Thematic Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention

"Building trust by delivering support, protection and justice"

(1st thematic evaluation round)

Appendix 2:

Collected contributions by the *Länder*

Explanatory note: This appendix was compiled by the BMBFSFJ and contains the collected contributions from the *Länder*. It has not been reviewed or agreed upon by the federal government.

Annex

London, 2025

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Part I: Changes in comprehensive and coordinated policy, funding and data collection in the area of violence against women and domestic violence

Article 7: Comprehensive and coordinated policy measures

1. Please explain all new developments at the political level since the adoption of the GREVIO baseline evaluation report on your country to ensure comprehensive measures in the areas of prevention, protection and prosecution with regard to stalking, sexual harassment and domestic violence, including their digital dimension, rape and sexual violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, forced abortion and forced sterilisation, thereby demonstrating further implementation of the Convention. Please indicate what measures have been taken in particular against those forms of violence against women that have not been addressed in previous policies, programmes and services covering the four pillars of the Istanbul Convention.

Overview

Contributions (linked): Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Hamburg (reference question 56, p. 399)

1. Hesse

Adoption of **the** third Hesse **State Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence** (December 2022): The State Action Plan was developed by an interdisciplinary working group and is based on the provisions of the Istanbul Convention.

Establishment of the Hessian **Coordination Office for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention**: In autumn 2022, the state established a coordination office for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the former Hessian Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration (now: Hessian Ministry of Labour, Integration, Youth and Social Affairs). Its task is to analyse and further develop existing measures in cooperation with the relevant state authorities at municipal, state and federal level and non-governmental institutions.

Hesse state government's **women's safety package** (2024): This package introduced measures to increase the safety of women in Hesse and improve the protection of women affected by violence. One focus is on the prevention of violence and harassment and on providing better support for victims, for example through faster and more effective assistance.

Language mediation programme: In order to facilitate communication between women affected by violence who have language difficulties and the relevant agencies in the women's support system, a support programme was launched in 2023 to assist women's shelters and counselling centres with their expenses for professional, culturally sensitive language mediation and the use of sign language interpreters.

Housing after the women's shelter: Since 2022, women who are already living in a stable situation in a women's shelter but are unable to find their own accommodation have been actively supported in their search for a flat of their own through a cooperation between the state and a housing company.

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Electronic monitoring (ankle bracelet): The Hessian Security and Public Order Act (HSOG) introduced the possibility of using electronic monitoring in cases of domestic violence. Since 2025, ankle bracelets have been used in Hesse based on the so-called Spanish model. On the initiative of Hesse, the Federal Council also decided at its 1050th meeting on 20 December 2024 to adopt the resolution "Stronger protection against domestic violence through electronic monitoring" (BR-Drs. 344/24) with the aim of anchoring the possibility of ordering an electronic tag in the Protection Against Violence Act.

Establishment of the "Hessen gegen Hetze" (Hesse against hate speech) reporting centre in 2020: This initiative aims to combat hate crime and hate speech on the internet. It offers support to victims of online
hate crimes and focuses on legal measures to prosecute such crimes more consistently.

2. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

According to Article 7 of the Convention, effective, comprehensive and coordinated policy measures must be adopted and implemented in order to provide a holistic response to violence against women. To this end, the state government of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania has agreed in section 422 of the 2021-2026 coalition agreement that the Third State Action Plan to Combat Domestic and Sexual Violence [1]will be further developed into a **state strategy for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention** for victims of domestic and sexual violence by the beginning of 2026. The starting point for the development of this state strategy is the "Evaluation of the Third State Action Plan to Combat Domestic and Sexual Violence in the Context of the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention (IK) with a Focus on the Counselling and Support Network" of April 2024, which contains important statements on the initial situation and initial recommendations for action. The evaluation was carried out by the Rostock Institute for Social Research and Social Practice
e.V. (ROSIS). In May 2024, the **coordination office for the implementation of the IC** was set up in the Control Centre for Women and Equality in the Ministry of Justice, Equality and Consumer Protection (Ministry of Justice) with a focus on developing the state strategy. Important pillars in the protection of women against violence and domestic violence in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania are the proven counselling and support network[3] and interdepartmental cooperation within the state government. The development of the strategy in the sense of an overall political strategy for measures by the state government against violence against women and domestic violence for the successful implementation
the IK in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania is being developed in an interdepartmental and holistic manner with the participation of civil society.

3. Saxony

In order to coordinate interdisciplinary action at the state level, a steering committee to combat domestic violence was established in 2003 on the basis of a cabinet decision, which was integrated into the State Prevention Council in 2008. On the basis of the Istanbul Convention (IC), the steering committee's remit was expanded to cover all topics addressed by the IC, which is also reflected in its current name: Steering Committee for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. A **coordination office** was also set up for the Free State of Saxony **in accordance with Article 10 of the IC**. Under the leadership of the State Coordination Office, a **state strategy for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention** was developed. In addition to the ministries, the Steering Committee and many civil society actors were involved in the development of the objectives and measures. This strategy was published as the
"**State Action Plan** of the Free State of Saxony for the Prevention and Combating of Gender-based Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in Implementation of the

1 Women and men in crisis situations – Mecklenburg-Vorpommern government portal: see Publications
2 Women and men in crisis situations – M-V government portal: see Publications
3 Women and men in crisis situations – M-V government portal: see Publications

Istanbul Convention (LAP IK) adopted by the cabinet in June 2024. The state strategy has been developed along the four pillars of the IK. In order to address groups of people who have become particularly vulnerable due to special circumstances, cross-cutting objectives have been developed which are taken into account in the implementation of all measures (Objectives 1-3 of the LAP IK).

4. Saxony-Anhalt

Comprehensive coordination of implementation in Saxony-Anhalt

In order to implement the Istanbul Convention in Saxony-Anhalt, the state government adopted the **PROGRESS action plan** (AP PROGRESS; Cabinet Decision No. 0527 of 13 February 2024 [4]) in February 2024. The action plan initially focuses on the further development of the core area of the protection and support system. In addition, a participatory coordination strategy for state activities to implement the Istanbul Convention and thus involve civil society actors in interministerial coordination was adopted. Within the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Equality (MS), the Coordination Office for Women's and Equality Policy (LFG; Istanbul Convention Coordination Office) coordinates planning arrangements. Technical responsibility remains with the respective departments.

Since responsibility for implementing the Istanbul Convention lies with various departments, interministerial coordination and the most efficient communication structure possible are required, which in Saxony-Anhalt is implemented through **thematic interministerial coordination groups (iKK)**. The integration of the expertise of the actors in the protection and support system, as provided for in the Istanbul Convention, is ensured by the participatory approach of the iKK. Cooperation with civil society is ongoing at all levels, and LIKO (the state coordination office for civil society actors involved in implementing the Istanbul Convention) is a regular member of the iKK. The specific status of implementation is reported annually to the Committee for Labour and Social Affairs (Appendix: Report ADrs. 8/SOZ/62 of 5 March 2025).

All gender equality policy concepts and measures that are being implemented or are currently being developed within the framework of the Istanbul Convention correspond to the state's gender equality policy objective (3) from the **State Programme for a Gender-Equal Saxony-Anhalt 2020**: Protection against and prevention of sexualised, homophobic and gender-specific violence and discrimination, and strengthening the right to sexual and physical self-determination.

Protection and prosecution: high-risk management

Based on the results of the work of the project group on high-risk management at the Halle (Saale) police station, which has been in existence since 2019, a **state concept for situation-appropriate action in cases of domestic violence, stalking and child endangerment** (classified information – for official use only) was developed for the state police and came into force on 2 August 2023. It describes in detail the procedures for police intervention and contains corresponding decision-making aids and instructions for action that must be implemented. It also describes procedures for institutionalised high-risk management for high-risk cases of domestic violence and stalking, which include the assessment stages "standardised risk analysis",
"case conferences" and "operational victim protection".

In a cross-departmental and cross-professional **state working group (, LAG)** established in November 2022 under the auspices of the Ministry of the Interior and Sport (MI), is currently developing common **procedures for**

[4] https://leitstelle-frauen-geschlechtergleichstellung.sachsen-anhalt.de/frauen-und-gleichstellung/bekaempfung-von-gewalt-gegen-frauen/schutz-von-frauen-vor-gewalt

institutionalised case conferences and the conditions of participation for public and non-public agencies. High-risk management is implemented by state police forces in cooperation with the authorities and victim support agencies required in each individual case.

