

# WORKSHOP ON THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION AND ITS MONITORING MECHANISM Tbilisi, Georgia (19 June 2018)

## Report on the findings and outcomes



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AND ITS MONITORING MECHANISM  
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**Report on the findings and outcomes**

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## Abbreviations

**Istanbul Convention** - Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

**VAW** - Violence against Women

**GREVIO** - Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

## Workshop background and overview

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The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) is the most comprehensive international treaty to tackle the serious violation of human rights in this area. Preventing violence, protecting victims and prosecuting the perpetrators are the cornerstones of the Istanbul Convention.

The Parliament of Georgia has confirmed its commitment to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence by ratifying the Istanbul Convention and adopting a milestone legal framework aimed at the harmonisation of the domestic legislation with the Istanbul Convention: a package of amendments to 24 laws accompanying the Istanbul Convention was adopted in May 2017.

Within the framework of the implementation and monitoring of the Istanbul Convention and in the context of the Council of Europe project "Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in Georgia", the Council of Europe and the Public Defender's Office of Georgia organised a capacity-building workshop for the staff members of the Public Defender's Office and relevant non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which was held in the Radisson Blue Iveria hotel, on 19 June 2018. The workshop was also open to relevant government representatives and public officials. The workshop aimed to provide relevant information on the Istanbul Convention and on the monitoring process of the Convention.

**Christian Urse**, Head of the Council of Europe office in Georgia, welcomed the participants and opened the workshop. He expressed his gratitude to the Public Defender for organising the meeting together. He also thanked **Sopo Japaridze** for the facilitating the workshop. Christian Urse mentioned that the workshop is a timely event to look at specific responsibilities of the Istanbul Convention. He also highlighted that domestic violence and violence against women are specific forms of discrimination and raising awareness on policies, investigation and prosecution will help society to reduce the phenomenon and tackle this problem in an efficient manner. Christian Urse introduced the speakers of the workshop and passed the floor to **Nino Lomjaria**, the Public Defender of Georgia.

Nino Lomjaria spoke about the importance of ratification of the Istanbul Convention and noted that violence against women and femicide are one of the most serious problems in Georgia today. She also highlighted the increased number of the restrictive orders issued by the law enforcement agencies, but added that more proactive steps should be taken in this regard. Problems remain at the level of investigation and existing protection and assistance mechanisms in the country cannot fully support the victims. Nino Lomjaria also highlighted the challenges in courts on collecting segregated data and analysing the data. She also emphasised the fact that shelters and services provided by the state do not sufficiently support the victims/survivors and their psycho-social rehabilitation. Finally, Nino Lomjaria expressed her hope that the Parliament of Georgia would seriously consider the issue of sexual harassment and take positive steps towards legislative regulations and its sanctioning.

Sopo Japaridze, Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Gender Equality Issues, Chairperson of the Inter-agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, moderated the workshop.

**Biljana Branković**, a member of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), presented the Istanbul Convention and its main standards with the specific focus on the monitoring process of the Istanbul Convention: the Istanbul Convention has a two-pillar monitoring system consisting of an independent expert body, the GREVIO and a political body, the Committee of the Parties, which is composed of representatives of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention. **Eliso Shonia**, member of the Committee of the Parties from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia discussed the role of the Committee of the Parties, while **Kerstin Schinnerl** from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre in Vienna (Austria), presented the role of NGOs in the monitoring of the Istanbul Convention. The participants also familiarised themselves with the roles of the GREVIO, states, NGOs and Ombudsperson's office. Examples and promising practices from Council of Europe member states, which have been already monitored by the GREVIO, were also shared.

The workshop included a group work activity on Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention which obliges states to establish national co-ordinating bodies responsible for the co-ordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Istanbul Convention together with relevant stakeholders, including NGOs. The participants had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss all the relevant topics that interested them.

## Session I: Introduction to the Istanbul Convention as a tool to combat violence against women and domestic violence – the main standards of the Convention

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**Speaker: Biljana Branković, Independent Researcher - Consultant, GREVIO member**

Biljana Branković welcomed participants and introduced the general aims and crucial contributions of the Istanbul Convention.

### Crucial contributions of the Istanbul Convention

The Istanbul Convention is a comprehensive and complex treaty - it is at the same time a human rights treaty, covering both civil and criminal laws, and a normative instrument for greater gender equality. The Istanbul Convention introduces several ground-breaking features and has been ratified by 32 states<sup>1</sup> and signed by 15 states, including the European Union. Out of 47 member states of the Council of Europe, Azerbaijan and Russia remain the only countries which have not signed the Convention. Regionally, Africa and the Americas have created previously their own legally-binding instruments in this regard.

The Istanbul Convention is the first legally-binding instrument in Europe that offers a comprehensive framework to end violence against women and domestic violence and it is the most far-reaching

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<sup>1</sup> At the moment when the workshop was organized, Istanbul Convention was ratified by following countries: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", and Turkey.

international treaty on this subject. It reaffirms gendered understanding of violence against women (VAW) and defines it as a form of discrimination against women and as a violation of human rights (Article 3.a, 3.d). Under Article 3.d, it adopts a crucial part of definition provided in the General Recommendation 19 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1992: gender-based violence against women is “violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately”. The Istanbul Convention also contains a definition of “gender” (Article 3.c); defines contribution to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women as one of its purposes (Article 1), and contains provisions pursuing this aim as well as empowering women (Articles 4, 6). Most importantly, it establishes structural connections between VAW and gender inequality.

Further, it requires holistic, comprehensive measures for supporting victims; with the ultimate goal of keeping women safe from violence, the Istanbul Convention provides for the setting up of a range of support services to empower women victims and enable them to recover from various forms of gender-based violence, specifying not only the types of support services that should be made available or supported by states, but also the approach to be taken when providing such services. In addition, it requires multi-agency co-operation and co-operation between institutions and specialist women’s NGOs. Based on the *due diligence* standard the Istanbul Convention, a state has a positive obligation to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish for the acts of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention. Under this concept of responsibility, states are culpable under the international law when (for example) perpetuating violence through omission: by not taking appropriate measures to protect women. The due diligence standard should be understood as an overarching principle of the Convention.

The Istanbul Convention requires criminalisation of several forms of violence: psychological violence (Article 33), stalking (Article 34), and physical violence (Article 35), sexual violence, including rape (Article 36), forced marriage (Article 37), female genital mutilation (Article 38), forced abortion and forced sterilisation (Article 39). It also sets out the principle that states parties should ensure that sexual harassment is subject to criminal or “other” legal sanction; and bans invoking honour, religion, culture or tradition as a justification for VAW (Article 42).

