

Frequently asked questions

What is GREVIO?

- The Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) is a specialised and independent body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the [Council of Europe](#) Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence ([Istanbul Convention](#)) by the Parties¹.
- GREVIO consists of independent and impartial experts such as judges, academics, social workers and other professionals dealing with matters related to violence against women and domestic violence.

What does GREVIO do?

- Having become fully operational in September 2015, GREVIO is currently in the process of adopting a baseline questionnaire which will provide guidance to the Parties in their preparation of their reports in the context of a first assessment by GREVIO. Upon examining these reports, GREVIO will publish country evaluation reports and adopt conclusions on legislative and other measures taken by the Parties to give effects to the provisions of the Istanbul Convention.
- After this first assessment, GREVIO will determine subsequent evaluations and their length.
- In the course of preparing country evaluation reports, GREVIO may receive information on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention from non-governmental organisations, civil society as well as national human rights institutions.
- If GREVIO deems the information gained insufficient, it may organise a visit to the Party concerned.
- In cases where action is required to prevent a serious, massive or persistent pattern of any acts of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention, GREVIO may initiate a special inquiry procedure.
- GREVIO may also adopt, where appropriate, general recommendations on themes and concepts of the Istanbul Convention.

What does GREVIO not do?

- GREVIO is not empowered to process individual complaints of human rights violations in relation to violence against women and domestic violence. The only Council of Europe body entitled to so is the [European Court of Human Rights](#).
- GREVIO does not intervene in legal procedures.

¹ As of 17 November 2015, the States which have ratified the Istanbul Convention are as follows: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Turkey.

Can individuals (victims, persons at risk, witnesses, legal, health-care or other professionals, etc.) or organisations communicate information for GREVIO's consideration?

- The answer is yes. Information indicative of violence covered by the Convention submitted by individuals or organisations may be of high value to GREVIO in the context of its monitoring activities (e.g. reviewing material submitted by the Parties, preparing for a visit to the Party concerned, drawing-up of evaluation reports, initiating of an inquiry procedure).
- GREVIO can only consider information pertaining to Parties to the Istanbul Convention.
- If possible, such communications should be received by mail or email, in English or French.
- They should provide as many details as possible and may be supported by evidence.
- Communications will be treated on a confidential basis. The authors of the communications should indicate if they authorise GREVIO to make express use of the cases referred to in their communications in the context of its monitoring work.
- Individuals or organisations prevented from communicating information in confidence to GREVIO or intimidated or sanctioned for communicating or having communicated with GREVIO are highly encouraged to report it.

Secretariat of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)
Violence against Women Division
Department of Equality and Human Dignity
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg

E-mail: conventionviolence@coe.int