

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Questionnaire
on legislative and other measures
giving effect to the provisions of the
Council of Europe Convention on Preventing
and Combating Violence against Women
and Domestic Violence
(Istanbul Convention)**

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I. Introduction

Parties are requested to use this questionnaire as a basis for preparing their report on legislative and other measures giving effect to the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (hereafter “the Convention”), as provided for under its Article 68, paragraph 1. All legal provisions cited refer to the articles of the Convention unless otherwise specified. For further guidance on the meaning of any of the questions, the drafters of the report are invited to consult the text of the [Convention](#) and its [Explanatory Report](#).

Unless otherwise indicated, all requests for data and information apply to the years 2016 and 2017¹. All financial data should be provided in euros. Any available administrative and judicial data requested in the present questionnaire should be disaggregated by sex, age and 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.

A. General Principles of the Convention

Throughout the preparation of their reports, Parties are invited to bear in mind the general principles set out in Chapter I of the Convention; principles which apply to all substantive articles contained in Chapters II to VII.

- It is a *fundamental human right* for everyone, particularly women, to live a life free from violence in both the public and the private sphere.
- The principle of *equality between women and men* must be embodied in the constitution or other appropriate legislation and effectively realised in practice.
- *Discrimination against women* must be prohibited, including through the use of sanctions, where appropriate, and laws and practices which discriminate against women must be abolished.
- The Convention must be implemented *without discrimination on any ground* and the potential for, and effects of, multiple discrimination should be borne in mind.
- *Special measures* which are necessary to prevent and protect women from gender-based violence are not considered as discrimination.
- The Parties must include a *gender perspective* in the implementation and the evaluation of the impact of the Convention and implement policies promoting equality between women and men and the empowerment of women.

B. Scope of application of the Convention and key definitions

In light of the scope of the Convention set out in its Article 2, paragraph 1, reports submitted by Parties to the Convention should focus on measures taken in relation to all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, which affects women disproportionately. The term “*violence against women*” used throughout this questionnaire thus refers to all forms of violence against women criminalised (or, where applicable, otherwise sanctioned) under Chapter V of the Convention, which are *psychological violence*,

¹ Requests for data and information will always apply to the two complete calendar years prior to receiving the questionnaire.

*stalking*², *physical violence, sexual violence, including rape, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, forced abortion, forced sterilisation and sexual harassment*. It also refers to *domestic violence against women*, which is defined as physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence which occurs within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim. Parties are reminded that, for the purpose of the Convention, the term “*women*” includes girls under the age of 18.

As provided for in Article 2, paragraph 2, Parties are required to pay particular attention to women victims of domestic violence, when applying provisions of the Convention to *all* victims of domestic violence.

Parties are also required to provide information on steps taken to secure the continued applicability of the Convention in situations of armed conflict (Article 2, paragraph 3).

C. State obligations and due diligence

When drawing up their report on the basis of the present questionnaire, Parties must pay particular attention to their *obligations to refrain from engaging in any act of violence* covered by the Convention and ensure that all those acting on their behalf conduct themselves in conformity with this obligation, as required by Article 5, paragraph 1. It should be recalled in this regard that under international human rights law, the state has both negative and positive duties: public officials must respect the law and refrain from the commission of wrongful acts and must also protect individuals from their commission by non-state actors³.

Reports submitted by Parties should contain all relevant information on measures taken to exercise *due diligence* to prevent, investigate, punish and provide reparation⁴ for any acts of violence covered by the Convention perpetrated by non-state actors⁵, as required by Article 5, paragraph 2. Parties are required to respond to all forms of violence covered by the Convention in a way that allows the relevant authorities to act in compliance with this obligation. Failure to do so incurs state responsibility for an act otherwise solely attributed to a non-state actor.

D. Bodies, agencies, institutions and organisations involved in the preparation of the report submitted by the Party in application of Article 68, paragraph 1

Please indicate which official body is responsible for co-ordinating the collection of information in response to this questionnaire and the preparation of the report.

² Stalking includes engaging in unwanted communication “through any available means of communication, including modern communication tools and ICTs” (Explanatory Report, paragraph 182).

³ The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has established that the positive obligation to protect the right to life (Article 2, European Convention of Human Rights) requires state authorities to display due diligence, for example by taking preventive operational measures, in protecting an individual whose life is at risk (Explanatory Report, paragraph 58).

