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Coming to a Close: FREE from Gender-based Discrimination in Schools Project

****Charity CEO available for interview – details in notes***

Europe-wide project to tackle gender-based discrimination and violence in schools, with an emphasis on bringing parents and teachers together, finishes with hybrid International Conference in London on the 24th of February 2022.

The International Conference was held at Amnesty International building in London and attended by international project partners, teachers and educators, parents, and more. CEO Claire Bonham spoke as a panellist during the conference, as well as Gemma Aitchenson from [Yes Matters UK](#).

Teachers, parents and young people alike came together to discuss the new FREE Project [training platform](#), which provides a space for teachers, school staff and parents to come together to explore persisting gender stereotypes, and to develop a whole-school approach to understand and challenge these stereotypes. The conference also explored the results of piloting in the UK, Spain, Greece and North Macedonia and provided a space for people to discuss next steps.

Gilian Danby, Senior Lecturer in Education at Wrexham Glyndwr University, told us the training:

“offers an opportunity to make a difference in helping to create environments where children feel safe, respected and protected both in and out of the school setting”, especially “given the link between gender inequality and gender-based violence and the statistics that show the negative impacts of this”.

As the FREE Project comes to a close this month, our recently rebranded organisation, we will continue to disseminate its findings and encourage teachers and parents to sign up to the platform. As Nikki Storah, a teacher who piloted the training and attended the conference, states:

“I cannot express how much I appreciate and enjoyed the training, conference, and networking opportunities this has provided for me”; “the FREE conference provided the essential knowledge, understanding and resources that builds confidence in teachers to promote, challenge and educate, and to create an environment free from discrimination”.

The Project

FREE from gender discrimination: parent and teacher together, co-funded by the EU and coordinated by UK charity IARS International Institute, (now [Sculpt](#)), works across five European countries to undermine gender stereotypes, norms and roles that are the main causes of gender-based discrimination in schools.



FREE FROM GENDER BASED DISCRIMINATION:
TEACHERS & PARENTS TOGETHER



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Notes to Editors:

Dr. Claire Bonham, Chief Executive of The IARS International Institute is available for interview.

Contact Claire directly on: director@iars.org.uk +44(0) 7833 224442

The CPD accredited online training platform can be found at: www.projectfree.eu

FREE works through the following partners:

1. Coordinator: Sculpt (previously IARS) / UK www.sculptuk.org
2. Symplexis / Greece www.symplexis.eu
3. Caminos / Spain www.asoccaminos.org
4. IDEC / Greece www.idec.gr
5. Novel Group / Luxembourg www.novelgroup.lu
6. Subversive Front / North Macedonia www.s-front.org.mk

Explanation of terms used:

Gender Based Discrimination

Any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on the basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

Gender Based Violence

Violence directed against a person because of that person's gender (including gender identity/expression) or as violence that affects persons of a particular gender disproportionately. It can be physical, sexual and/or psychological, and includes a) violence in close relationships, b) sexual violence (including rape, sexual assault and harassment or stalking), c) slavery, d) harmful practices (i.e., forced marriages, female genital mutilation and 'honour' crimes) e) cyberviolence.