The Istanbul Convention sets clear standards in the areas of legislation, prevention, measures aimed at legal/institutional protection of victims (including establishment and sustainable development of general and specialist services to victims) and efficient prosecution and punishment of perpetrators. It defines specific “guidelines” for development of legislative and policy framework, as well as for an effective implementation at the national level. The Istanbul Convention calls for significant legislative and policy changes in most Council of Europe member states in relation to prevention and protection from VAW. The Istanbul Convention recognises and reaffirms the achievements of NGOs, and mentions (Explanatory Report, paragraph 132) women’s NGOs as important actors in the provision of specialist services and partners in co-ordinated actions.

It is noteworthy, that the Istanbul Convention incorporates theoretical framing of “intersectionality”, as it recognizes specific problems of women and girls exposed to multiple or intersectional discrimination, including refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, etc. It establishes an independent international mechanism: an expert body responsible for monitoring its implementation by states parties – GREVIO.

The Istanbul Convention is based on four pillars, in particular:

### **PREVENTION**

- Conduct awareness-raising campaigns;
- Tackle (through teaching material) attitudes, prejudices and stereotypes on gender roles;
- Provide or strengthen appropriate training for professionals dealing with victims or perpetrators;
- Set up or support preventive intervention and perpetrator programmes;
- Work in co-operation with the media and the private sector.

### **PROTECTION**

- Ensure access to general and specialist support services for the victims of all forms of violence;
- Ensure that general services support or refer victims of all forms of VAW;
- Set up specialist services: shelters, state-wide 24/7 free of charge telephone helplines that ensure confidentiality or anonymity, and rape crisis or sexual violence referral centres;
- Take due account of the needs and the rights of child witnesses and improve reporting procedures.

### **PROSECUTION**

- Ensure that investigations and judicial proceedings are carried out without undue delay;
- Ensure that law enforcement agencies respond promptly and appropriately;
- Ensure that risk assessment is done and managed properly;
- Ensure that victims are protected at all stages of investigation and judicial proceedings.

### **INTEGRATED POLICIES**

- Set up or designate a national co-ordinating body and ensure effective co-operation between all relevant actors (government institutions, NGOs, etc.);
- Collect disaggregated data, conduct population surveys and create integrated national action plans.

The presentation also addressed the findings of the research studies on the implementation of due diligence principle<sup>2</sup>. More specifically, the studies were aimed at defining and putting into practice the principle of due diligence in the Serbian context in the areas of protection of victims, prevention, as well as of investigation, prosecution and punishment of VAW acts. The research focused not only on analysing what the state institutions do, but also what they fail to do even although they are obliged to do so, in line with the due diligence principle of the Istanbul Convention. In total, around 70 indicators were created to analyse the responses of institutions (the police, centres for social work, prosecution

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<sup>2</sup> More specifically, the studies were aimed at putting into practice the implementation of the due diligence principle in the national context of Serbia (Brankovic, 2013a; 2013b; 2015; 2016, 2017).

offices, courts, etc.) to various acts of VAW, including domestic violence, rape/sexual assault, forced marriage and other similar practices.

The specific objectives of the parts of research that dealt with investigation/prosecution and punishment were the following:

- To analyse victims' access to justice, including problems in investigation, prosecution as well as the punishment of perpetrators, and to review the penalizing policy of the courts;
- Further, an attempt was made to analyse how many (reported) cases of domestic violence and rape were not prosecuted and thus remained "invisible" to the criminal justice system, through comparing administrative records of the police (and/or centres for social work) with official statistical data on criminal charges, indictments and convictions.

The research revealed gaps in the implementation of legal provisions on domestic violence, as compared to the requirements of the Istanbul Convention, and indicated, for example, that *ex officio*<sup>3</sup> prosecution of domestic violence cases had not reached proper results in practice.

The Istanbul Convention requires that states parties should ensure that investigations and judicial proceedings are carried out without undue delay while taking into consideration the rights of the victim during all stages of criminal proceedings (Article 49). In addition, the Convention states that, for certain offences (please see footnote No. 3) the proceedings may continue even if the victim withdraws her/his statement or complaint (Article 55, para. 1).

The research revealed that the practice of prosecutors is not harmonised with the above-mentioned requirements of the Convention – in the last 10 years, Serbian prosecutors have been more and more inclined to dismiss criminal charges. The latest available data (for the year 2016) showed that prosecutors dismissed 64.4% out of the total number of criminal charges. The main reason for dismissal was identified in various research studies and case-law analyses: when a victim decides to withdraw her statement, a prosecutor automatically dismisses the charges instead of gathering other evidence, such as testimonies of witnesses, etc. Therefore, judicial professionals do not meet requirements of the due diligence principle in the area of prosecution.

Furthermore, legal mechanisms are not efficient in preventing secondary victimisation, as the Istanbul Convention requires. Other research identified that the victims of domestic violence were exposed to traumatisations due to lengthy proceedings: criminal proceedings for domestic violence lasted two years on average and in the cases of rape, the criminal proceedings lasted even longer, from two to four years.

Further, an attempt was made to analyse how many (reported) cases of domestic violence and rape were not prosecuted and thus, remained "invisible" to the criminal justice system, through comparing the administrative records of the police (and/or centres for social work) on reported cases with official statistical data on criminal charges, indictments and convictions. Due to shortcomings in domestic data

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<sup>3</sup> Article 55, para. 1 of the Istanbul Convention: Parties shall ensure that investigations into or prosecution of offences established in accordance with Articles 35 (physical violence), 36 (sexual violence, including rape), 37 (forced marriage), 38 (female genital mutilation) and 39 (forced abortion and forced sterilization) of this convention shall not be wholly dependent upon a report or complaint filed by a victim if the offence was committed in whole or in part on its territory, and that the proceedings may continue even if the victim withdraws her or his statement or complaint.



collection models in institutions and/or official statistics and the lack of systematised gender-disaggregated data on reported cases at the national level, it was not possible to fully determine the proportion of cases that “fall out of the system” before being decided on the courts. Yet, through the analysis of the available data, serious gaps in the implementation of legal provisions were revealed. A lack of harmonisation of institutional/judicial policies and practices with the requirements of the Istanbul Convention was identified.