⁴ The term “reparation” may encompass different forms of reparation under international human rights law such as restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantee of non-repetition (Explanatory Report, paragraph 60).

⁵ The term “non-state actor” refers to private persons, a concept which is already expressed in point II of [Recommendation Rec\(2002\)5](#) of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the protection of women against violence (Explanatory Report, paragraph 60).

Please also specify:

- a. which government agencies contributed to the preparation of the report (including at regional/local levels);
- b. which other bodies, institutions or organisations were consulted when preparing the report (national human rights institution, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other civil society actors, etc.).

II. Integrated policies and data collection

(Chapter II of the Convention, Articles 7 to 11)

Please provide information on the adoption of comprehensive and co-ordinated policies on violence against women, the financial resources dedicated to the implementation of these policies, and support of the work of NGOs and other civil society actors, in particular women's organisations, the establishment of effective co-operation with these organisations, as well as data collection.

- A. Please provide details of the strategies/action plan(s) and any other relevant policies adopted by your authorities to address violence against women, as referred to in Article 7. Please describe in particular:
 1. which forms of violence are covered;
 2. the timeframe(s);
 3. how the human rights of victims are placed at the centre of these policies;
 4. how policies are co-ordinated to offer an effective holistic and comprehensive response;
 5. measures taken to implement them at regional/local levels;
 6. progress made in their implementation.
- B. Please provide an account of financial resources allocated to the implementation of the above-mentioned policies, as required by Article 8, with an indication of the sources of financing (amount of financing allocated and its percentage of the total annual state budget; amount of financing allocated and its percentage of regional budgets; amounts from other sources).
- C.
 1. How is the work of **NGOs and other civil society actors**, in particular women's organisations, recognised, encouraged and supported, as required by Articles 8 and 9?⁶
 2. Which measures are taken to ensure effective co-operation with these organisations at national and regional/local levels?
- D. Please provide details on the **body(ies) established or designated in application of Article 10.**

⁶ Support for NGOs and other civil society actors means allocating appropriate financial resources for the activities by such actors and recognition of their work by, "for example, tapping into their expertise and involving them as partners in multi-agency co-operation or in the implementation of comprehensive government policies which Article 7 calls for" (Explanatory Report, paragraphs 66 and 69).

1. Have your authorities established or designated one or more official bodies⁷ for the co-ordination and implementation of policies and measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by the Convention?

If so, for each body, please indicate the

- a. name;
- b. administrative status;
- c. powers and competences;
- d. composition (in particular, please specify if NGOs active in combating violence against women are members);
- e. annual budget;
- f. human resources (namely number of staff, their general professional backgrounds and any training on the Convention received); and
- g. main results obtained since its establishment.

2. Have your authorities established or designated one or more separate body(ies) for monitoring and evaluating policies and measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by the Convention?

If so, for each body please indicate the

- a. name;
- b. administrative status;
- c. powers and competences;
- d. composition (in particular, please specify if NGOs active in combating violence against women are members);
- e. annual budget;
- f. human resources (namely number of staff, their general professional backgrounds and any training on the Convention received); and
- g. main results obtained since its establishment.

E. 1. Please specify the entities⁸ collecting relevant **data** and the type of data collected by each of them.

2. With regard to each type of data, please indicate if the data is 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.

3. How is this data collated and made public at national level?

F. Please give information on any research supported by your government in relation to Article 11 paragraph 1b in the years 2013-2017.

⁷ The term "official body" is to be understood as any entity or institution within government (Explanatory Report, paragraph 70).

⁸ Please specify if data are collected by all publicly funded agencies which are mandated in your country to assist victims and prevent violence. If so, please explain which data are collected, for example, by:

- a. law enforcement agencies/criminal and civil justice services (including the police, prosecution services, courts, and prison and probation services);
- b. health care services (for example doctors, accident and emergency services, hospitals);
- c. social services, social welfare and specialist victim services (state and NGO); as well as
- d. other official bodies generally mandated for data collection, such as the statistical office/bureau.

- G.** Please provide information on any **population-based survey(s)** conducted on violence against women as required by Article 11, paragraph 2.

