

PRESIDENT-ELECT URSULA VON DER LEYEN'S MISSION LETTERS

References to gender, equality, women or girls

Stand: 19.09.2019

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/interim/commissioners-designate_en

Commissioner	Function	Mission Letter
Didier Reynders	Justice	"The European Union is a community of law, based on the protection of individual rights and freedoms. This is what ensures that our Union is a place of equality, fairness and social justice. "
Johannes Hahn	Budget and Administration	"We will work closely together on my commitment to gender equality at all levels of Commission management by the end of our mandate, as well as on ensuring the Commission is a diverse and inclusive place to work."
Jutta Urpilainen	International Partnerships	"You should ensure that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls continue to be a top priority in our international cooperation and development policies."
Margaritis Schinas	Protecting our European Way of Life	"The European way of life is built on the principle of dignity and equality for all. You will coordinate the work on inclusion and building a genuine Union of equality and diversity. "
Věra Jourová	Values and Transparency	Upholding European Rights: "You should coordinate all efforts and initiatives that promote European identity. You should make use of the Rights, Equalities and Citizenship Programme to increase awareness about European citizenship and the rights it confers."

Helena Dalli – Equality

“Our Union draws strength and unity from its diversity — of people, of culture and of traditions. But Europe can only move forward if it uses all of its assets, talents and potential. This means creating a fairer society in which those who share the same aspirations have the same opportunities to fulfil them.

Who we are, what we believe in and how we look should not dictate our chances of getting a job, progressing in our careers, being paid the same as others for the same work or having our rights protected.

Freedom and equality are part of Europe’s fundamental values, and are key to any functioning society. While our Union is home to some of the most equal societies in the world, there is still a lot more work to do.

Your task over the next five years is to strengthen Europe’s commitment to **inclusion and equality** in all of its senses, irrespective of sex, racial or ethnic origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or religious belief. I want you to be active across the Union to raise awareness and promote equality.

- /// As part of this, you will lead the **fight against discrimination** wherever it exists and will propose new anti-discrimination legislation.
- /// You will lead on the EU’s implementation of the United Nations Convention on the **Rights of Persons with Disability**, to which the European Union and all its Member States are party. You will work closely with the relevant Commissioners to ensure that our external policies also pursue this aim.
- /// I want you to develop a new **European Gender Strategy** to address areas in which women still face additional barriers. As part of this, you will focus on equality in the world of work by putting forward proposals on pay transparency.
- /// You should work with the Member States to find a way forward on the Women on Boards Directive and ensure the **Work–Life Balance Directive** is fully implemented.
- /// We need to do more to **crack down on gender-based violence and to better support victims**. EU accession to the Istanbul Convention remains a priority for the Commission. If it remains blocked in the Council, you should look at strengthening the support, protection and rights of victims. Using the possibilities in the Treaty, you should propose adding violence against women to the list of EU crimes.
- /// You should also work closely with the Commissioner for International Partnerships in the work to **empower women and girls**, exchanging best practices and ensuring coherence in our external and internal policies.

As a rule, you will work under the guidance of the Vice-President for Protecting our European Way of Life. A Task Force composed of experts from the Commission services will support you in your work. On matters relating to equality, you will also draw on the relevant units of the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers.”