This is because the police are usually the first institution in a long chain of intervention in cases of domestic violence, stalking and child welfare risks. The task of the police is to avert dangers to public safety and order, prosecute criminal offences and provide professional victim protection. This requires consistent intervention to avert danger and prosecute crimes by securing comprehensive evidence and networking with other authorities, institutions and victim support organisations. In order to break the cycle of violence as far as possible and prevent killings in the family environment, it is essential to have closely knit measures relating to hazard prevention, repression and victim protection, which must be implemented in a timely manner. Raising awareness among all law enforcement officers and involving all relevant institutions to ensure consistent hazard prevention and criminal prosecution is of paramount importance in terms of victim protection and thus the trust of potential victims in the work of the police.

The sensitive handling of violent crimes in the family environment has always been a high priority in police work. Police stations have introduced a control system for cases of domestic violence. Cases involving domestic violence are a mandatory topic of daily situation meetings in the relevant departments. Police victim protection officers are involved immediately and continuously. If the respective cases involve persons who have weapons and/or explosives licences, the locally responsible department immediately forwards all necessary information to the authority responsible for weapons and/or explosives law and holds case conferences with the responsible authorities (e.g. weapons authority) immediately and without fail.

The duties of the weapons authorities are set out in the Weapons Act. In order to support the weapons authorities and ensure certainty in their actions, the MI issued a decree on 22 March 2023 calling on the authorities to make consistent use of the legal options available to them for securing weapons. In a decree dated 9 May 2023, the MI updated the circular decree on "Weapon bans in individual cases and seizure". Weapon bans pursuant to Section 41 of the Weapons Act serve to avert danger. In addition to averting existing dangers, they are also intended to prevent future dangers to public safety. The weapons authority can quickly prohibit individuals from acquiring and possessing weapons or ammunition that do not require a permit or that require a permit, either for a limited period or indefinitely, for the purpose of averting danger. The circular decree once again emphasises the immediate exchange of information between the police and weapons authorities in relevant cases.

A current **amendment** to the Saxony-Anhalt Public Safety and Order Act (**SOG LSA**) with regard to the victim protection measures described in the above-mentioned state concept in cases of domestic and gender-based violence is currently being debated in parliament. The amendment introduces a number of important changes to provide the state police with a modern and up-to-date framework for action. The amendment aims to improve the protection of victims and potential victims of domestic violence. In future, it will be possible to set up comprehensive data and transmission blocks to protect victims. In addition, it will be possible to temporarily approve a false identity. Furthermore, authorities and organisations will be able to work even more closely together to protect victims, including in the context of case conferences. Transmission obligations will be introduced for courts in cases involving protection against violence. In addition, it will be possible to extend the duration
police measures in the event of an application for civil law protection.

5. Schleswig-Holstein

State strategy for implementing the Istanbul Convention in Schleswig-Holstein

The state strategy for implementing the Istanbul Convention in Schleswig-Holstein was adopted on 13 May 2025 in the Cabinet. The strategy sets out the priority objectives for the full implementation of the Istanbul Convention that fall within the remit of the state. The strategy contains seven strategic objectives and areas of action with specific measures for each thematic focus that serve to achieve the objectives. In total, the strategy contains 70 measures for achieving the objectives.

As a central measure for coordinating implementation in Schleswig-Holstein, the state coordination office under Article 10 IK, which is located in the ministry responsible for equality, ensures exchange on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention between the relevant departments through specific contact persons for the individual thematic areas. In addition, the coordination office participates in exchanges at federal and state level and with local authorities. It serves as a contact point for civil society actors involved in the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

Female genital mutilation

An interdepartmental working group on female genital mutilation is to ensure the exchange of information and a coordinated approach to the issue.

Digital violence

The issue of digital violence, particularly in the immediate social environment, is being addressed more strongly in women's organisations, and needs and opportunities for support are being identified. In addition, ways of better protecting women from hostility and exclusion in the public digital space through education and information on IT security issues are being examined.

Guidelines for the protection of women affected by violence[5]

On 27 May 2021, the Ministry of the Interior issued guidelines for the protection of women affected by violence. These guidelines were further developed by the MSJFSIG (Ministry of Social Affairs) this year ("The consideration of domestic and/or gender-based violence against women in residence law").

The further developed guidelines essentially focus on four areas:

1. It are clear instructions for protection women women who are subject to residence regulations and/or spatial restrictions.
2. The guidelines set out provisions to ensure that experiences of violence do not jeopardise a woman's right of residence.
3. Article 59 of the Istanbul Convention is implemented.
4. Guidelines are provided for the assessment of evidence, taking into account the special situation of women affected by violence.

Electronic residence monitoring and other measures to better protect victims of domestic violence and stalking

On 26 March 2025, the state parliament of Schleswig-Holstein passed a law to better protect victims of domestic violence and stalking through the use of electronic residence monitoring.

[5] Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality of the State of Schleswig-Holstein (MSJFSIG), guidelines for employees in the Schleswig-Holstein immigration administration. Taking into account domestic and/or gender-based violence against women with a migration or refugee background, 2021. Available at: https://www.landtag.ltsh.de/export/sites/ltsh/beauftragte/fb/veranstaltungsdokumente/20230221_Gewaltschutz-vor-aufenthaltsrechtlichen-Regelungen/Guidelines-on-taking-into-account-domestic-and/or-gender-based-violence-against-women-with-a-refugee-or-migrant-background-in-the-context-of-spatial-decisions.pdf, (as of 05.05.2025); the updated version is expected to be available from the end of May.

and further amendments to the State Administration Act. The state is thus fulfilling its obligations under the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, known as the Istanbul Convention. This obliges Germany at all levels of government to prevent such violence, combat it and offer protection and support to those affected. State protection instruments include orders under police law as well as court orders under the Civil Law Protection Against Violence and Stalking Act (Gewaltschutzgesetz). Both regulatory regimes provide for measures to keep perpetrators at a distance, such as evictions and restraining orders for places where the victim regularly stays, as well as contact and proximity bans. The aim of this law is to further optimise these measures and their enforcement:

- Electronic monitoring introduces a tool for monitoring the person causing the disturbance.
- Measures to protect victims of domestic violence and stalking are being expanded and perpetrator prevention work is being supported.
- The interlocking of police and civil law protection instruments is being improved.

Victim Protection Unit

In Schleswig-Holstein, the Victim Protection Unit was established within the Ministry of Justice on 1 April 2022 to further emphasise the importance of victim protection and to consolidate and further develop the diverse tasks related to victim protection. This unit brings together complex and diverse issues, such as assistance and mediation services for victims of crime and their relatives, and project funding for victim protection services. It also covers women affected by violence and victims of domestic violence.

The Central Contact Point for Victims of Crime and their Relatives (Central Contact Point) is part of the Victim Protection Unit. The aim of the Central Contact Point is to ensure quick and easy access to existing support services. It answers questions about victims' rights and the general course of investigations and criminal proceedings, regardless of the proceedings involved, and refers victims to victim support organisations, psychosocial support workers and contact persons for victim compensation. The Central Contact Point works closely with the Victim Protection Officer of the State of Schleswig-Holstein (the Victim Protection Officer). The Victim Protection Officer is the central contact person for the Schleswig-Holstein state administration for the concerns and interests of victims of crime. He or she is committed to ensuring that victims receive help and support quickly and without bureaucracy. The Victim Protection Officer promotes cooperation between state and civil society institutions working in the field of victim protection and victim support in Schleswig-Holstein. He or she networks with the Federal Government Commissioner for the Concerns of Victims of Terrorist and Extremist Attacks in Germany, the victim and victim protection commissioners of other federal states, and the other state commissioners of Schleswig-Holstein.

Specialisation within the public prosecutor's offices

In the area of prosecuting domestic violence, including its digital dimension, specialisation within the state's four public prosecutor's offices is being further expanded by increasing the staffing levels of the special departments that have been in place since the early 2000s to handle investigations into domestic violence, or by planning to do so.

Involvement in legislative projects

At the federal level, Schleswig-Holstein has advocated for improved criminal law protection for public officials and elected representatives against stalking. In May 2024, the state government joined Saxony's Bundesrat initiative (BR-Drs. 216/24), which proposed introducing a criminal offence of influencing public officials and elected representatives (Section 106a StGB-E) based on the criminal offence of stalking (Section 238 of the Criminal Code – StGB) to introduce a criminal offence of influencing public officials and elected representatives (§ 106a StGB-E). With regard to the prosecution of rape and sexual violence, it should be noted that Schleswig-Holstein has joined a Berlin Bundesrat initiative proposing to impose higher penalties for the use of psychotropic substances to facilitate sexual offences. In a resolution dated 21 March 2025, the Bundesrat called on the Federal Government to submit a corresponding draft law (BR-Drs. 28/25(B)).

