



How to join forces to combat violence against women?

ROUNDTABLE

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As part of the Women in Business initiative, AmCham strives to bring together actors from various sectors with the aim to point to the challenges women face today and propose solutions how to overcome them.

The aim of this webinar was to open up a discussion about inequality and violence against women; topics which resonated strongly during the Covid-19 pandemic. In her opening speech, Jarmila Lajčáková, Advisor on Human and Minority Rights, The Office of the President of the Slovak Republic, appreciated the ambition of this event to look for synergies between the private, public and non-profit sectors.

Her speech was followed by a presentation by Mounia El Hilali, CEO & CSO IKEA Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia, who talked about why this issue

needs to be addressed by employers and how they are dealing with it at IKEA.



Let's stop moving this topic to the next generation, let's end it now together.

MOUNIA EL HILALI,
CEO & CSO IKEA Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia

The main discussion panel featured an array of experts on this topic who all agreed with Barbora Burajová, Coordination

and Methodological Center for the Prevention of Violence against Women, that "to make this topic not taboo and to openly talk about violence against women is the basic pillar of prevention."

Various forms of violence against women negatively influence all aspects of their lives, including their productivity and their ability to work. The range includes physical, psychological, and economic forms of violence. As the panelists stressed, there are several phases where women in a difficult situation need appropriate support and protection. Starting from their friends and family, knowing where and how to ask for help, to contacting the police.

First contact with the police is critical and the victim needs to feel support and trust. Also, most perpetrators of violence against women get away with

probation, which doesn't send a good signal to the victims and the society. These cases should serve as warnings that such behavior is not acceptable and will be published accordingly.

Ivana Vagaská, CEO of Business Leaders Forum, added that companies need to share best practices how to tackle these issues in the workplace. A manual prepared by The Coordination and Methodological Center for the Prevention of Violence against Women is now available, helping to unify the approach and provide all the relevant advice.

The panelists also answered questions from the audience regarding specific situations and provided advice how to proceed if we are concerned that a woman we know may be in danger.