For each survey, please indicate

1. the form(s) of violence covered;
2. its geographic reach (state-wide, regional, local);
3. its main results; and
4. whether the results were made public (with an indication of the sources).

III. Prevention

(Chapter III of the Convention, Articles 12 to 17)

In light of the overarching general obligations in the area of prevention provided for in Article 12, paragraphs 1 to 6, please provide an account of preventive action taken, including to promote changes in the social and cultural patterns of behaviour of women and men with a view to eradicating prejudices, customs, traditions and other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority of women or on stereotyped roles for women and men. Such preventive action must address the specific needs of persons made vulnerable by particular circumstances and place the human rights of all victims at their centre. It must also encourage all members of society, especially men and boys, to contribute actively to preventing all forms of violence, and include the promotion of programmes and activities for the empowerment of women. Please also indicate which measures have been taken to ensure that culture, custom, religion, tradition or so-called honour are not considered as justification for any acts of violence.

Please bear in mind that the above principles apply to all preventive measures taken in accordance with the obligations contained in Chapter III.

- A.** What **campaigns and programmes** on any of the forms of violence covered by the Convention have your authorities promoted or conducted in accordance with Article 13, paragraph 1?
- B.** What steps have your authorities taken to include **teaching material**⁹ in formal education curricula at all levels of education, and/or in non-formal education, as required by Article 14, paragraph 1?
- C.** Please indicate (using Table 1 in the Appendix) the categories of professionals who receive **initial training** (education or professional training) as required by Article 15¹⁰. Additional information which you consider relevant in this context may be provided in narrative format.
- D.** Please indicate (using Table 2 in the Appendix) the number of professionals per year who have benefitted from **in-service training** on violence against women. Additional information which you consider relevant in this context may be provided in narrative format.

⁹ The term “teaching material” refers to material on issues such as equality between women and men, non-stereotyped gender roles, mutual respect, non-violent conflict resolution in inter-personal relationships, gender-based violence against women and the right to personal integrity.

¹⁰ This comprises training on the prevention and detection of violence against women, standards of intervention, equality between women and men, the needs and rights of victims, prevention of secondary victimisation, multi-agency co-operation.

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- E.** Please provide information on action taken to set up or support programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence as referred to in Article 16, paragraph 1. In particular, please provide details on:
1. the overall number of existing programmes, their geographical distribution, the implementing institution/entity/body (prison service, probation service, NGOs, other), their compulsory or voluntary nature, as well as the number of places and the number of perpetrators enrolled annually;
 2. the measures taken within the framework of these programmes to ensure that the safety of, support for and the human rights of women victims are of primary concern and that they are implemented in close co-ordination with specialist support services for women victims;
 3. how a gendered understanding of violence against women has been incorporated in these programmes;
 4. funding sources and annual amounts for these programmes; and
 5. measures taken to evaluate their impact.
- F.** Please provide information on action taken to set up or support programmes for sex offenders as referred to in Article 16, paragraph 2. In particular, please provide details about:
1. the overall number of existing programmes, their geographical distribution, the implementing institution/entity/body (prison service, probation service, NGOs, other), their compulsory or voluntary nature, as well as the number of places and the number of perpetrators enrolled annually;
 2. the measures taken within the framework of these programmes to ensure that the safety of, support for and the human rights of women victims are of primary concern and that they are implemented in close co-ordination with specialist support services for women victims;
 3. how a gendered understanding of violence against women has been incorporated in these programmes;
 4. funding sources and annual amounts for these programmes; and
 5. measures taken to evaluate their impact.
- G.** What action has been taken to encourage the private sector, the information and communication technology (ICT) sector and the media, including social media, to participate in the elaboration and implementation of policies as set out in Article 17, paragraph 1?
- H.** Please specify which self-regulatory standards such as codes of conduct for the ICT sector and the media, including social media, exist in the area of violence against women and/or gender equality (for example to refrain from harmful gender stereotyping and spreading degrading images of women or imagery which associates violence and sex).
- I.** What measures have been taken to encourage the establishment of protocols or guidelines, for example, on how to deal with sexual harassment in the workplace; and to

raise awareness of human resources staff on issues of violence against women, including domestic violence?