Genuine and significant improvements in the institutional policies and practices of the police were identified in numerous research studies. Still, (limited available) data indicated that police officers far more often press misdemeanour charges rather than criminal charges. Numerous weaknesses in the judicial response to domestic violence were revealed – only a limited proportion of domestic violence cases reported to either police or centres for social work resulted in filing criminal charges. Consequently, the proportion of cases that remained invisible to the criminal justice system can be estimated as high. Further, based on available official data/statistics, it is not possible to follow up the particular case from reporting to the police (or centres for social work) to conviction.

Encouraging trends were identified as well. For example, reporting of domestic violence incidents to institutions (the police, centres for social work) has dramatically increased in the last 10–12 years; further, the number of criminal charges for domestic violence at the annual level also significantly increased in the indicated period. The latter findings, most likely, imply an increased trust of survivors in the justice system (the police, judiciary), while the police officers seem to become more responsive to victims’ claims.

On the other hand, the total numbers of imprisonment sentences have not increased proportionately. Furthermore, the tendency of the courts to impose suspended sentences has increased dramatically. For example, the total number of convicted perpetrators who were sentenced to probation increased more than six times in the period 2004–2014. In addition, the penalising policy of the courts with respect to domestic violence perpetrators has remained extremely mild in comparison to other violent crimes, as revealed in legal practice research. Suspended sentences were the most common, while imprisonment was often imposed at the prescribed minimum (in some cases, imposed sanctions were even below the minimum prescribed in legislation!), while mitigating circumstances that were mentioned in courts’ judgments clearly indicated prejudices towards victims. Mild penalising policy is not in line with the provisions specifying that the offences established in accordance with the Istanbul Convention should be punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions, taking into account their seriousness (Article 45).

## Discussion

Sopo Japaridze summarised the presentation, noted that copy/pasting practices or legislation from other countries to the national context can be very harmful if they are not suited for the purpose and opened the floor up to discussion.

**Ana Shalamberidze, Supreme Court of Georgia**

Ana Shalamberidze thanked the Public Defender's Office and the Council of Europe for organising the workshop and expressed her wish to conduct such a workshop with the judges of the Supreme Court. She also highlighted difficulties in data processing and asked Biljana Branković to share proper guidelines for the collection of statistics.

- Biljana Branković advised participants to look at the Council of Europe guidelines on data collection and statistics, for example 1) [Administrative data collection on domestic violence in Council of Europe member states \(2008\)](#) and 2) [Ensuring data collection and research on violence against women and domestic violence: Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention \(2016\)](#). Biljana Branković also mentioned that gathering and analysis of data in many countries is a big challenge.

#### **Tamar Dekanosidze, Georgian Young Lawyers' Association**

Tamar Dekanosidze noted that although there is some progress regarding domestic violence and VAW in the country, there are still challenges in investigating the cases of sexual harassment. She also talked about the stigma which is associated with a victim's testimony, talking about the cases and receiving relevant services. She asked about the experience in other Eastern European countries which have solved the problem.

- Biljana Branković named Sweden and the United Kingdom as examples of promising practice in the area of legislation on sexual abuse.

#### **Anna Arganashvili, Partnership for Human Rights**

Anna Arganashvili asked about lawyers' qualification and gender sensitivity towards women victims of sexual violence, as well as the specification and techniques of working with them. She also asked how the conviction of the victim to complain in the Court leads to trauma for them.

- Biljana Branković pointed out that there are a lot of training modules on the Council of Europe's website, such as the [HELP \(Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals\) online course on violence against women and domestic violence](#) (which will soon be available in Georgian). As for victims, the expert mentioned that a lawyer should never force a woman to submit a complaint to the court or police, as this would not be a feminist approach. The victim/survivor has always a sole right to decide and that decision needs to be respected.

## Session II: The importance of monitoring and the monitoring mechanism of the Istanbul Convention: GREVIO; best practices from the countries monitored; monitoring methodology and reporting

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**Speaker: Biljana Branković, Independent Researcher - Consultant, GREVIO member**

In this section, the main emphasis was on the functioning of the monitoring mechanism of the Istanbul Convention, steps in the monitoring procedure, and the participation of civil society. Also, promising practices from countries in which GREVIO completed its baseline evaluation procedure were shared.

### Monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention

In the beginning of the presentation, the methodology and working principles of GREVIO were highlighted. The Istanbul Convention has set up a monitoring mechanism to assess its implementation by states parties. This monitoring mechanism consists of two pillars: GREVIO, an independent expert body, and the Committee of the Parties, a political body composed of official representatives of the Parties to the Convention.

GREVIO is an independent monitoring body mandated to monitor the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. It was initially composed of 10 independent and impartial experts, and will be enlarged, as of September 2018, to 15 experts, chosen on the basis of their recognised expertise in the fields of human rights, gender equality, violence against women and/or assistance to and protection of victims. GREVIO's mandate include country-by-country monitoring of the convention (evaluation procedure), special inquiry procedure (which might be initiated in cases of a serious, massive or persistent pattern of any acts of violence covered by the convention) and the adoption of general recommendations on the themes and concepts of the convention.

Mainly, there are two different monitoring procedures:

➤ **Evaluation procedure**

- country-by-country
- first assessment - baseline evaluation
- division into evaluation rounds
- country visits

➤ **Special inquiry procedure (has not been initiated yet)**

- May be initiated when there is reliable information indicating serious, massive or persistent pattern of violence
- May include a possible country visit with the consent of the state party

The steps in the (baseline) evaluation procedure of the Istanbul Convention are the following: evaluations are carried out on a country-by-country basis, and the procedure is triggered by GREVIO when it sends its questionnaire<sup>4</sup> to the states parties concerned in accordance with its evaluation timetable<sup>5</sup>, indicating the deadline for the submission of the report by the state party. The procedure aims to gather as much information as possible. Based on current practice, the procedure of baseline evaluation, from sending the questionnaire to the state party to the publication of GREVIO report, lasts more than 1.5 years, on average.

For each country that should be monitored, GREVIO appoints two of its members as Special Rapporteurs. At the stage of the initial information gathering, GREVIO collects information from various sources, including but not limited to, NGOs, other members of civil society, national human rights institutions, Council of Europe bodies (Parliamentary Assembly, Human Rights Commissioner, and other pertinent bodies) as well as other international treaty bodies such as UN agencies, victims/survivors. Information received from NGOs and other civil society actors is treated as confidential or may be published on GREVIO website, depending on the request of the organisation that provided the particular report. Based on the analysis of the state report, shadow/alternative reports, and other relevant information gathered at the initial stage, GREVIO drafts a document called “List of issues” and sends it to the state party for feedback/comments. State party should provide responses to the questions of GREVIO.