At the state level, the Act on Better Protection of Victims of Domestic Violence and Stalking through the Use of Electronic Monitoring and Other Amendments to the State Administration Act of 26 March 2025 came into force on 15 April 2025. This Act has created
for the first time created the possibility of ordering the perpetrator to wear an ankle bracelet in cases of domestic violence.

6. Thuringia

Since July 2021, Thuringia has had a **coordination office for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention**, set up by the State Equal Opportunities Officer in the Thuringian Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Labour and Family. The coordination office has been further expanded in terms of personnel in subsequent years and is currently staffed by a head, a consultant and a clerk, totalling 2 full-time equivalents.

In June 2024, the state government of Thuringia adopted a **state action plan for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention** (LAP), which, with 142 measures and the participation of all departments, represents a comprehensive set of instruments. The LAP is designed to run from 2024 to 2030, enabling long-term and interrelated projects to be realised.

It was drawn up by an **interdepartmental working group**, which will continue to monitor the implementation process.

To implement the State Action Plan, a comprehensive advisory board comprising authorities, ministries and civil society has been set up to make recommendations and participate in the implementation process, just as it provided important impetus for the State Action Plan in the run-up to its adoption.

Sub-working groups have been set up to deal with key areas of the state action plan. The sub-working group on high-risk management in cases of domestic violence is developing a framework concept for dealing with high-risk cases, i.e. cases in which women (and their children) are threatened with serious acts of violence or (attempted) murder.

An interdisciplinary **working group on "Digitalised Violence"** under the leadership of the State Prevention Council developed a "Plan of Action for the Prevention and Combating of Gender-Based Violence in the Digital Space" and presented a draft in autumn 2024.

New: ChancGlFöG [8] (Thür. GVBl 8/2024 pp. 239-241) with **100% funding for women's shelters** by the state and free protection for victims since 1 January 2025,
Anchoring of Intervention and Counselling centres at domestic and

[6] https://www.gleichstellungsbeauftragte-thueringen.de/gewaltschutz/istanbul-konvention
[7] https://www.gleichstellungsbeauftragte-thueringen.de/gewaltschutz/istanbul-konvention/aktionsplan-fuer-thueringen
[8] https://landesrecht.thueringen.de/bsth/document/jlr-ChancGlF%C3%B6GTHrahmen

gender-based violence, promoting equality policy measures and those that serve the nationwide association of women's organisations in Thuringia.

The Thuringian Child and Youth Welfare Implementation Act (Thür KJHAG) enshrined the following in law (amendment of 2 July 2024, GVBI, p. 234)

- in Section 20 (3a) – Right to counselling for children and young people affected by neglect, maltreatment, abuse and violence to low-threshold, independent counselling and support to ward off further dangers in accordance with the child-centred approach in a form that is understandable, comprehensible, perceptible and accessible to them
- in Section 20a – Office of a state commissioner for child protection attached to the state secretary responsible for youth in Thuringia, including the tasks associated with the office and a supporting administrative office
- in § 20 b – State Coordination Office for Medical Child Protection; codification of a successful model project, including key tasks and funding and promotion on the basis of Section 74 SGB VIII

7. Bavaria

The Bavarian State Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Affairs is currently working on a law to implement the Violence Assistance Act in Bavaria, which is to come into force on 1 January 2027. In particular, it will regulate requirements for a needs-based women's assistance system and its appropriate financing.

For the area of the **female genital mutilation** was in the year 2021 a **prevention network** was established.

The range of services has been continuously expanded in the areas of human trafficking, forced prostitution and forced marriage (specialist counselling centres and shelters). The Victim Protection Cooperation Group was established to promote networking between practitioners and the relevant ministries. Members of the Victim Protection Cooperation Group include experts from the StMAS, StMI and StMJ, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, the Munich I Public Prosecutor's Office, the Bavarian State Criminal Police Office and the specialist counselling centres Jadwiga and SOLWODI Bayern e.V.

The Bavarian State Ministry of Justice is committed to shaping the framework conditions for family courts in such a way that children and partners affected by violence are given the best possible protection in **custody and access proceedings** in accordance with the Istanbul Convention: To strengthen child protection in family court proceedings, the Bavarian State Ministry of Justice introduced the concept of **child protection competence partners** in all three higher regional court districts in 2022. The competence partners are experienced family judges who advise their colleagues on child protection issues, promote professional and personal exchange between family courts and other specialist agencies, and are available as permanent and procedure-independent contact persons. This creates a Bavaria-wide network for child protection. The child protection competence partners also give specialist lectures throughout Germany on the Istanbul Convention and child protection and participate in working groups and panel discussions.

The Bavarian State Ministry of Justice also supports the **research project "Safety first!"**, which provided scientific support for the application of the Munich questionnaire for risk assessment in access and custody proceedings in cases of domestic violence from September 2021 to December 2022. Further information on the research project is available on the project website.[9]

In addition, the Bavarian State Ministry of Justice is working with other state ministries

[9] https://www.safetyfirst-umgang-sorge.de

to the flow of information in child welfare risks between specialist agencies . In autumn 2023, interdepartmental overview slides were published on this topic.

8. Lower Saxony

Lower Saxony evaluated the State Action Plan III to Combat Domestic Violence 2020 in order to develop a statewide strategy for implementing the Istanbul Convention in Lower Saxony. With the development and implementation of the new Lower Saxony Action Plan against Domestic Violence and for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention (State Action Plan IV), Lower Saxony is clarifying the levels at which measures to combat violence are necessary. These measures were set out in LAP IV in an interdepartmental manner, such as the needs-based expansion and improved funding of violence protection counselling centres, and the creation of a brochure on the topic of violence protection and child protection in relation to custody issues for youth welfare offices.

Since 2016, the state of Lower Saxony has been funding a project at Hannover Medical School that aims to prevent violence against women. Under the title "Don't become a perpetrator – I can change", the project, which focuses on impulse control, is aimed in particular at men with a tendency towards sexual violence against women, with sexual violence fantasies or potential rapists. The prerequisite for participation in this project is that the persons concerned have not (yet) committed a criminal offence. The annual budget for the project is EUR 190,000. Features: low-threshold access from the dark field while maintaining anonymity, multi-stage screening, diagnosis and education process before offering therapy, manualised group therapy, public relations and educational work, data analysis and evaluation.

The state government has decided to strengthen crime prevention and victim protection and to better integrate the two areas. To this end, the Prevention and Victim Protection Unit was established at the Lower Saxony Ministry of Justice in March 2021. The aim is to continuously improve judicial victim protection and victim support. In order to achieve this in the best possible way, effectively incorporating the expertise already available at the Lower Saxony Ministry of Justice (Nds. MJ), and to achieve a lasting optimisation of judicial victim protection and victim assistance, the judicial matters of victim protection and victim assistance have been bundled together with the tasks of prevention in a separate departmental group. With the establishment of the Prevention and Victim Protection Unit, the state government has responded to the fact that victim protection issues are becoming increasingly important in both repressive proceedings and prevention, and that the processing and implementation of the requirements of the Victim Protection Convention, the Istanbul Convention, the EU victim and child protection strategies requires the requirements for targeted and comprehensive protection of victims before and after crimes to be bundled. Further information can be found in the 1st GREVIO State Report 2020.

Funding guideline on "Prevention of child and forced marriages and protection of affected girls and boys"

The Lower Saxony State Prevention Council had one-off funds of €200,000 available for the 2022-2023 financial years to fund measures and projects to prevent child and forced marriages. The budget funds were used to support six projects for the prevention of early and forced marriages, as well as low-threshold support, counselling and protection for affected children and young people. The LPR issued funding guidelines for this purpose at the end of 2022. The subject of the funding includes, for example
B. Projects for scientific research into the dark field, for strengthening specialist knowledge and networking among actors in the field, and measures to protect those affected or to empower those potentially affected. The following six projects were funded: – Project "Amandla" – Baobab-zusammensein e. V. (community-based and sustainable prevention work); – Project "My life, my
Entscheidung" (My Life, My Decision) project – kargah e. V. (prevention/awareness-raising among educational professionals and

participating schoolgirls*); – Project "Gemeinsam stärker" (Stronger Together) – Mädchenhaus zwei13 e. V. (counselling, support and awareness-raising services for girls and women up to the age of 21, referral to youth welfare services); – Project "Title still open" – AWO-Kreisverband Region Harz
e. V. (multiplier for other social institutions; support for existing institutions); – Project "Information material on the subject of forced marriage" – Ev. Jugendhilfe Haus Neuer Kamp
e. V. (networking of cooperation partners); – Project "Mädchen*stark" (Girls*Strong) – Mädchenhaus Hannover e. V. (low-threshold counselling, support and empowerment services).