J. Please indicate any other measures taken or planned to prevent violence against women.

IV. Protection and support

(Chapter IV of the Convention, Articles 18 to 28)

Please provide general information on measures taken to offer appropriate protection and support to women victims and child witnesses of any form of violence covered by the Convention as required by Article 18, paragraphs 1 and 2. This includes measures to ensure multi-agency co-operation and effective referrals to general and specialist support services. Please bear in mind the general principles set out in Article 18, paragraph 3 that must be applied to all measures taken in implementation of Chapter IV of the Convention. These are the need for a gendered understanding of violence against women, a focus on the human rights and safety of victims, and an integrated approach to protection and support services. All protective and supportive measures must also aim at avoiding secondary victimisation, address the specific needs of vulnerable persons, including child victims, and aim at the empowerment and economic independence of women victims. In addition, general and specialist support services must be offered irrespective of the victim's willingness to press charges or testify against the perpetrator.

- A. Please provide details on action taken to ensure that women victims of all forms of violence covered by the Convention receive **information on support services and legal measures available to them**, as required by Article 19. The information must be adequate¹¹; timely¹² and in a language they understand¹³.
- B. 1. Please provide a short description of the measures taken to ensure that the following **general support services**¹⁴ (as referred to in Article 20, paragraph 1) take the situation of women victims systematically into account, employ measures and interventions to ensure their safety, and are equipped to meet their specific needs and to refer them to the appropriate specialist services:
- a. financial support services;
 - b. housing services;
 - c. legal counselling services;
 - d. psychological support services;

¹¹ "Adequate information" is understood as information that sufficiently fills the victim's need for information. This could include, for example, providing not just the name of a support service organisation, but issuing a leaflet that contains its contact details, opening hours and information on the exact services it offers (Explanatory Report, paragraph 124).

¹² "Timely information" refers to information that comes "at a time when it is useful for victims" (Explanatory Report, paragraph 124).

¹³ This obligation is limited to languages that are most widely spoken in the Party (Explanatory Report, paragraph 124).

¹⁴ "General support services" are understood as "help offered by public authorities such as social services, health services and employment services, which provide long-term help and are not exclusively designed for the benefit of victims only but that serve the public at large" (Explanatory Report, paragraph 125).

- e. education and training services;
 - f. employment services; and
 - g. any other relevant service.
2. Please provide information on measures taken in relation to Article 20, paragraph 2, to ensure women victims benefit from appropriate health care and social services. Please also provide information on protocols and guidelines for staff assisting women victims and for their referral to additional appropriate services.
 3. Please provide information on the annual number of women victims of violence who have been assisted by health and social services.
- C.** What steps have been taken to ensure that victims have information on access to and assistance with individual or **collective complaints mechanisms** (including legal advice) offered at regional or international level (Article 21)¹⁵?
- D.** Please provide a description of the measures taken in relation to Articles 22, 23 and 25 to provide or arrange for **specialist women's support services**¹⁶ for all women victims and their children.

For each category of service (women's shelter, rape crisis and sexual assault centre, women's counselling centre, etc.), please provide information broken down by individual women's shelter/rape crisis centre/counselling centre/other service on:

1. their number and geographical distribution (with an indication of the number of places in women's shelters¹⁷);
2. the number of paid staff per service;
3. their accessibility (for example 24/7 or other);
4. the criteria defining a service as a specialist women's service as well as the standards of intervention, protocols, and any guidelines which are applied in order to ensure a gendered understanding of violence against women and a focus on the safety of the victims;
5. the different groups of victims they are available for (for example women only, children, migrant women, women with disabilities, other);
6. the annual number of women seeking help from these services. Please provide specific information on the annual number of women who requested and those who received, together with their children, accommodation in women's shelters.
7. their funding (source, funding periods and legal basis);
8. who they are run by (for example women's NGOs, other NGOs, faith-based organisation, local government);

¹⁵ Individual complaints can be addressed, for example, to the ECtHR or the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee), whereas collective complaints can be addressed to the European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe.

¹⁶ Specialist support services refer to dedicated services for victims of the different forms of violence against women made up of "specialised and experienced staff with in-depth knowledge of gender-based violence", including among others counselling centres, shelters, rape crisis centres and sexual violence referral centres.

¹⁷ The Final Activity Report of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence (EG-TFV (2008)6) recommends safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters is available in every region, at a rate of one family place per 10 000 head of population.