Upon receiving the responses to its questions, two members GREVIO, appointed as Special Rapporteurs, are delegated by GREVIO to examine all available information and to prepare for an evaluation visit. The evaluation visit to the country concerned lasts on average five days. The delegation carrying out the visit is generally made up of the two Rapporteurs designated to evaluate the country and one or two members of the Secretariat, and when needed, specialists assisting the delegation. During these visits, the delegation meets with governmental officials, relevant professionals (social workers, health care staff, police officers, prosecutors and judges, etc.), representatives of NGOs and other civil society interlocutors and whenever possible/necessary visits relevant facilities (for example, women's shelters, police stations, hospital facilities).

On the basis of all the information collected, GREVIO prepares a draft evaluation report, which is later discussed and approved at a subsequent GREVIO meeting. The draft report is then transmitted to the State Party concerned for comments (as a general rule within two months of transmission). Government comments on the draft report are taken into consideration by GREVIO when finalizing its report which is later adopted by GREVIO.

GREVIO's evaluation report (in which comments of the Government are analysed/taken into consideration) is then transmitted to the state party concerned which once again has the opportunity to provide comments (as a general rule within one month of transmission). After the deadline, the GREVIO report, together with any final comments received from the state party concerned, is published and

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<sup>4</sup> The GREVIO questionnaire is available at:

<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016805c95b0>

<sup>5</sup> Provisional timetable for the first (baseline) evaluation procedure 2016–2020 is available at:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/timetable>

transmitted to the Committee of the Parties. Consequently, the process is time-consuming but also fair – it is very much focused on establishing a constructive dialogue with states parties, which have opportunities, at the various stages of the procedure, to react on the impressions and conclusions of GREVIO. The Committee of the Parties adopts a GREVIO report as a whole, and also adopts recommendations based on GREVIO's report (see for more detail in the text that follows). The state party concerned is expected to adopt measures on the basis of GREVIO's report and to implement recommendations of the Committee of the Parties. The state party concerned is also expected to submit GREVIO's report to the National Parliament (in line with the Article 70 of the Convention) in order that it may participate in monitoring the measures taken for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

Civil society and NGOs are major partners in monitoring. GREVIO recognizes the important role which NGOs play in this field and made it clear in its Rules of Procedure (Rule 35)<sup>6</sup> that NGOs and other members of civil society are vital sources of information and that all information received from NGOs will be treated as confidential by GREVIO. NGOs are therefore strongly encouraged to give their input and share their concerns at any time.

When starting its first (baseline) evaluation of a particular country on the basis of its questionnaire, GREVIO whenever possible, invites NGOs working in that country to provide relevant information. During country visits, GREVIO holds meetings with NGO representatives and it may consider using further means of evaluation, such as organising hearings for NGOs. It would be particularly helpful to GREVIO if NGOs drew up joint reports and shared them with GREVIO by the deadline set for state reporting (please see footnote 7). NGO information received by GREVIO is treated as confidential, unless otherwise decided by GREVIO at the request of the NGO concerned. The same rule of confidentiality applies to views and information shared with GREVIO's delegations during country visits. By so doing, GREVIO aims to protect its NGO sources and, as a matter of principle, will not indicate NGO sources in relation to its findings. Should a particular NGO request that confidentiality be lifted in relation to the information it provided, GREVIO would be free to refer to that NGO as its source, if need be, for instance, during its dialogue with the state authorities. NGOs are therefore invited to indicate, when transmitting information to GREVIO or speaking to delegations of GREVIO, whether GREVIO can disclose its sources when using such information.

Biljana Branković also pointed out some issues to keep in mind when submitting reports to GREVIO. She emphasised the timing of reporting and mentioned that NGOs should submit shadow reports in parallel with the state reports, as it is important to compare the information, facts and statistics. Information provided by NGOs will be taken into consideration even if it is not submitted in parallel with the state report. However, having in mind the steps in the evaluation procedure, as described above, it is the most beneficial to GREVIO to have shadow/alternative reports available approximately at the same time as the state report. She noted, that the Istanbul Convention is quite hard to implement fully in practice and countries should adopt the amendments to legislation and policy changes step by step, which is a long process. Therefore, it was suggested to avoid general assessments or descriptions of law in reports but to provide information and indicate where changes in legislation or policy or implementation are

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<sup>6</sup> Rules of Procedure are available at:

<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168048358b>

still needed. It is also important to provide the statistical data, such as administrative and/or judicial data, and relevant case law as well as research findings on how the Istanbul Convention has been implemented in practice.

GREVIO uses four verbs: “urges”, “strongly encourages”, “encourages” and “invites” in its reports when giving recommendations to states. The Committee of the Parties includes in its report those recommendations of GREVIO that start with the verbs “urges” or “strongly encourages” in relation to Chapter I and II of the Convention, and those that start with “urges” in relation to other Chapters of the Convention. These will be the issues reported by states and reviewed by GREVIO when the state is monitored for the second time.

## Promising practices and examples from other countries

Biljana Branković shared promising practices to the participants of the workshop. She highlighted that perfect laws on paper and good intentions are not enough, if they are not fit for the purpose and context and not implemented. She clarified that simple copy-pasting of laws and promising practices from one country to another, without a proper adaptation to a particular national context may not be beneficial. She emphasised that some countries in Eastern Europe, for example, copied legal solutions related to emergency barring orders without adopting appropriate mechanism for implementing the these solutions in practice. Branković shared examples of promising practices from various countries related to different areas covered by the Istanbul Convention, such as, specialist services for victims, innovative legal solutions, etc. The examples were based on countries in which GREVIO has already completed the baseline evaluation, and published its reports. She mentioned Austria as a promising practice example in the area of provision of specialist services to victims. In **Austria**, the first women’s shelter was established in Vienna in 1978. There are 30 shelters across the country and all are accessible 24/7, mostly free of charge for women without an income. Many of them offer counselling in different languages for migrant women and five shelters also run counselling centers for women. All shelters aim to fulfil standards on safety, anonymity, confidentiality, empowerment, autonomy and self-determination of women. Further, she emphasised that Austria can be seen as a good practice example in funding autonomous specialist services for women by the state authorities - provinces Upper Austria and Burgenland adopted a legal base for funding women’s shelters and four shelters in Vienna also have relatively secure finding, and an unlimited contract with the City of Vienna.

