

## **EVIDENCE-BASED LAW MAKING TO PREVENT AND COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Joint event by the OSCE Secretariat Gender Issues Programme, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA)

19 May 2021

Talking points of Congresswoman Gwen Moore

- Let me first thank the organizers – the Secretariat, the ODIHR and the Assembly - for this important event. And thank you to all who have given presentations and remarks.
- As a survivor of domestic violence, I am proud to have co-led the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Gender-based violence has long been a priority of the U.S. delegation to the OSCE PA, and we welcome the focus on this issue today. Unfortunately, lockdown conditions and increased household tensions during the COVID-19 pandemic have put women at an increased risk of abuse.
- For the first time in years, instances of domestic and sexual violence both increased in numbers and escalated in violence because for those inflicted with domestic violence, “Safer at Home” during the COVID closedown did not mean safe from violence.
- These issues have always been malignant in our community – but like so many other issues, COVID 19 has shed a light where to where we are failing.
- Question: It is important to note that Black People, Indigenous People, and People of Color are at a higher risk of gender-based violence. How should OSCE States factor race and ethnicity into legislation preventing and combating violence against women?