9. whether they are free of charge for all women (that is, irrespective of their income);
10. co-ordination between specialist support services and with general support services.

E. Please provide information on measures taken to set up **telephone helplines** to provide advice to callers in relation to all forms of violence covered by the Convention, as referred to in Article 24.

In this context, please specify:

1. if they are state wide;
2. if they are free of charge;
3. if they operate round-the-clock (24/7);
4. how confidentiality and/or anonymity is ensured;
5. if those responding to calls have been trained on all forms of violence against women; and
6. the annual number of calls made to seek help for women victims.

F. Please provide information on action taken to ensure that, in the provision of the above-mentioned general and specialist support services to victims, due account is taken of the rights and needs of **child witnesses** of all forms of violence against women as specified in Article 26, including age-appropriate counselling.

G. Please indicate any **other measures**, including measures taken with regard to reporting as provided for in Articles 27 and 28, taken or planned to provide protection and support to victims of violence against women.

V. Substantive law

(Chapter V of the Convention, Articles 29 to 48)

Please provide information on the legal framework pertaining to violence against women, with particular emphasis on the criminalisation of acts of violence against women, unacceptable justifications for such acts (including crimes committed in the name of so-called honour), sanctions and measures, action taken to provide women victims with adequate civil remedies and to ensure their right to claim compensation as well as to prohibit mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes.

A. 1. Please provide information on the relevant **legal framework** in place (for example criminal law, civil law, administrative law) which gives effect to the provisions of the Convention, including action taken to avoid legislative gaps.

2. Does your internal law contain any specific legislation addressing violence against women?

3. Please provide in an appendix a compilation of extracts from or summaries of the relevant legal texts, including specific legislation addressing violence against women. These texts should be provided in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe (English or French), as well as in the original language, where applicable.

B. What action has been taken to provide relevant professionals with **guidance on how to implement the above legal framework** (for example drawing-up of protocols for police and other law enforcement officials, guidelines for prosecutors, and setting up of special units)?

C. Please detail the procedures available to women victims to provide them with **civil remedies**:

1. **against the perpetrators** (Article 29, paragraph 1)¹⁸;
2. where applicable, **against state authorities** which have failed in their duty to take the necessary preventive or protective measures within the scope of their powers (Article 29, paragraph 2).

Please provide any available data, broken down by year and by forms of violence, on:

- a. the number of civil law remedies applied for against perpetrators;
- b. the number of civil law remedies applied for against state authorities;
- c. the number of civil law remedies granted under categories a. and b.

D. Please detail the procedures available to women victims:

1. to claim **compensation from perpetrators** for any of the offences established in accordance with the Convention (Article 30, paragraph 1);
2. to obtain, where applicable, **state compensation** when any such offence involves sustained serious bodily injury or impairment of health (Article 30, paragraph 2).

Please provide any available data, broken down by year and by forms of violence, on:

1. the number of women victims who claimed compensation from perpetrators;
2. the number of women victims who obtained such compensation, with an indication of the time given to perpetrators to pay compensation;
3. the number of applications for state compensation;
4. the number of women victims who were awarded state compensation, with an indication of the timescale for granting such compensation and amounts.

E. Please detail the procedures in place to ensure that:

1. incidents of violence against women are taken into account in the **determination of custody and visitation rights of children** (Article 31, paragraph 1) as a superseding concern;
2. women victims and their children remain safe from any further harm in the **exercise of any visitation or custody rights** (Article 31, paragraph 2).

Please provide examples of how these procedures have been implemented.

F. Please indicate how your internal law criminalises the following forms of violence:

1. **psychological violence**, as defined in Article 33;

¹⁸ Civil remedies against the perpetrator include ordering a person to stop a particular conduct, refrain from a particular conduct in the future or to compel a person to take a particular action (injunctions) (Explanatory Report, paragraph 157).

2. **stalking**, as defined in Article 34¹⁹;
3. **physical violence**, as defined in Article 35²⁰;
4. **sexual violence, including rape**, as defined in Article 36, paragraph 1, having due regard to the definition of consent under Article 36, paragraph 2.

Please also indicate how your internal law criminalises acts of sexual violence, including rape, committed against former or current spouses or partners (Article 36, paragraph 3).