Another example is the Austrian National Women’s Helpline, established in 1998, which offers multi-lingual support six hours per week and on demand in Arabic, Bosnian-Serbo-Croatian, English, Farsi/Dari, Persian, Russian, Ukrainian and Turkish. It has a state-wide coverage and it operates 24/7 by trained female staff. It is free of charge and anonymous and pays due regard to confidentiality. In 2015, it received 8,252 calls of which 7,199 were from women and girls. The Helpline is funded almost 100% by the Ministry of Health and Women’s Affairs (yet, multi-lingual services are not fully funded).

Promising practices were also discussed in the area of protection of sexual violence victims. In **Denmark** there are 10 centres, located within hospitals across the country, which provide crucial medical and forensic services to women and girls above the age of 15 who have experienced rape or sexual assault. Women and girls can seek services any time after the assault, including several years later. These

centres provide medical examination/help (immediate examinations, pregnancy tests, treatment for any injuries as well as screening for infections and sexually transmitted diseases) and forensic examination (taking of DNA samples and documentation of other evidence such as bruises and injuries). The staff also prepares a report on the case, which includes any information obtained from the victim about the circumstances of the rape/sexual assault.

The procedure for medical and forensic examinations is the same for all victims whether they intend to report the rape/sexual assault or not. There is no involvement of the law enforcement agencies, and the decision to report rests entirely with the victim. Where victims have first turned to the law enforcement agencies, they are often accompanied to the rape centre by an officer who will also draw up a report on the crime. The DNA evidence is stored for up to three months or longer if so requested by the victim. Should a case come to trial, the centre's report may be used as an evidence in addition to the DNA, and medical staff may be ordered to testify in court, for which purpose their obligation of confidentiality may be lifted.

In the area of sexual violence legislation, a promising practice is detected in **Sweden**. On this point, Brankovic emphasised that the GREVIO report on Sweden is under preparation and therefore, it is treated as confidential at this stage (since it is not yet published), but she shared information that is publicly available at the website of the Government of Sweden regarding innovative legal solutions on sexual violence. Namely, Sweden introduced recently two new criminal offences: "negligent rape" and "negligent sexual abuse". Both offences carry a prison sentence of a maximum of four years. The negligence aspect focuses on the fact that one of the parties did not participate in a sexual act voluntarily. According to expectations of Swedish authorities, this means that it will be possible to convict more people of sexual abuse than previously, for example when someone should be aware of the risk that the other person is not participating voluntarily but still engages in a sexual act with that person. The law will come into force on 1 July 2018. Further, as clarified by the Swedish Government, they introduced sexual consent legislation that is based on the obvious – sex must be voluntary. Accordingly, a rape conviction will no longer require the use of violence or threats by the perpetrator, or that a victim's particularly vulnerable situation was exploited.

Also in **Austria**, there is a promising practice in yet another example of providing autonomous specialist services: nine Intervention Centres for protection from violence, run by autonomous women's NGOs, were established in 1997, when the first law on protection from violence was adopted. They offer a proactive support: the police officers are obliged to notify the respective regional centre of all cases of domestic violence and stalking within 24 hours. Centres proactively reach out to victims and offer empowering support, including counselling, psycho-social and legal assistance at court. In 2015, nine Intervention Centres received 8,261 notifications by the police and 17,621 victims were supported, predominantly women and their children. They have relatively secure funding, based on legislation on violence. Funds are obtained by the Federal Ministry for Health and Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Interior.

The budget for the Intervention Centres amounted to 7.32 million Euros in 2015. Additionally, all Intervention Centres receive funds from the Ministry of Justice within the framework of psycho-social and legal assistance at court. The Intervention Centre in Vienna is obliged to serve 5,800 victims of

domestic violence and stalking per year. Only 25 staff members (full time) provide support to victims (on average, 5.9 hours per victim per year). This is not enough to provide mid- and long-term support.

In Austria, funding services can be mentioned as a promising practice: the Federal Ministry of Interior and the Federal Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs allocated 7.2 million EUR to Intervention Centres/Centres for the Protection from Violence in 2015 and the Federal Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs (responsible for implementing the Istanbul Convention) has an annual budget of 10 million EUR for prevention of VAW and all gender-equality measures.

The presentation also involved relevant provisions of the Istanbul Convention that are often misunderstood or wrongly implemented in practice. The **Austrian** experience with Emergency Barring Orders (EBOs) was discussed. While Austria has a very positive experience with emergency barring orders, the same cannot be said for many other countries which recently introduced "their versions" of this measure. In some countries, institutions which have the mandate to implement such a measure, consider that an EBO should be issued predominantly or exclusively in a situation of high risk of femicide.

Biljana Branković mentioned that the experience of Austrian NGOs indicates that an EBO, issued by the police, is not sufficient in high-risk situations. The drafters of the Istanbul Convention decided to leave to the Parties to determine the duration of an EBO, but it is also clarified that the period should be sufficient to provide an effective protection to the victim. Existing examples of such orders in the Council of Europe member states range between 10 days and four weeks, with or without the possibility of renewal (Explanatory Report, paragraph 264). Also, adequate administrative data on such measures (e.g. data on the number of measures issued, number of breaches, and number of sanctions for breaching) are often lacking, even in countries with the long history of implementation, such as in Austria, so conclusions on the effectiveness of EBOs cannot be evidence-based.

As Austria has the longest experience (20 years of applying EBOs), their experience could be instructive: EBOs have been proven to be adequate when the degree of danger is low but they are not sufficient in high-risk situations. If a perpetrator has repeatedly injured a victim or is threatening to do so or to kill her, EBOs in Austria have failed to protect victims. Further, EBOs should not be seen as a replacement for women's shelters. Similarly, breaching EBOs has to be seen as a risk factor, especially if paired with repeated violence or threats; in such cases authorities need to take stronger measures to prevent further violence and protect victims. Brankovic concluded that further research on EBOs is needed, from the perspective of victims (preferably, by using case studies and other qualitative methodology), especially in countries that recently introduced such measures.

