A JOINT PROJECT WITH THE EUROPEAN WOMEN’S LOBBY:

Europe mobilises against rape and for the Istanbul Convention as a tool for change.

ACT AGAINST RAPE!
USE THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION!
Objectives

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

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

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

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

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

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

• Gender myths and stereotypes condoning rape are still prevalent
KEY MESSAGES

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

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

• The Istanbul Convention sets comprehensive standards for legislative and other measures to prevent and combat rape, in particular:
  • the legal definition of rape;
  • data collection on all forms of violence against women, including rape;
  • protection and support for women victims;
  • prevention;
  • access to justice, and
  • protection for migrant women, refugee women and women asylum-seekers.
RESOURCES

• ACTION KIT

• EWL BAROMETER ON RAPE IN EUROPE 2013

• Council of Europe Thematic Factsheets