Please specify the age, under your internal law, at which a person is considered to be legally competent to consent to sexual acts;

5. **forced marriage**, as defined in Article 37;
6. **female genital mutilation** as defined in Article 38;
7. **forced abortion**, as defined in Article 39a;
8. **forced sterilisation**, as defined in Article 39b.

G. How does your internal law criminalise or otherwise address **sexual harassment**, as defined in Article 40?

H. How does your internal law address **aiding or abetting** in relation to psychological violence, stalking, physical violence, sexual violence (including rape), forced marriage, the performance of female genital mutilation, forced abortion and forced sterilisation (Article 41, paragraph 1)?

I. How does your internal law address **attempts** of physical violence, sexual violence (including rape), forced marriage, female genital mutilation, forced abortion and forced sterilisation (Article 41, paragraph 2)?

J. How does your internal law ensure that, in criminal proceedings initiated following the commission of any of the acts of violence covered by the Convention, **culture, custom, religion, tradition or so-called honour** cannot be regarded as justification for such acts nor as mitigating circumstances (Article 42)?

K. Please describe how your internal law ensures that the offences established in accordance with the Convention apply notwithstanding the nature of the **relationship of the perpetrator to the victim** (Article 43).

L. For each form of violence covered by the Convention, please specify:

1. the applicable **sanctions**, including sanctions other than criminal, and, where appropriate, when sanctions involve deprivation of liberty which can give rise to extradition (Article 45, paragraph 1);
2. the relevant further **measures** which may be taken in relation to perpetrators, such as:
 - a. the monitoring or supervision of convicted persons;

¹⁹ See also Explanatory Report, paragraph 182.

²⁰ See also Explanatory Report, paragraph 188.

- b. the withdrawal of parental rights, if the best interests of the child, which may include the safety of the woman victim, cannot be guaranteed in any other way (Article 45, paragraph 2).

M. How does your internal law ensure that the circumstances referred to in Article 46, insofar as they do not already form part of the constituent elements of the offences, may be taken into consideration as **aggravating circumstances**?

N. 1. How does your internal law – in criminal and civil law – prohibit **mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes**, including mediation and conciliation, in relation to all forms of violence covered by the Convention (Article 48)?

2. Please specify how your internal law ensures that such processes are not otherwise imposed on women victims of domestic violence, for example within the framework of legal separation and divorce proceedings.

O. Please provide, on a yearly basis, **administrative and judicial data** on the following matters:

1. in relation to cases resulting in the death of a woman:
 - a. the number of such cases;
 - b. the number of cases in which the authorities had prior knowledge of the woman's exposure to violence;
 - c. the number of perpetrators convicted in relation to these cases;
 - d. the 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;
2. in relation to acts of violence against women amounting to attempted murder:
 - a. the number of such cases;
 - b. the number of cases in which the authorities had prior knowledge of the woman's exposure to violence;
 - c. the number of perpetrators convicted in relation to these cases;
 - d. the 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.
3. in relation to all other cases of violence against women:
 - a. the number of complaints made by victims and the number of reports by third parties, to law enforcement agencies/criminal justice authorities;
 - b. the number of criminal proceedings and/or any other legal action initiated as a result;
 - c. the number of perpetrators convicted;
 - d. the number of criminal and other sanctions imposed with an indication of the type of sanctions imposed (for example fine, court-ordered participation in perpetrator programmes, restriction of liberty, deprivation of liberty) and, where appropriate, of their suspended execution and average length;

- e. the number of further measures imposed, with an indication of the type of measures adopted (for example monitoring or supervision of the perpetrator, withdrawal of parental rights);
- f. the number of perpetrators subjected to further measures referred to in Article 45, paragraph 2.

Please ensure the above-requested data is disaggregated following the criteria described earlier (see section I. Introduction).

4. the number of cases which resulted in the death of the children of the women victims.

P. Please provide information on any **other measures** taken or planned in relation to substantive law, together with any available data on the recourse to such measures.

VI. Investigation, prosecution and procedural law and protective measures

(Chapter VI of the Convention, Articles 49 to 58)

Please provide information on action taken in accordance with the principles set out in Article 49 of the Convention, in order to ensure that:

- i) investigations and judicial proceedings are carried out without undue delay while taking into consideration the rights of women victims during all stages of the criminal proceedings; and
- ii) acts of violence against women are investigated and prosecuted in an effective manner.