## Femicide

In her presentation, Biljana Branković placed a special emphasis on femicide. The term as such is not used in the Istanbul Convention, but the Explanatory Report (Paragraph 188) specifies that the term "physical violence" refers to a bodily harm suffered as a result of the application of immediate and unlawful physical force. It encompasses also violence resulting in the death of the victim. In this regard, the support to the initiative of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its



Causes and Consequences (UNSRVAW) to establish a femicide watch at national/regional levels was highlighted.<sup>7</sup> It is crucial that state institutions collect data on women killed by abusive partners/ex-partners.

GREVIO has contributed to the initiative of the UNSRVAW to collect data on femicide/gender-based killings of women and girls by including questions on femicide in its questionnaire (which is sent to the states parties) for the first (baseline) evaluation. The states parties are asked to provide, on an annual basis, administrative and judicial data related to cases resulting in the death of a woman, as well as related to acts of violence against women amounting to attempted murder, the following data: a) number of cases, b) number of cases in which the authorities had prior knowledge of the woman's exposure to violence, c) number of perpetrators convicted in relation to these cases and d) number and type of sanctions and further measures imposed as a result of criminal proceedings (including deprivation of liberty), with an indication, where appropriate, of their suspended execution and average length. Provided data should be disaggregated by sex, age, type of violence as well as the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim, geographical location, and any other factors deemed relevant, for example disability.

## Issues often misunderstood

Issues related to the implementation of the Istanbul Convention that are often misunderstood in practice by various actors were highlighted at the end of the presentation. For example, there is insufficient understanding about what the gendered nature of violence actually means and what it implies. Further, there is often a poor understanding of implications of poor data collection models. Improper data-collection models limit a possibility to evaluate existing, and creating future evidence-based policies. Other issues that were mentioned include: the marginalisation of the issue of sexual violence, limited understanding of the underlying causes of femicide, and poor institutional response to it. Further, there are huge problems in the response of criminal justice systems to various acts of violence against women, and in some regions as many cases of VAW are punished as misdemeanours. Special attention should be paid to copy-pasted laws, which do not work in practice as the local context should always be taken into consideration.

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<sup>7</sup> The Public Defender of Georgia expressed readiness to create femicide monitoring mechanism in 2016. Within the scope of the mentioned mechanism, the Public Defender's Office makes detailed analysis of court decisions in order to evaluate the real scope of the problem of femicide, the applied protection and prevention measures and shortcomings in naming the problem. In addition, the Public Defender's Office examines the information and statistical data on the investigations and criminal prosecutions underway in the law enforcement agencies. With the above mentioned initiative, the Public Defender took into consideration the recommendation of Dubravka Šimonovic, United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, by which she called on states in 2015 to commit to prevent gender-related killing of women, to establish a femicide watch and to publish detailed analysis of the cases on November 25, each year.

## Discussion

### **Inga Beridze, Legal Clinic**

Inga Beridze asked a question related to the structure and size of an NGO report. Also, if there is any possibility to put individual cases in the NGO report and whether it is possible to file individual complaints.

- Biljana Branković pointed out that there are no specific requirements for the structure or the length of the NGO report, but NGO representatives are encouraged to use the GREVIO questionnaire to the states parties as guidance about the issues/problems GREVIO is interested in. Short descriptions of cases and examples from practice can be included in the report. As for individual complaints, GREVIO does not have the mandate 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 do so is the European Court of Human Rights. Thus, individuals can appeal to this Court. Another human rights treaty body that has the mandate to address individual complaints is the CEDAW Committee, under the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW Convention.

### **Mariam Jobava, UN Women**

Mariam Jobava asked to share best practices regarding electronic monitoring bracelet system tracking the offenders of perpetrators of violence. She was also interested in what cases using this mechanism is justified, should it come into force by a restrictive order or does it need to be approved by a court.

- Biljana Branković noted that it is difficult to share a best practice on this, based on countries in which baseline evaluation was carried out by GREVIO so far. She underlined the issue of women's safety in the presence of a bracelet and mentioned that in practice, trained staff members at the police need to monitor perpetrators 24 hours a day. She also mentioned that only having an “emergency button” for a victim is not enough. The expert said that if the country intends to use electronic bracelets, it is needed to establish a system that would allow feedback from victims on how secure they feel and what is their opinion about the efficiency of the electronic bracelets.

### **Eka Gamakharia, Fund Sukhumi**

Eka Gamakharia asked about the mechanism for implementing the GREVIO recommendations and if it is mandatory for the state parties.

- Ms. Biljana Branković pointed out that GREVIO does not have, and should not have a mandate to “force” states parties to implement its recommendations, if that was an intended meaning of the question. However, when a particular state decides to ratify the Istanbul Convention, it already means that this state accepts obligations related to the implementation of the convention’s provisions. Furthermore, the Istanbul Convention itself established GREVIO as an

independent monitoring mechanism. In a process of communicating with states parties, GREVIO intends to create a constructive dialogue with them.

## Session III: The Committee of the Parties

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### **Speaker - Eliso Shonia, member of the Committee of the Parties, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Georgia**

Eliso Shonia highlighted the role and importance of the Istanbul Convention. She mentioned that it was signed in 2014, and ratified in 2017. The Committee of the Parties is responsible to adopt, on the basis of the reports and conclusions of the GREVIO, specific recommendations addressed to the Parties concerned. The Committee held its 1st meeting on 4 May 2015 and elected the first ten members of GREVIO. In 2018, five more members were elected to GREVIO, among them Vladimer Mkervalishvili from Georgia.

Eliso Shonia also talked about strategic goals of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, within the framework of the Istanbul Convention, including:

- Identification of facts of violence and timely response
- Ensuring high qualification of employees
- Communication with the public
- Co-operation and co-ordination
- Monitoring
- Analysing

Eliso Shonia mentioned that the Human Rights Protection Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs was created on 23 January 2018 and it instilled huge expectations in the society. The main goals of the department are, within its competence, to timely react to and ensure effective supervision and monitoring of investigations of domestic violence, violence against women, crimes committed based on discrimination motives, trafficking and juvenile crimes. Also, the new department is authorised to co-operate and co-ordinate with the human rights state bodies and non-governmental organizations. The department monitors investigations and administrative proceedings through electronic system, it organises trainings for police officers, co-operates with state agencies, the Public Defender's Office, NGOs, and plans and carries out preventive measures and improves statistical data. The department is currently finalising a risk assessment instrument/tool for domestic violence cases and the implementation process of the witness-victim co-ordinator service within the ministry is ongoing and trainings have been launched for specialised inspectors on VAW. Currently, the Ministry of Internal Affairs works with the UN Women office in Georgia to establish a GPS monitoring system for offenders (electronic bracelets).

