

## “Politics as a Tool for Freedom and Education as a Commitment for Equality”



Photo Credit: European Commission-Europa EU

Tuesday, March 30, 2021  
11:00-12:15 PM (MDT)  
Zoom meeting

The European Union is strongly committed to the idea of equal rights and respect for diversity in all its dimensions. This talk will address the gender perspective and the importance of foreign policies to strengthen strategies and measures that promote education for equality and its implications in terms of health and personal, social, cultural and economic empowerment.

The vulnerability of girls and young women requires a specific focus on gender issues to ensure access to all levels of education. Thus, education is assumed as a commitment to equality that will require a broad education for behavioral changes in relation to gender violence, involving all men, women, boys, girls and communities. It is education for lucidity and freedom.

This type of education cannot be done without politics, as the place for the formal assumptions of rationality on topics such as freedom and equality. This first and theoretical dimension will not make sense without the practical execution of action plans that must necessarily have as an ally the research that analyzes, evaluates, remakes and builds solid bases of action.

The EU has ambitious Action Plans for Gender Equality. What is often lacking is the assessment of the activities put into practice. Of course, it is important to know if the proposed activities are implemented, but equally important is that the intended outcomes are realized. We need to know whether we are going in the right direction or if a change in strategy is in order. Constant and consistent evaluation is vital to maintain the intended trajectory, keeping in mind that these strategies will have to take into account the different contexts and priorities for each country or region.



Liliana Rodrigues was a Portuguese Member of the European Parliament from 2014 -2019, representing the Socialist Party. Liliana was a member of the Women Rights and Gender Equality, the Regional Development and Culture, and the Education committees. She was also a member of the Human Rights subcommittee and Vice-president of the EUROMED Delegation. Her greatest efforts have focused on the idea of equality, using education and the media as allies to promote the objectives of the millennium along with real community intervention that supports human rights from the bottom up. Since ceasing to be an MEP, Liliana has returned to the University of Madeira where she teaches Philosophy and Critical Theories of Education. She holds several positions at the University and, in 2020, she was elected scientific coordinator of the education area.

We will send you the Zoom meeting link a few days prior to the event if you register [here](#).