Funding guidelines for the "Prevention of sexual abuse of children and young people"

Funding of €150,000 per year has been available since 2022 for the medium term, and multi-year projects can be supported. Gender-sensitive approaches and relevant professional quality standards should be taken into account. In particular, cooperation between locally/regionally responsible organisations and agencies should be promoted, with the aim of implementing individual prevention measures, establishing or further developing protection concepts, and embedding protection concepts in integrated violence prevention strategies.

Guidance for the police on dealing with domestic violence

At the end of 2022, the third edition of the guide for the police on dealing with domestic violence was published under the direction of the Lower Saxony State Criminal Police Office (LKA NI) and in cooperation with police authorities and the State Prevention Council. This revision aims to enable the police to act competently and professionally in the complex handling of domestic violence and to minimise identified risks through targeted measures. An essential component of the updated guide is the introduction of high-risk management, which has been standardised nationwide through a systematic risk analysis in order to identify high-risk cases and prevent the most serious escalations of violence. An evaluation of the guide is planned for this year.

GfZ app ("Gewaltfrei in die Zukunft" – "A violence-free future")

The GfZ app has been in use at the Hanover Police Headquarters since November 2022 and was also introduced at the Braunschweig and Oldenburg Police Headquarters in September 2024. The rollout includes both police and non-police partners. In Lower Saxony, the app is already available in half of the regional police headquarters. Following consultations between various ministries, there is agreement to introduce the app statewide, including the Göttingen, Lüneburg and Osnabrück police headquarters. Distribution will be carried out by the regional police headquarters and advice centres. As things stand at present, there are no plans to set up a separate project office. Nevertheless, an interdepartmental coordination committee will oversee the implementation. Initial measures are currently being planned.

EAÜ

The rising number of cases in Lower Saxony makes it clear that there is still a great need for action to combat the crime phenomenon of domestic violence. This issue is therefore a top priority for the state government. The intended measures also include the introduction of a legal basis for ordering electronic residence monitoring (EAÜ) in cases of domestic violence. The regulation will be based on the so-called "Spanish model", i.e. dynamic residence monitoring, in which technical means are also made available to the victims, with their consent, to warn them immediately as soon as the perpetrator comes within a certain distance.

Situation report on domestic violence in Lower Saxony

In order to optimise crime analysis, the annual status report on domestic violence in Lower Saxony has been further developed into a "Police Situation Report for Lower Saxony 2024 Domestic Violence". In addition to a strategic analysis of perpetrator and victim structures, among other things

, the aim is to identify specific requirements for action. The situation report in question is currently still under review.

9. Rhineland-Palatinate

Within the Rhineland-Palatinate police force, in addition to the corresponding interministerial framework concept, the framework service instruction "High-risk management of high-risk cases of violence in close social relationships" came into force on 1 September 2019 and was revised in 2020 due to legal changes. This regulates police procedures in **high-risk management** and corresponding measures to protect victims from further acts of violence. In addition, since 2023, a separate domestic violence situation report, based on the BKA situation report, has been produced in order to gain further insights and thus take account of this important issue (see also comments on question 2, p. 22).

From a legislative perspective, since the last GREVIO baseline evaluation report, an amendment has been made to Section 46 of the Criminal Code (StGB), which describes the principles of sentencing, in the area of criminal prosecution. In Section 46 (2) sentence 2 StGB, the Act on the Revision of Sanctions Law – Substitute Imprisonment, Sentencing, Requirements and Instructions, and Placement in a Rehabilitation Facility – with effect from 1 October 2023, "the motives and objectives of the perpetrator, in particular [...] gender-specific and anti-sexual orientation" have been specifically included as further grounds to be taken into account in sentencing.

In addition, with regard to the criminal offence of sexual harassment pursuant to Section 184i StGB,
14 February 2025, the Federal Council passed a resolution calling on the Federal Government to extend the protection of victims by also making non-physical sexual harassment a criminal offence.

In 2021, Rhineland-Palatinate enshrined a **pact against sexualised violence against children and young people** in its coalition agreement. Its aim is to raise awareness of the issue of sexualised violence against children and young people both in society and in institutions. At the same time, prevention in various areas is to be improved and comprehensive, child-friendly intervention and aftercare ensured. Care should be taken to ensure that the pact is always anchored in an interdisciplinary manner and that parallel structures are avoided.

Since 6 March 2023, an expert commission, together with around 180 stakeholders from various specialist areas and the Rhineland-Palatinate State Council for Victims (founded on 8 June 2023), has been working on a total of 40 recommendations for action for the state government, which were ceremoniously presented to Minister President Schweitzer and Minister Binz on 9 September 2024.

In an audit mandate running until May 2025, the departments will now present a timetable for implementing the recommendations for action, which are intended to comprehensively improve intervention and prevention for children and young people affected by sexualised violence. This involves expanding a needs-based infrastructure – for example, with regard to specialised counselling centres, the development and binding nature of protection concepts in all areas affecting children and young people, the child-friendly further development of judicial and administrative procedures, the conditions that enable sexualised violence, and the strategies of perpetrators, prevention of sexualised violence in the digital space, and the need for comprehensive and specific training and qualification.

On 23 January 2025, the **project "Confidential Help after Violence"** was launched, replacing the model project "Emergency Medical Assistance after Rape". The service includes confidential medical care, confidential, court-admissible evidence collection at the request of the victims, and subsequent psychosocial counselling and support in
cases of sexualised and other domestic violence. Men can also take advantage of the service. It is free of charge for those affected. The Institute of Legal Medicine at

Mainz University Medical Centre has developed a new concept consisting of a comprehensive examination and evidence collection form and a corresponding kit.[10]

On 28 January 2025, the **Rhineland-Palatinate state government's action plan for implementing the Istanbul Convention** was approved by the Council of Ministers. On this basis, the Rhineland-Palatinate state government is consistently implementing the Istanbul Convention. The action plan comprises a total of 117 individual measures, which are to be implemented by the end of 2030.

With these measures, the state government is complying with the agreement in the current coalition agreement for Rhineland-Palatinate between the SPD, BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN and FDP (see page 140).

In 2021, Rhineland-Palatinate became the second federal state to initiate a **state project on female genital mutilation** ("Effectively combating female genital mutilation: supporting those affected, training professionals and creating sustainable networks"). [12]At the start of the state project, the focus was initially on taking stock and networking existing services. In the following years, the project was further developed, new target groups were addressed and forms of support were developed.

In accordance with the state parliament resolution of 8 November 2023 (printed paper 18/7880) and taking into account the recommendations for action of the "Pact against sexualised violence against children and young people" of the Rhineland-Palatinate state government (led by the Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration, see the answer to question 1), the legal basis was created in the school regulations for all schools to develop a **protection concept against sexualised violence** and other forms of violence by 1 August 2028. The obligation to develop a protection concept also strengthens protection against violence against women and domestic violence.

In **the Higher Education Act** (HochSchG) of 23 September 2020 (GVBl. p. 461), last amended by Article 1 of the Act of 17 June 2025 (GVBl. p. 202), BS-223-41," the comprehensive **commitment of higher education institutions to non-violence** is enshrined in law in Section 2 (3). It ties in with the Council of Europe Convention of 11 May 2011 on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ("Istanbul Convention", Federal Law Gazette 2017 II of 26 July 2017), but its wording, "Universities are committed to non-violence", is comprehensive and goes significantly further. The pact against sexualised violence against children and young people is also included here.

However, it remains the responsibility of higher education institutions to implement this requirement, taking into account the
implement appropriate measures for their individual situations on site under their own responsibility within the framework of their university autonomy. The Higher Education Act is scheduled to come into force at the beginning of August 2025.

10. North Rhine-Westphalia

Establishment of a specialist and coordination office for the Istanbul Convention

The federal government, federal states and local authorities are jointly obliged to implement the Istanbul Convention. Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention also obliges the signatory states to support the implementation of the Istanbul Convention by establishing one or more coordination offices.

The governing parties of the CDU and Bündnis 90/Die Grünen emphasised the importance of the Istanbul Convention in their coalition agreement "Future Contract for North Rhine-Westphalia" of 23 June 2022. Against this background, the following was established for
long-term support of the consistent implementation of the Istanbul Convention

[10] https://mffki.rlp.de/themen/frauen/gewalt-gegen-frauen-und-maedchen/vertrauliche-hilfe-nach-gewalt
[11] https://mffki.rlp.de/service/publikationen/details/publikation/aktionsplan-der-landesregierung-rheinland-pfalz-zur-umsetzung-der-istanbul-konvention-barrierefrei
[12] https://www.caritas-mainz.de/caritas-vor-ort/mainz/cbjz-st.-nikolaus/fgm?searchterm=FGM

At the state level, a "Specialist and Coordination Office for the Istanbul Convention" will be newly established in the first quarter of 2023 as an independent unit within the Equality Department of the Ministry for Children, Youth, Family, Equality, Refugees and Integration of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. The tasks of the Specialist and Coordination Office for the Istanbul Convention include, among others:

- supporting and coordinating reporting and data collection in accordance with Article 11(3) of the Istanbul Convention
- drawing up a state action plan for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention at state level, and
- further developing the violence protection infrastructure in light of the Istanbul Convention.