## Discussion

### **Kerstin Schinnerl, Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre, Vienna**

Kerstin Schinnerl asked about the police trainings and risk assessment methodology used by the ministry.

- Eliso Shonia mentioned that training for the police officers is conducted by the Police Academy and the Curriculum includes courses on domestic violence. The methodology has been developed with the help of local and international organisations. She said that work is currently in the pilot phase for the risk assessment instrument.

#### **Anna Iluridze, Public Defender's Office of Georgia**

Anna Iluridze asked about risk assessment methodology and when the ministry is planning to finalise the document.

- **Goga Khatiashvili**, representing the Human Rights Protection Department at the ministry, explained that they are going to reach out to police officers, who have already used this tool, to gather feedback and they would also like to collect all the tools that are used internationally in relation to risk assessments.

## **Session IV: The role of NGOs in the monitoring of the Istanbul Convention, including NGO shadow reporting – experiences and lessons learnt from Austria**

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**Speaker – Kerstin Schinnerl, Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre, Vienna, Austria; in charge of compiling the NGO Shadow Report for GREVIO in Austria**

According to Article 9 of Istanbul Convention, state parties have a legal obligation to recognise, encourage and support the work of relevant NGOs and establish effective co-operation. The NGOs are also major partners and vital sources of information for GREVIO. In the monitoring process, all NGOs can contribute and at any time, even before GREVIO decides to examine the situation in a particular country. Input is particularly useful when provided by the deadline for state reporting. There is no requirement to cover all aspects of the convention.

In Austria, all civil society organisations (CSOs) and NGOs that were originally contacted by the Council of Europe and further relevant NGOs were invited to participate in an NGO Coalition lead and co-ordinated by the Austrian Association of Autonomous Women's Shelters and the Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna. After creating a coalition and a report structure, chapters were decided and divided and one person took responsibility for each chapter. In the process, chapter co-ordinators reached out to relevant experts and organisations for the issues covered in their chapters. In preparation for the GREVIO country visit, the NGO Coalition assisted the Council of Europe Secretariat in identifying NGOs/CSOs/individuals with expertise in specific areas. The NGO coalition behind the shadow report provided to GREVIO delegation detailed and updated information during a one-day round table session dedicated to NGOs.

The NGO shadow report followed the structure of the Istanbul Convention, not the state questionnaire, and included general information about women in Austria, such as facts and figures on VAW and

femicides, information on gender pay gap, political participation of women, access to abortion, etc. Following this introductory chapter, the report contained a chapter on almost every article of the Istanbul Convention and highlighted in each chapter the remaining challenges regarding the implementation of the pertinent article and gave concrete recommendations on how to overcome these challenges. The report also had a special focus on children as this thematic area was identified as being particularly relevant and important by the coalition. As it was the first NGO Report under the Istanbul Convention, the coalition at first faced challenges in deciding which structure the report should follow. Other challenges during the reporting phase were the lack of resources (as the report was compiled during the summer months and without any extra budget) and contributions that were often too descriptive, not directly pointing out the problem.

At the end of her presentation, Kerstin Schinnerl gave recommendations for other NGOs compiling a Shadow Report, such as writing an executive summary for GREVIO in order to underline key priorities in the NGO report and developing lobbying strategies at the national level to promote the rapid and full implementation of GREVIO's recommendations to the state from their evaluation report.

## Discussion

### **Tamar Dekanosidze, Georgian Young Lawyers' Association**

Tamar Dekanosidze asked the speaker if she was involved in CEDAW reporting and whether there similarities and/or differences in reporting to these two bodies.

- Kerstin Schinnerl answered that she has not been involved in CEDAW reporting and there are certain differences, as CEDAW's scope is more general (it deals with different forms of discrimination against women and gender equality in general), whereas the Istanbul Convention's scope is very specific, focusing on violence against women and domestic violence.

### **Mzia Nozadze, Journalist**

Mzia Nozadze noted that in Georgian, a "shadow report" sounds like underground report that does not have positive connotations and if it is possible to call it an "alternative report" or something else.

- Kerstin Schinnerl agreed with the participant and mentioned that they call it an "NGO Report" which is a neutral name.
- Biljana Branković also explained the difference between shadow and alternative reports: in the case when a state is unable to publish or submit their own report, an NGO report can be called as an alternative report. An NGO report is called a shadow report when there is a state report to which the NGOs have access to.

## Session V: Introduction to the national co-ordinating body (the Article 10) of the Istanbul Convention and a group work activity

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**Speaker – Sopo Japaridze, Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Gender Equality Issues, Chairperson of the Inter-agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence**

According to the Istanbul Convention, parties shall designate or establish one or more official bodies responsible for the co-ordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention.

As Head of the Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, Sopo Japaridze mentioned that the Commission was formed with advocacy and technical support from UN Women and other UN agencies. It unites representatives of ministries as well as the Public Defender's Office, the Legal Aid Service, the Public Broadcaster, the Gender Equality Council of the Parliament and the Supreme Court. The Commission mandate covers gender equality, violence against women and domestic violence, as well as other issues on the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. In addition, the Commission will address issues such as supporting the effective implementation of functions and co-ordination of activities of respective state bodies in the field of gender equality, violence against women, domestic violence and women's empowerment.

The Commission will also support the development of proposals on these issues and submit them to the Government of Georgia for their review and further action. It is noteworthy that the Commission is a co-ordinating body envisaged in Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention; thus, it will observe the implementation of issues covered by the convention.

After the introduction of the Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence to the topic, participants were divided in four small groups and discussed the examples of co-ordinating bodies from Finland, Germany, Spain and Sweden.

## Session VI: Concluding remarks

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In the conclusion, **Anna Iluridze**, Head of the Gender Equality Department at the Public Defender's Office of Georgia noted that the Public Defender's Office will start working on its own report to be submitted to GREVIO. She thanked participants and mentioned that presentations and report of the workshop will be shared with them as soon as possible. Special thanks were given to invited the international experts, **Biljana Branković** and **Kerstin Schinnerl**, and to **Sara Haapalainen** from the Council of Europe and to Sopo Japaridze for facilitating the meeting.

Sara Haapalainen, Policy Advisor at the Capacity Building and Co-operation Projects Unit of the Equality Division from the Council of Europe thanked the Public Defender's Office, Sopo Japaridze, interpreters and participants, and hoped that the workshop had been useful for all participants.