To this end, the competent authorities must be able to respond promptly and appropriately to all forms of violence covered by the Convention, issue emergency barring orders or restraining or protection orders and take measures of protection during the investigations and criminal proceedings. Non-governmental/civil society organisations must be able to assist and/or support women victims in legal proceedings (for example as third parties) and appropriate arrangements must be made to facilitate women victims' access to justice.

- A. 1. Please provide information on measures adopted to ensure a **prompt and appropriate response** from law enforcement agencies to all forms of violence covered by the Convention by offering adequate and immediate protection to women victims (Article 50).
- 2. Please provide any available administrative data (see section I. Introduction) on the number of interventions carried out annually by law enforcement agencies in relation to violence against women.
- B. What procedures have been put in place to ensure that an **assessment** of the lethality risk, the seriousness of the situation and the risk of repeated violence is carried out by all relevant authorities and duly taken into account at all stages of the investigation and the application of protective measures (Article 51)?
- C. 1. Please indicate which authorities are granted the power to issue an **emergency barring order** when a woman victim (or at risk) of domestic violence is in a situation of immediate danger, as referred to in Article 52 (that is, ordering the perpetrator to

immediately vacate the residence of the woman victim and/or prohibiting the perpetrator from entering the residence of or contacting the woman concerned).

2. Please specify:

- a. the time required to issue an emergency barring order;
- b. the maximum duration of an emergency barring order;
- c. if the duration can be extended until a protection order can be issued;
- d. if emergency barring orders can apply to all women victims of domestic violence; if not, please specify any exceptions;
- e. the type of measures used to enforce emergency barring orders and ensure the safety of the woman victim;
- f. what sanctions can be imposed in case of a breach of such an emergency barring order;
- g. the support and advice made available to women seeking such protection.

3. Please provide, on a yearly basis, administrative and judicial data (see section I. Introduction) on:

- a. the number of emergency barring orders issued by the competent authorities;
- b. the number of breaches of such orders;
- c. the number of sanctions imposed as a result of these breaches.

D. How are **restraining or protection orders made available to women victims of all forms of violence covered by the Convention (Article 53, paragraph 1)?**

Please specify:

1. the procedures in place to apply for a restraining or protection order;
2. if restraining or protection orders can apply to all victims of violence covered by the Convention; if not, please specify any exceptions;
3. if there are any fees levied against the applicant/woman victim (with an indication of their amount);
4. the delay between issuing such an order and when it takes effect;
5. the maximum duration of restraining or protection orders;
6. if such orders are available irrespective of, or in addition to, other legal proceedings;
7. if restraining or protection orders can be introduced in subsequent legal proceedings;
8. the criminal and other legal sanctions which can be imposed (including deprivation of liberty, fines, etc.) in case of breach; and
9. the support and advice made available to women seeking such protection.

E. Please provide, on a yearly basis, administrative and judicial data (see section I. Introduction) on:

1. the number of restraining or protection orders issued by the competent authorities;
2. the number of breaches of such orders; and
3. the number of sanctions imposed as a result of these breaches.

F. 1. How does your internal law provide for the initiation of **legal proceedings ex officio (namely, in order not to place the onus of initiating such proceedings and securing**

convictions on the women victims) in relation to each of the forms of violence covered by the Convention (Article 55, paragraph 1)?

- a. Please specify which authorities have the power to initiate such proceedings.
- b. Please also indicate, for each of the forms of violence covered by the Convention, what provisions in law, policy or guidelines define when prosecution is or is not in the public interest.

G. How does your internal law allow for the continuation of **legal proceedings *ex parte*** (even if, for instance, the woman victim withdraws her statement or complaint) as referred to in Article 55, paragraph 1?

H. 1. How does your internal law allow for **NGOs or other civil society actors and domestic violence counsellors** to assist or support victims in legal proceedings (Article 55, paragraph 2)?

2. Please specify the conditions for such participation as well as their legal status during these proceedings.

I. 1. What **measures of protection** are available during investigations and judicial proceedings (Article 56, paragraph 1)?

2. Please provide details on all measures referred to in Article 56 paragraph 1, in particular to:

- inform women victims, at least where they and their family might be in danger, when the perpetrator escapes or is released temporarily or definitively;
- enable women victims to be heard, to supply evidence and have their views, needs and concerns presented (directly or through an intermediary), and considered;
- provide women victims with appropriate support services so that their rights and interests are duly presented and taken into account;
- ensure that contact between women victims and perpetrators in law enforcement agency and court premises is avoided whenever possible.