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November, the Ministry of Equality of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia has been holding a recurring **state-wide action week** since 2021 to raise awareness of the issue of violence against women among the general public through various high-profile measures in local communities (e.g. public campaigns, demonstrations, theatre performances, panel discussions, exhibitions) together with the local women's support infrastructure to raise awareness of the issue of violence against women and to provide information about various forms of violence against women and about protection and support services for women affected by violence.

Confidential evidence collection has been recognised by federal legislators as part of medical treatment and, following the implementation of Sections 27 and 132k of the German Social Code, Book V (SGB V) in North Rhine-Westphalia, is now billable to statutory health insurance funds. Since the regulation came into force in North Rhine-Westphalia on 1 March 2025, the service has been gradually made available in North Rhine-Westphalian clinics.

To prevent and provide support for female genital mutilation, the state of North Rhine-Westphalia funded the YUNA pilot project from November 2019 to April 2023. The project was very successful, so it was transferred to regular funding in May 2023. In November 2023, it was also expanded so that two specialist centres – one in Cologne and one in Herford – can now carry out prevention work and provide counselling throughout the state.

In the area of prevention, intervention and protection of queer people affected by violence, the state government primarily supports two key measures:

a. Funding for the state coordination of anti-violence work for lesbians, gays and trans* people, sponsored by rubicon e.V. in Cologne. Specific funding for the financial years covered by the report is as follows:

- In 2022: €197,400.00 for 2 FTEs
- In 2023: €200,000.00 for 2 FTEs
- In 2024: €169,000.00 for 1.35 FTEs
- In 2025: €169,000.00 for 1.35 FTEs

The state coordination office has reduced the funding volume of its application for the 2024 reporting year compared to the previous year because case management (special counselling for people who have experienced queerphobic violence) is included in the counselling funding (see point b). The institution focuses on cases of homo-, trans* and queer-hostile hate violence against LGBTIQ* persons, but also provides support in cases of sexualised violence and relationship violence.

In essence

- initiates and promotes projects that contribute to reducing violence and discrimination,
- supports and networks counselling services for LGBTIQ* people,
- it documents cases of discrimination and violence nationwide,
- provides personal counselling to queer people who have been victims of violence as part of its psychosocial counselling services. It also has expertise in counselling and supporting LGBTIQ* refugees,

- provides information throughout the state, for example on training opportunities and various forms of discrimination and violence directed against LGBTIQ* individuals.

b. Support for seven psychosocial counselling centres (Bielefeld, Bochum, Dortmund, Cologne, Münster, Siegen and a mobile counselling service in the Lower Rhine/western Ruhr area), which offer psychosocial support to LGBTIQ* people and their relatives in coping with current life conflicts, including support in acute crisis management due to experiences of violence and exclusion, in particular experiences of sexualised violence.

There are also two state-funded special counselling centres: a psychosocial counselling centre for queer people with an international background and refugee status at Rosa Strippe e.V. in Bochum, and a psychosocial counselling centre with case management for LGBTIQ* people who have been victims of violence (see above) at Rubicon e.V. in Cologne.

The total annual funding volume for the requested funding period is:

- €1,040,938.00 for the 2022 financial year
- €1,277,349.90 for the 2023 financial year
- €1,367,834.10 for the 2024 financial year
- €1,389,246.21 for the 2025 financial year

11. Bremen

Adoption of **the** Bremen **State Action Plan** "Implementing the Istanbul Convention – Protecting Women and Children from Violence" in March 2022, running until the end of 2025. Among the 75 measures, the most important are:

- Expansion and systematisation of high-risk management in the police force
- Expansion and systematisation of work with perpetrators
- Establishment of a violence protection clinic for confidential evidence collection after domestic violence, sexualised violence and other forms of gender-based violence (opening in April 2024)

The latest progress report was published in March 2025.

12. Saarland

Measures 4 pillars of IK

Prevention:

- Implementation of an **equality strategy** with indicators and monitoring (including the field of action on violence, which highlights the connection between equality policy and protection against violence: non-discriminatory coexistence as a basic prerequisite for non-violence; also includes preventive measures)
  - Eight strategic goals (one goal: life without violence)
  - 104 measures for achieving equality in Saarland (14 measures directly related to protection against violence)
  - Interlinking with the LAP Istanbul Convention
  - Equality strategy => Expansion of training to all health professions, especially for professionals in the field of domestic care

Protection:

- Updating of **the guidelines for police work** in cases of domestic violence – focus on intimate partner violence – (publication planned for July 2025)

[13] https://bremen-sagt-nein.de/2025/03/04/bremer-landesaktionsplan-auf-der-zielgeraden/

- Hazard prevention – introduction of **electronic residence monitoring** into Saarland police law from 2025 to enforce evictions and restraining orders
- Development of **high-risk management** with the aid of a questionnaire for assessing high risks in the police force (based on the Danger Assessment Scale by Jaquelyn Campbell)
- **Training courses** with contributions from the Coordination Office for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention
  - 1 x annually: German Judges' Academy, Training "The Shaping child custody proceedings in cases of parental partnership violence",
  - 4 x annual training for the police (focus on case management, guard and patrol duty) and
  - twice-yearly training for trainee solicitors in the elective subject of family law.
- Expansion and consolidation of **perpetrator work** in the "Perspektive" specialist centre for perpetrator work in cases of violent behaviour in the domestic sphere by 160% from 2024
- Creation of additional protective places for persons who, due to their state of health, cannot be accommodated at all or adequately in existing protective facilities
- Creation of shelters for people with acute substance abuse disorders, elderly people, and people with intensive care needs that cannot be met by outpatient care services

Coordination:

- In 2023, the **Coordination Office against Domestic Violence** was expanded to become the Coordination Office for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention, and the existing committees were expanded accordingly, with the Coordination Office continuing to take the lead.
- Personnel changes at the coordination office from one full-time position to three full-time positions (additionally one social science and one legal advisor)
- IMAG for the development of the state action plan IK
- Continuation of the round table, which comprehensively networks actors involved in violence protection (violence against women)
- Working group on "fictitious case processing" to discuss case constellations from practical experience and develop best practice examples and strengthen cooperation between the various actors involved

  Inclusion of a joint application with the GFMK application to shed light on the hidden field of violence against queer people (here especially in the context of violence against queer women
  women)

13. Berlin

The implementation of the Istanbul Convention is formulated as a goal of Berlin state policy both in the government policy guidelines for 2021–2026[14] and in the guidelines for 2023 - 2026[15] as a goal of Berlin state policy.

On 10 October 2023, the Berlin Senate adopted a **state action plan for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention**. [16] The State Action Plan (LAP) was developed in an interdepartmental process led by the Senate Administration responsible for women and equality, with the involvement of the districts and civil society. It contains status and needs analyses for five areas of action (prevention; protection, support and health; law enforcement, police and justice; migration and asylum
, and data and research) and comprises a total of 134 measures. The LAP takes a

[14] https://www.parlament-berlin.de/ados/19/IIIPlen/vorgang/d19-0980.pdf
[15] https://www.berlin.de/rbmskzl/politik/senat/richtlinien-der-politik/
[16] https://www.berlin.de/sen/frauen/keine-gewalt/geschlechtsspezifische-gewalt-gegen-frauen/

intersectional perspective and emphasises the importance of non-discriminatory and low-threshold access to protection and support. The rights and needs of particularly vulnerable persons are given special consideration.

In August 2022, the Berlin Senate also adopted a **package of measures to prevent femicide**.