## APPENDIX I: Agenda

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### **Workshop on the Istanbul Convention and its monitoring mechanism**

Organised by  
the Council of Europe together with the Public Defender's Office of Georgia

**19 June 2018**

**Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel, 1 Rose Revolution Square Tbilisi, Georgia**

With Georgian-English-Georgian interpretation

The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (known as the Istanbul Convention) is the most comprehensive international treaty to tackle this serious violation of human rights. Preventing violence, protecting victims and prosecuting the perpetrators are the cornerstones of the Convention.

The Parliament of Georgia has confirmed their commitment to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence by ratifying the Istanbul Convention and adopting a milestone legal framework aimed at the harmonisation of the domestic legislation with the Istanbul Convention: a package of amendments to 24 laws accompanying the Convention was adopted in May 2017.

Within the framework of the implementation and monitoring of the Istanbul Convention, the Council of Europe and the Public Defender's Office of Georgia are organising a capacity building workshop for the staff members of the Public Defender's Office and relevant NGOs. The workshop will be also open for relevant government representatives and public officials.

The workshop will cover the Istanbul Convention and its main standards with the specific focus on the monitoring process of the Istanbul Convention (GREVIO and the Committee of the Parties): the role of GREVIO, states, NGOs and Ombudsperson's office, including best practices and lessons learnt from the countries which have already been monitored by the GREVIO. The workshop will also include a group work activity on the Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention which obliges states to establish national co-ordinating bodies responsible for the coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Convention together with relevant stakeholders, including NGOs.

The workshop aims to provide relevant information on the Istanbul Convention and on the monitoring process of the Convention. Feedback on the workshop will be gathered at the end of the event.

Several materials and publications on the Istanbul Convention will be available in Georgian at the event and a workshop summary will be compiled after the event and shared with the participants and relevant stakeholders.

## Programme

**Facilitator and moderator:** *Sopo Japaridze, Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Gender Equality Issues, Chairperson of the Inter-agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence*

9:30 – 10:00	<b>Registration of participants and coffee</b>
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Opening – welcoming addresses</b> <i>Christian Urse, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Georgia</i> <i>Nino Lomjaria, Public Defender of Georgia</i>
10:30 – 11:15	<b>Introduction to the Istanbul Convention as a tool to combat violence against women and domestic violence – the main standards of the Istanbul Convention</b> <i>Biljana Brankovic, GREVIO member</i>  Discussion
11:15 – 12:00	<b>The importance of monitoring – the monitoring mechanism of the Istanbul Convention: <i>The Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO): best practices from the countries monitored, monitoring methodology and reporting</i></b> <i>Biljana Brankovic, GREVIO member</i>
12:00 – 12:20	<b>The Committee of the Parties</b> <i>Eliso Shonia, member of the Committee of the Parties, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Georgia</i>
12:20 – 13:00	Discussion
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00 – 14:45	<b>The role of NGOs in the monitoring of the Istanbul Convention, including NGO shadow reporting – experiences and lessons learnt from Austria</b> <i>Kerstin Schinnerl, Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna, Austria, in charge of compiling the NGO Shadow Report for GREVIO in Austria</i>
14:45 – 15:15	Discussion
15:15 – 15:45	<b>Introduction to the national co-ordinating body (the Article 10) of the Istanbul Convention and a group work activity</b> After introductions to the topic, participants will reflect in small groups the examples of co-ordinating bodies from different countries.
15:45 – 16:15	<b>Coffee break</b>
16:15 – 17:00	<b>Previous session continues</b>
17:00 – 17:30	<b>Closing – concluding remarks and feedback forms</b> <i>Sara Haapalainen, Policy Advisor, Capacity Building and Co-operation Projects Unit, Equality Division, Council of Europe</i> <i>Anna Iluridze, Head of the Gender Equality Department, Office of Public Defender of Georgia</i>



## APPENDIX II: List of participants

	Name	Organisation
1	Ketevan Khidasheli	Women for Regional Development
2	Marina Modebadze	Democratic Women's Organisation
3	Nata Bekauri	KRDF
4	Svetlana Borchashvili	KRDF
5	Tamar Dekanosidze	GYLA
6	Nino Chikhladze	GYLA
7	Tea Jaliashvili	WIC
8	Nato Shavlakadze	Anti-Violence Network of Georgia
9	Eka Tsereteli	WISG
10	Keti Bakhtadze	WISG
11	Eka Gamakharia	Fund Sokhumi
12	Ana Arganashvili	PHR
13	Tamar Golijashvili	Sapari
14	Mariam Kvaratskhelia	Equality Movement
15	Saba Tsagareishvili	Innovations and Reforms Centre
16	Ana Kanjaradze	Innovations and Reforms Centre
17	Natia Katsitadze	42nd Article of the Constitution
18	Inga Beridze	Legal Clinic
19	Tamar Sabedashvili	UN Women
20	Lika Sidamonidze	UN Women
21	Mariam Jobava	UN Women
22	Ana Shalamberidze	Supreme Court
23	Tinatin Bolkvadze	Supreme Court
24	Maka Kvachadze	Supreme Court
25	Vladimer Mkervalishvili	GREVIO
26	Tamar Avaliani	Human Rights Centre
27	Salome Shengelia	Prosecutor's Office
28	Mariam Tsitskishvili	Parliament's Gender Equality Council
29	Maka Peradze	Ministry of Internal Affairs
30	Goga Khatiashvili	Ministry of Internal Affairs
31	Eliso Shonia	Ministry of Internal Affairs
32	Rusudan Pkhakadze	"Sakhli"
33	Sopo Japaridze	Inter-agency Commission on Gender Equality
34	Ann Lobzhanidze	Public Defender of Georgia
35	Sophio Rusetski	Public Defender of Georgia
36	Nino Iakobidze	Public Defender of Georgia
37	Gvantsa Kharatishvili	Public Defender of Georgia
38	Anna Iluridze	Public Defender of Georgia
39	Nino Lomjaria	Public Defender of Georgia
40	Christian Urse	Council of Europe
41	Sara Haapalainen	Council of Europe
42	Nino Machkhaneli	Council of Europe
43	Biljana Brankovic	Expert, Member of GREVIO, Serbia
44	Kerstin Schinnerl	Expert, Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre, Austria
45	Mzia Nozadze	Journalist

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