SAFE FROM FEAR
SAFE FROM VIOLENCE

ACT AGAINST RAPE!
USE THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION!

A JOINT PROJECT WITH THE EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY :
Europe mobilises against rape and for the Istanbul Convention as a tool for change

COUNCIL OF EUROPE — CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Objectives

- Raise awareness and inform on the phenomenon of rape as one of the most devastating and very common forms of violence against women.

- Raise awareness about the Istanbul Convention and its specific provisions on sexual violence and rape.

- Highlight possible ways forward in each country (33), the obstacles to overcome and the progress to accomplish, in order to improve legislation, services and data collection mechanisms.

KEY MESSAGES

- Sexual violence against women continues to be one of the most devastating forms of gender-based violence, yet it is too often a taboo subject and it remains shrouded in silence/'**forgotten**'.

- A great majority of **sex crimes remain undisclosed** and sexual violence remains underestimated
  - only between 2% and 10% of rapes are reported (EWL 2013)

- Road '**from report to court**' paved with many obstacles for women's access to justice.
  - on average, 14% of reported rapes end in a conviction, with rates falling as low as 5% in some countries (Lovett and Kelly 2009)

- Gender myths and stereotypes condoning rape are still prevalent

KEY MESSAGES

- The Istanbul Convention is a very important tool to improve legislation and policies on rape.

- The Istanbul Convention should be signed, ratified and implemented in a timely manner as an effective tool to prevent and combat rape and protect its victims.

- The Istanbul Convention sets comprehensive standards for legislative and other measures to prevent and combat rape, in particular:

    - the legal definition of rape;
    - data collection on all forms of violence against women, including rape;
    - protection and support for women victims;
    - prevention;
    - access to justice, and
    - protection for migrant women, refugee women and women asylum-seekers.

RESOURCES

- ACTION KIT

- Council of Europe Thematic Factsheets

- EWL BAROMETER ON RAPE IN EUROPE 2013