Protection against gender-based violence is also addressed in the following political action plans:

- The city-wide concept for strengthening child protection and improving cooperation in the fight against trafficking and exploitation of minors covers all affected groups and all manifestations of trafficking and exploitation of minors in terms of its structure and measures. This also includes forced marriage, which will fall under the definition of human trafficking with the introduction of the new EU directive in 2024.
- In March 2025, the Child Protection Action Guide on Trafficking and Exploitation of Minors was published, which aims to increase procedural certainty among professionals and contains essential regulations on cooperation between the various actors.
- The Ukraine Action Plan (supplement to the overall concept for the integration and participation of refugees) in Berlin is a comprehensive policy document that outlines the measures and approaches taken by the state of Berlin for refugees from Ukraine. The protection and accessibility of women in private accommodation is presented as a key issue, and the plan outlines the approaches Berlin is implementing for this vulnerable group. These include preventive information and awareness-raising measures as well as the expansion of multilingual counselling services.
- The State of Berlin's LGBTIQ+ Action Plan 2023 addresses the issue of domestic violence in queer relationships and partnerships with intersectional measures in the areas of protection and accommodation, data collection and awareness-raising. The issue is also incorporated into Berlin's "State Strategy for Queer Safety and Against Queer Hostility," which has been in place since March 2024 as part of the government's policy guidelines. 2023-2026 in the state of Berlin.

14. Baden-Württemberg

The further development and continuation of **the state action plan** "Baden-Württemberg against violence against women" provided for in the state government's coalition agreement for 2021-2026 is developing a comprehensive catalogue of interdepartmental measures, which is to be adopted in autumn 2025. With the involvement of an advisory board (approx. 80 experts), measures based on the Istanbul Convention have been developed in the areas of governance, prevention, domestic violence & femicide, sexualised violence, digitalised violence and specific target groups.

As part of the implementation of the first state action plan from 2014, a scientific evaluation of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Baden-Württemberg (2021-2022) was carried out. This was published in 2023.

15. Brandenburg

[17] https://www.berlin.de/rbmskzl/aktuelles/pressemitteilungen/2022/pressemitteilung.1240034.php
[18] https://www.berlin.de/sen/jugend/familie-und-kinder/kinderschutz/
[19] https://www.berlin.de/lb/intmig/flucht-und-ankommen/strategien/#headline_1_3
[20] https://www.berlin.de/sen/lads/schwerpunkte/lsbti/igsv/
[21] https://sozialministerium.baden-wuerttemberg.de/fileadmin/redaktion/m-sm/intern/downloads/Publikationen/Evaluation-Umsetzung-Instanbul-Konvention-BW_2021-2022_Endbericht.pdf

Since the adoption of the GREVIO baseline evaluation report, an overall political strategy has been developed in the form of the **'State Action Plan to Combat Violence Against Women and Their Children**: Strategy for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Federal State of Brandenburg' (LAP). This plan contains interdisciplinary measures to combat gender-
based violence and domestic violence, with the aim of implementing the Istanbul Convention in Brandenburg.

2. Please provide information, where applicable, on the measures taken to ensure that the definitions of domestic violence and violence against women in national legislation or policy documents are consistent with those contained in Article 3 of the Istanbul Convention, and indicate the relevant provisions in force in English or French.

Contributions: Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Hesse, Bremen

1. Hamburg

The basis for action in Hamburg, the Violence Protection Concept (Drs. 22/15828), uses the definitions of the Istanbul Convention as the basis for all measures to combat gender-based violence. The Senate strategy was adopted in October 2024. The previous concept, the 2014 Victim Protection Concept, was also based on the definitions of the Istanbul Convention.

The definition of "relationship violence" used by the Hamburg police also fully encompasses the phenomena referred to in Article 3 of the Istanbul Convention.

2. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

The current version of the Law on Public Safety and Order in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (SOG M-V) regulates in Section 52 (2)[23] the expulsion from the home in cases of domestic violence. This law focuses on the concept of danger. Acts that fulfil the definition of "domestic violence" within the meaning of Article 3 of the Istanbul Convention generally fulfil the requirements of the police regulation.

3. Saxony

The State Action Plan for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention (LAP IK) is based on the definition of domestic violence and violence against women in accordance with the Istanbul Convention.
This definition guides the implementation of all measures of the LAP IK.

4. Saxony-Anhalt

With Resolution 8.1 "Establishing **a definition of femicide** and anchoring it in criminal prosecution, jurisprudence and legislation", the 33rd Conference of Ministers and Senators for Gender Equality and Women's Affairs of the German Federal States (GFMK) on 15 and 16 June 2023 adopted the following definition in further consultation
with the specialist conferences of the Ministers of Justice (JuMiKo) and the Standing Conference of the Ministers of the Interior and Senators of the Länder (IMK):

[22] https://www.buergerschaft-hh.de/parldok/dokument/87993, p. 9.
[23] Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania – Section 52 SOG M-V | State standard Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania | Expulsion and removal | Section 52 – Expulsion and removal | Valid from: 29 October 2022

"Femicide is the killing of women[24][25] because they are women, i.e. because the motive for the act is based on the assumption of gender-related inequality against women. This is expressed in particular in the perpetrator's negative attitude towards gender equality and equal rights. The significantly higher incidence of women affected in specific case groups can also be used as an indicator of causality
affectedness of women can also be used as an indicator of causality, as this suggests a structural gender-related background to the crime."

5. Schleswig-Holstein

State strategy for implementing the Istanbul Convention

The definitions contained in the state strategy for implementing the Istanbul Convention in Schleswig-Holstein are consistent with those of the Istanbul Convention.

Guidelines on high-risk management

The definition of domestic violence is included, for example, in the guidelines on high-risk management, which state: Domestic violence includes all forms of physical, sexual or psychological violence and encompasses violence within the family and between partners. Domestic violence occurs when violence takes place between persons who live together in a family or partnership relationship. It also occurs when it takes place independently of a shared household within the family or in current or former partnerships. This definition was developed by the Federal-State
Working Group on Violence in the Family Environment of the AG Kripo (Criminal Investigation Working Group), see the report of 27 July 2021, p. 10.

6. Thuringia

33. GFMK Resolution 8.1 "Establish a definition of femicide and anchor it in criminal prosecution, jurisprudence and legislation"

7. Bavaria

Since the term domestic violence has been defined differently in the federal states in the past and there has therefore been no uniform understanding of this phenomenon of violence at the federal level, the Standing Conference of the Ministers of the Interior and Senators of the Länder (IMK) addressed the phenomenon of domestic violence and, in December 2021, finally agreed on the following uniform federal definition of the term domestic violence and a future uniform federal evaluation of domestic violence in crime statistics based on police crime statistics (PKS). According to this nationally applicable definition, domestic violence now includes not only violence between (former) partners, but also violence within the family (intra-family violence).

> "Domestic violence includes all forms of physical, sexual or psychological violence and encompasses violence within the family and between partners.
>
> Domestic violence occurs when violence takes place between persons who live together in a family or partnership relationship.
>
> It also occurs when it takes place within the family or in current or former partnerships, regardless of whether they live in the same household."*
>
> *In the case of separate country-specific regulations, further cases of domestic violence may be assumed.

In line with the nationwide situation report, a

[24] The definition also includes girls within the meaning of Article 3 of the Istanbul Convention.
[25] This includes persons of other genders if they are perceived as female by the perpetrators, i.e. if the act is linked in a comparable way to the social or biological female gender of the person, or if a person who identifies as inter*, trans* or non-binary is perceived as female by the perpetrator.

Bavaria-wide situation report on domestic violence based on PKS.

8. Lower Saxony

To implement the Istanbul Convention in Lower Saxony, an interministerial working group "IMAK-IK" was established on 30 October 2023 by cabinet decision. To accompany the implementation of the current LAP IV, a new, expanded advisory board will be established in the near future in accordance with the IK's comprehensive definition of violence. Representatives of relevant target groups (including women with disabilities, migrant women, women who use drugs, women in poverty and homeless women) will be newly included.

Insofar as the question relates to national legislation, it concerns federal law and there are no country-specific features. The response must therefore be provided by the Federal Ministry of Justice. Insofar as the question also refers to political documents, it can be stated for the area of responsibility here that the definition used by public prosecutors in Lower Saxony for the statistical recording of preliminary investigations as "domestic violence" is based on the definition in Article 3(b) of the Istanbul Convention.

At its 215th meeting in December 2021, the Standing Conference of Interior Ministers and Senators of the Länder voted in favour of applying a uniform federal definition, which was developed by a federal-state working group. This means that, from 2021 onwards, domestic violence in specific victim offences where the victim has a defined relationship with the perpetrator can be presented in a comparable manner throughout Germany:

"Domestic violence includes all forms of physical, sexual or psychological violence and encompasses violence within the family and between partners.

Domestic violence occurs when violence takes place between persons who live together in a family or partnership relationship. It also occurs when it takes place within the family or in current or former partnerships, regardless of whether they live in the same household.