3. Please also describe what special measures are available to offer protection to child victims and child witnesses of violence covered by the Convention (Article 56, paragraph 2).

J. Please provide details on the availability of **free legal aid for women victims**, as required by Article 57, including eligibility criteria.

K. Please provide information on **any other existing investigation, prosecution, procedural law and protective measures** in relation to violence against women, together with any available data on the recourse to such measures.

VII. Migration and asylum

(Chapter VII of the Convention, Articles 59 to 61)

Please provide information on the measures taken in relation to migrant women victims of violence as covered by the Convention, whose status makes them particularly vulnerable.

Please also provide information on the measures taken in relation to women asylum seekers who are fleeing gender-based violence.

- A. 1. Please indicate how your authorities ensure that a migrant woman victim may be granted an autonomous residence permit in the following cases:
- a. in the event of the dissolution of the marriage or relationship due to particularly difficult circumstances such as violence, irrespective of the duration of the marriage or relationship (Article 59, paragraph 1);
 - b. in the event of the expulsion of the (abusive) spouse or partner on whom her residence status depends (Article 59, paragraph 2);
 - c. where her stay in the country is necessary owing to her personal situation (Article 59, paragraph 3a);
 - d. where her stay in the country is necessary for the purpose of her co-operation in investigation or criminal proceedings (Article 59, paragraph 3b);
 - e. where she lost her residence status as a result of a forced marriage for which purpose she was removed from her country of residence (Article 59, paragraph 4).
2. Please provide data on the number of women who have been granted the right to remain in your country for any of the reasons set out in categories A.1.a to A.1.e and separate the data per type of residence status granted (permanent residence status, renewable residence status, other).
- B. 1. Does your internal law recognise **gender-based violence against women as a form of persecution for asylum claims** as referred to in Article 60, paragraph 1²¹?
2. How do you ensure a gender-sensitive interpretation of the forms of persecution set out in Article 1, A (2) of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees²²?

²¹ Article 60, paragraph 1 of the Istanbul Convention refers to Article 1, A (2) of the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, which defines the term “refugee” as “any person who (...) owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”

²² See, for example, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Guidelines on International Protection: Gender-Related Persecution within the context of Article 1, A (2) of the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.

3. Please provide data on the number of women victims or those at risk who have been granted refugee status on one or more of the Convention grounds, as referred to in Article 60, paragraph 1, compared to the overall number of women who requested asylum in your country.

4. Please provide data on the number of women victims or those at risk who received complementary/subsidiary protection on such grounds.

C. Please indicate steps taken to develop:

- a. gender-sensitive reception procedures and support services for asylum seekers;
- b. gender guidelines;
- c. gender-sensitive asylum procedures, including refugee status determination and application for international protection, as required by Article 60, paragraph 3.

D. How do you ensure that women whose asylum claims have been rejected are not returned to any country where their life would be at risk or where they might be subjected to ill-treatment (including gender-based violence amounting to ill-treatment), as provided for in Article 61?

E. Please indicate **any other measures** taken in relation to the protection of migrant women victims and women asylum seekers in the area of immigration and refugee law.

Table 2: In-service training

| | NUMBER OF PROFESSIONALS TRAINED | MANDATORY NATURE | AVERAGE LENGTH OF CURRICULUM | PERIODICITY | FUNDING SOURCE | BODY MANDATED TO CARRY OUT/CERTIFY IN-SERVICE TRAINING | TRAINING EFFORTS SUPPORTED BY GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--|--|
| Police and other law-enforcement officials | | | | | | | |
| Prosecutors | | | | | | | |
| Judges | | | | | | | |
| Social workers | | | | | | | |
| Medical doctors | | | | | | | |
| Nurses and midwives | | | | | | | |
| Psychologists, in particular counsellors/ psychotherapists | | | | | | | |
| Immigration/asylum officials | | | | | | | |
| Educational staff and school administrators | | | | | | | |
| Journalists and other media professionals | | | | | | | |
| Servicemen and women | | | | | | | |
| Any other relevant category | | | | | | | |