



MINISTERIO
DE CIENCIA
E INNOVACIÓN



MINISTERIO
DE UNIVERSIDADES

Profesor Vladimír Balaš
Minister for Education, Youth and Sports

Madrid, a 21 de noviembre de 2022

Dear Prof Balaš, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports

First, I would like to thank you for the work that your country has overtaken during your Presidency of the Council, to develop the *Call for Action to End Gender-Based Violence, Working towards Safe and Respectful Higher Education and Research for All*. We are very glad to confirm that Spain strongly supports and endorses this Call for Action, which fully aligns with the actions and values of the Spanish Government. Fighting against gender-based violence in all its forms, including sexual harassment, is among the priorities of our government, and part of the active policy of Zero Tolerance against Sexual Harassment of the Ministry of Science and Innovation. It is also one of the main improvements in the new Organic Law of Higher Education System, still to be approved by the parliament; and the Law of Coexistence for universities approved last year by the Ministry of Universities.

At EU level, gender equality, including eradicating gender-based violence, is also a key principle of both the new European Research Area (ERA) and the Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe. An active policy of zero tolerance against any form of gender-based violence in the workplace must be integrated as part of our science, innovation, and university policies to ensure equal, diverse, inclusive, and secure environments for all.

In our country, we are taking the necessary steps to eradicate gender inequalities that persist. In the area of research and innovation, the gender perspective has been reinforced in our reform of the Law on Science and Innovation, as well as in the new Organic Law of Higher Education System. There, gender-equality plans and protocols against any form of sexual harassment and harassment based on gender, are included. In addition, the Spanish Strategy for Science, Technology, and Innovation for the period 2021-27, approved now a year ago, considers gender equality as one of the four key principles around which the strategy and its measures must rely. Moreover, the Women, Science and Innovation Observatory, with the participation of eleven ministerial departments and key funding and research organisations, plays a key role in the follow-up of the implementation of policies and actions towards these goals. Likewise, the working group of Gender and universities plays the same role regarding all the public policies on gender equality in universities.

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Today we are very aware that science saves lives, it is key for the progress and wellbeing of our societies to assure we take care of those that work in science. We need to act in eradicating any obstacle, and to prevent any discrimination or any form of gender-based violence, without leaving anyone behind. Our support to this Call for action will bring better science and a better future for us all in Europe. Only together, with joint efforts, we will be able to eradicate the gender gaps that persist in R&D&I in Europe, and lead by example to the rest of the world.

Yours sincerely,

Joan Subirats
Ministro de Universidades

Diana Morant
Ministra de Ciencia e Innovació

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