Article 3 of the Istanbul Convention defines the terms as follows:

For the purposes of this Convention

a) the term "violence against women" is understood as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and refers to all acts of gender-based violence that result in or are likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or private life;

b) the term "domestic violence" refers to all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or household or between former or current spouses or partners, regardless of whether the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence as the victim;

c) the term "gender" refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities and characteristics that a given society considers appropriate for women and men;

d) the term "gender-based violence against women" means violence directed against a woman because she is a woman or which disproportionately affects women;

e) the term "victim" refers to a natural person who is the subject of the behaviour described in points (a) and (b);

f) the term "women" also includes girls under the age of eighteen.

With the nationally uniform definition of domestic violence adopted at the 215th IMK meeting on domestic violence,

, an alignment has taken place, particularly with regard to domestic violence, with the definition in the Istanbul Convention.

9. Rhineland-Palatinate

Since 2021, the Rhineland-Palatinate police have been using the following nationally uniform definition of domestic violence, which was adopted by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of the Interior and Senates of the Länder (IMK):

"Domestic violence includes all forms of physical, sexual or psychological violence and encompasses violence within the family and between partners. Domestic violence occurs when violence takes place between persons who live together in a family or partnership relationship. It also occurs when it takes place within the family or in current or former partnerships, regardless of whether they live in the same household. Domestic violence thus has two forms, namely violence in partnerships and violence within families. In the case of violence in partnerships, the victims and suspects are considered to be persons who were or are in a partnership relationship, while in the case of violence within families, the victims and suspects are considered to be persons who are related to each other (excluding (former) partnerships)."

This makes it clear that domestic violence is divided into violence in partnerships on the one hand and violence within families on the other. This step is particularly important in order to take account of all relevant perpetrator-victim constellations while continuing to focus on the most frequently affected victim group, namely women.

With the tenth amendment to the Rhineland-Palatinate Police and Public Order Act on 1 March 2025, the term "violence in close social relationships" has been replaced by the term "domestic violence".

The Statewide Round Table of the Rhineland-Palatinate Intervention Project against Violence in Close Social Relationships (RIGG [26]) as the central cooperation and decision-making body, redefined the term "violence in close social relationships" as follows: "Violence in close social relationships encompasses all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence against women that occur within the family or household or are perpetrated by a former or current spouse or partner, regardless of whether the perpetrator shares the same residence as the Affected persons have or had."

10. North Rhine-Westphalia

In the state violence protection concept for refugee accommodation facilities in North Rhine-Westphalia, the term "violence" is understood as a human rights violation and a form of discrimination, in line with the Istanbul Convention of 11 May 2011 as a human rights violation and a form of discrimination. Violence is thus understood to include all acts, including gender-based violence, that result or may result in physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to people, including the threat of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or private life. Psychological violence also includes degradation through gestures or verbal attacks that violate a person's dignity.
This includes, in particular, racist, sexist, transphobic and homophobic remarks.

11. Saarland

Currently in preparation: from 2024, the State Police Directorate will include in its annual report on

[26] https://mffki.rlp.de/themen/frauen/gewalt-gegen-frauen-und-maedchen/sexualisierte-gewalt/das-projekt-rigg

PKS to include the area of gender-specific violence in such a way that it meets the requirements of the IK.
12. Berlin At its 212th meeting from 17 to 19 June 2020, the IMK addressed the topic of "Combating violence in the family environment". Subsequently, a uniform federal definition was developed in a BLAG of the Kripo working group in accordance with the mandate. At its 215th meeting from 1 to 3 December 2021, the IMK advocated the uniform application of this definition throughout Germany. The IMK decision regarding the definition primarily affects the federal and state interior ministries and their subordinate authorities. Among other things, the uniform definition enables nationwide comparability in police statistics analysis and action planning. The definition complies with the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). For further details, in particular on the evaluation the relevant offences in the BKA's annual federal situation reports, please refer to the federal government.
13. Baden-Württemberg SM: The structure and objectives of the State Action Plan (LAP) are strongly based on the definitions of domestic violence and violence against women in Article 3 of the Istanbul Convention. The breakdown of the priorities underlines and the introduction emphasises the intersectional approach and definitions in accordance with the Istanbul Convention. The 2024 amendment to the Administrative Regulation on Specialist Counselling Centres (VwV FBS) [27] and the Administrative Regulation on Women's and Children's Shelters (VwV FKH) [28] has led to extensive voluntary funding of the support system in Baden-Württemberg. Thanks to these grants, specialist counselling services for people involved in prostitution, victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, sexualised violence, sexualised violence in childhood and adolescence, as well as those acutely affected in intervention centres and women's emergency hotlines.
14. Brandenburg The LAP defines domestic violence according to the Istanbul Convention as follows: According to the Istanbul Convention, domestic violence includes “all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or household or between former or current spouses or partners, regardless of whether the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence as the victim.” Violence against women is defined as "any act of gender-based violence that results or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life”.

3. Please provide information on how your authorities ensure that measures to combat violence against women and domestic violence focus on women's rights and empowerment, and what measures have been taken to ensure the intersectionality of such measures in accordance with Article 4(3) of the Convention.

[27] https://sozialministerium.baden-wuerttemberg.de/fileadmin/redaktion/m-sm/intern/downloads/Downloads_Gegen_Gewalt_an_Frauen/VwV_FBS-2024_Fachberatungsstellen_240311.pdf

[28] https://sozialministerium.baden-wuerttemberg.de/fileadmin/redaktion/m-sm/intern/downloads/Downloads_Gegen_Gewalt_an_Frauen/VwV_FKH-2024_Frauen-Kinderschutzhaeuser_240416.pdf

improve. [29]

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Bavaria, Saarland

1. Hamburg

The Hamburg Senate considers violence against women to be a serious violation of human rights (see also Violence Protection Concept, p. 3). The violence protection concept pursues a holistic approach. Like the 2014 victim protection concept, it is based on the central guidelines of ensuring a low-threshold, gender-sensitive, intercultural and inclusive violence protection support landscape and empowerment (see Appendix 2). All measures are based on the principle that the Hamburg support system must offer equal support to all people threatened and affected by violence, regardless of gender and sexual identity, origin, age or disability, and on the assumption that helping people to help themselves is the key to a lasting and self-determined life.

The violence protection concept places a special focus on the protection of individual target groups that are particularly at risk and affected by multiple discrimination, such as women with impairments and disabilities, refugee women and LGBTIQ persons, as well as older women (see Section D. IV. 2.ff).

With regard to intersectionality, Hamburg has, among other things, committed itself to improving the data situation on digital violence within the framework of the 33rd GFMK under TOP 8.4. "Improving protection against gender-specific digital violence in the immediate social environment"[30] to improve the data situation on digital violence – the resolution calls on the federal government to present a representative, empirical study on violence against women, taking into account multiple discrimination in order to identify particularly vulnerable groups
.

2. Hesse

In 2022, the state of Hesse adopted its third action plan to combat domestic violence by cabinet decision. This ensures that measures to combat gender-based violence are maintained in the long term. Working groups on gender-based violence (including on the development of the above-mentioned action plan) have
Interest groups representing particularly vulnerable groups are permanent members, thus ensuring an intersectional perspective.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

The third state action plan to combat domestic and sexual violence in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania already placed a new focus on vulnerable target groups
victims of violence with physical and mental disabilities, as well as refugees and

[29] The concept of intersectionality refers to the fact that "individuals (and groups) are affected by multiple inequalities based on different distinguishing characteristics, rather than by discrimination based on a single characteristic. Therefore, discrimination, inequality and gender-based violence cannot be examined in relation to only one category of difference – for example, gender – while excluding others – such as ethnicity, class, age, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity – because social categories overlap and intertwine in multiple systems of discrimination that simultaneously affect a person's life.See the study "Ensuring the Non-discriminatory Implementation of Measures against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence": Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Istanbul Convention, A collection of papers on the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, pp. 12-13.

https://www.gleichstellungsministerkonferenz.de/documents/33-gfmk-beschluesse-und-entschliessungen-neu_1687343772.pdf

Migrants[31] . As part of the planned national strategy for implementing the IC, the protection of vulnerable groups in accordance with Article 4(3) IC will be taken into account in all planned Measures considered and taken into account as an important cross-cutting issue.

4. Saxony

The authorities anchor women's rights and empowerment by involving representatives of particularly vulnerable (Objective 1, LAP IK) and multiply discriminated groups (Objective 2 LAP IK) in accordance with Art. 12 (3) IK (Objective 3, LAP IK) in the steering and implementation phases and take their needs into account in the definition of objectives.

5. Saxony

In AP PROGRESS, the needs of particularly vulnerable groups are already being consistently considered and addressed (for the implementation status, see Annex: Report ADrs. 8/SOZ/62 of 5 March 2025).

