecturer at the Judicial Studies Centre (SSR) Zutphen and from 2000 onward she participated in several international seminars in various European countries on training judges and asylum law. She has been a member of the EUAA Judicial Experts's Pool since 2017.

### **Agata Bialczyk**

#### **Senior Information Officer, COI Sector, EUAA**

Agata Bialczyk is a Senior Information Officer at the COI Sector at the EUAA where she coordinates the Sector's operational support and international cooperation activities on COI at EU+ Member States level as well as in Third Countries. In addition, she coordinates the regional Asia Desk of the COI Sector. Prior to joining the EUAA, Agata worked on asylum in different functions for NGOs and for UNHCR in Europe and the Middle East, including at the COI team at UNHCR's regional MENA Bureau in Jordan where she covered Syria and Iraq as well as other countries in the region with COI research. She holds a Master's degree in Forced Migration from the University of Oxford (2007) and a Bachelors degree in Development Studies and Geography from the School of Oriental and African Studies (2005) in London.



### **Sampo Lof-Rezessy**

#### **Judge, Turku Administrative Court, Finland**

Sampo Löf-Rezessy comes from Turku, Finland. He has worked in administrative courts of Turku and Helsinki since May 2012 and is currently covering the role of Administrative Judge in Turku Administrative Court. In this position he deals mainly with asylum and immigration cases. He obtained a master's degree in Law from the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi in 2006. He previously worked as a legal counsel for asylum seekers at the Finnish Refugee Advice Centre and as a public legal aid attorney specializing mainly in immigration cases. He also has experience in advocating rights of people with disabilities. Löf-Rezessy has acted as a trainer in several national trainings in asylum related issues. He has also been a trainer in asylum and COI related trainings organized by EUAA and EJTN. He is a member of the EUAA Judicial Experts' Pool since 2019.



[\*\*CLICK HERE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST\*\*](#)

In order to apply, interested candidates should demonstrate that they are a **serving member of a court or tribunal and/or a current judicial trainer**, working in the field of international protection. Candidates are required to **register** by **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April COB** and **submit their question(s)** to the panel of experts upon registration.