Deficits in the protection and support system – particularly with regard to the special needs of different target groups – can only be closed if they are identified and investigated and a corresponding monitoring system based on social science is developed and implemented. To this end, it is essential to take into account the needs of women affected by violence.

The state of Saxony-Anhalt has commissioned the research institute Zoom – Sozialforschung und Beratung GmbH with the **research and development project WEMO** (impact-oriented evaluation, monitoring and ombudsman/trust function) (research period: 2024 to 2026). The research focuses on the provision and quality of specialised support services.

The perspectives of women affected by violence and their children as (potential) users are central to the further development of the protection and support system in Saxony-Anhalt. The research project therefore focuses on their experiences and needs. It consists of three sub-projects that are closely linked and build on each other:

I Target group-oriented, impact-oriented evaluation:

This sub-project examines the current effects of the protection and support system on users and potential users. This includes both the access routes and motives for using and not using the system, as well as experiences with the support provided and its effects.

II Design of impact-oriented monitoring:

Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention requires regular data collection. The aim is to monitor measures to ensure they achieve their objectives and to provide information for steering purposes. This sub-project will develop a concept for impact-oriented monitoring. Proposals for indicators, data bases and survey options will be developed, and a concept for the institutional anchoring of an independent monitoring body will be developed.

III Design of an ombudsman/trust function:

This sub-project will create formalised opportunities for users of the protection and support system (and their children) to provide feedback, evaluate the support they have received, verify opportunities for participation in the context of promoting women's empowerment, and ensure that women affected by violence can turn to a confidential advisor or ombudsman in the context of the support system in the event of acute incidents.

The WEMO research and development project is closely supported by the specialised support system

[31] Women and men in crisis situations – Mecklenburg-Vorpommern government portal: see Publications, p. 11 ff., see Appendix to Question 1

and the MS.

Women with disabilities affected by violence: Section 3 of the Saxony-Anhalt Disability Equality Act (BGG LSA) obliges public administration bodies to take into account the special needs of women and people with disabilities who may be disadvantaged due to a disability and at least one other reason specified in Section 1 of the General Equal Treatment Act.

The Saxony-Anhalt State Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) 2.0, which obliges all state departments to implement the Convention within their respective areas of responsibility, includes the field of action "Women and girls with disabilities and multiple disadvantages". This area of action is based on various obligations under the UN CRPD (e.g. Articles 6, 16, 25 and 28). This field of action takes into account the fact that individuals may experience disadvantages due to various social characteristics that have a simultaneous effect. The interaction of these characteristics can result in a different quality of disadvantage than would be expected when considering the individual characteristics alone. In addition, these disadvantages due to multiple reasons often lead to independent experiences of discrimination.

The aim of the LAP measures in this area of action is to ensure that women and girls with disabilities, as well as people with disabilities who may be affected by multiple forms of discrimination in Saxony-Anhalt, can enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms fully and equally and are effectively protected from exploitation, violence and abuse. To achieve this goal, the LAP identifies various instrumental objectives, including the goal of strengthening autonomy and self-determination. Measures to implement the objectives include

- Prevention of violence and protection against violence outside institutions
- Protection against violence and prevention of violence, particularly in educational, sports, health, care and support facilities, as well as in child and youth welfare facilities
- Self-empowerment and empowerment of people with disabilities who experience disadvantages for several reasons.

Section 37a of SGB IX obliges service providers within the framework of integration assistance to take appropriate measures to protect people with disabilities and people at risk of disability, in particular women and children with disabilities and women and children at risk of disability, from violence. Appropriate measures include, in particular, the development and implementation of a violence protection concept tailored to the institution or services. Rehabilitation providers and integration offices are obliged to work towards the implementation of this obligation as part of their duties. To this end, the state is participating in the federal-state working group on violence protection for people with disabilities. The working group develops recommendations for action in various areas for the development of violence protection concepts. One area of action for which recommendations for action are being formulated covers the topic of education and empowerment.

People who have been personally affected by violence can use the website to report their experiences of violence to the social services agency, either anonymously or otherwise.[32] The social services agency can also be notified of the lack of appropriate measures to protect against violence in an institution. The social services agency in Saxony-Anhalt is responsible for monitoring service providers to ensure that appropriate measures to protect against violence are in place and are being applied in their institutions. The social services agency has this monitoring function
social services agency has this monitoring function with regard to all providers of integration assistance services in Saxony-Anhalt.

[32] https://sozialagentur.sachsen-anhalt.de/gewaltschutz

On the initiative of the working group "Combating violence, exclusion and discrimination against people with disabilities" of the Round Table for People with Disabilities and with the support of the office of the State Commissioner for People with Disabilities, expert discussions on violence protection in institutions have been taking place since 2024, in which the Ministry
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Equality and the Social Agency.

6. Schleswig-Holstein

State strategy for implementing the Istanbul Convention

The state strategy for implementing the Istanbul Convention in Schleswig-Holstein contains 70 measures aimed at combating violence against women and domestic violence, focusing on women's rights and empowerment. The consideration of an intersectional approach in accordance with Article 4(3) is formulated as a concrete measure in the state strategy. Thus, an intersectional approach is to be taken into account in the further development and elaboration of new measures for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

Immigration authorities

There are guidelines in the form of decrees regarding immigration authorities. According to these guidelines, the needs of the woman concerned must generally be given special consideration when protecting women from violence. In particular, reference should be made here to the guidelines mentioned under No. 1, "The consideration of domestic and/or gender-based violence against women in residence law" (see above). These guidelines support and bind the immigration authorities in their professional work. They essentially focus on four areas:

1. It are clear instructions for protection women
   women who are subject to residence regulations and/or spatial restrictions.
2. The guidelines set out provisions to ensure that experiences of violence do not jeopardise a woman's right of residence.
3. Article 59 of the Istanbul Convention is implemented.
4. Guidelines are provided for the assessment of evidence, taking into account the special situation of women affected by violence.

The discrimination referred to in Article 4(3) would be unlawful (Article 3 of the Basic Law).

7. Thuringia

In the areas of "domestic violence" and "sexual violence", in which women are largely the victims , exist in Thuringia according to as before public prosecution special departments. These specialisation contributes to intensification of criminal prosecution of such offences.

8. Lower Saxony

People with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, are at high risk of experiencing violence in various areas of life. As part of its implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the state of Lower Saxony has therefore set itself the goal of effectively protecting people with disabilities from violence and further expanding and improving access to protection facilities and counselling centres for women with disabilities who are affected by violence. The UN CRPD is being implemented in Lower Saxony with its own inclusion action plans, which are regularly updated in a participatory, coordinated and interdepartmental process.

Achievement of objectives through the following measures:

- Holding a symposium in 2026 on protection against violence to raise awareness among the actors involved and provide information on best practice examples

- In addition, the state of Lower Saxony, together with the local authority associations (NLT and NST), in the framework agreements concluded under their auspices for the provision of integration assistance services in Lower Saxony, that from 1 January 2022, service providers must have concepts for violence prevention and for strengthening sexual self-determination as a structural quality feature (pursuant to Section 7 No. 2d of the framework agreement pursuant to Section 131 SGB IX on the provision of integration assistance services in Lower Saxony and the framework agreement pursuant to Section 131 SGB IX on the provision of integration assistance services in Lower Saxony for children and young people).
- Service providers are therefore obliged to "take appropriate measures to protect people with disabilities and people at risk of disability from violence, in particular women and LGBTIQ* persons (lesbian women, gay men, bisexuals, trans* and intersex people), i.e. in particular concepts for the prevention of violence (especially physical, emotional and sexual violence), including de-escalation in the event of violence, based on risk analyses to be carried out every three years, and to strengthen sexual self-determination, as well as to observe and apply them". According to the state framework agreement for the implementation of Section 124 (2) SGB IX, another key feature of the service agreements is the obligation for staff to submit certificates of good conduct both before being hired and every three years thereafter.
- Production of information materials in easy language on the subject of "violence against women".
- To ensure that all women's shelters in Lower Saxony are accessible to women with disabilities who are affected by violence, extension and conversion measures are being promoted to enable or improve barrier-free access and use of the respective facilities for women with disabilities and impairments.

On 1 October 2024, at the invitation of the Lower Saxony State Commissioner for People with Disabilities, a symposium entitled "Networking. Becoming visible. Participating." was held, with training for women's representatives from workshops for people with disabilities. At the symposium, topics such as "Developing better strategies for preventing and combating sexualised, physical and psychological violence" and "Equality between women and men" were discussed as tasks for women's representatives. On the occasion of the symposium, the women's representatives decided that a "State Working Group (LAG) of Women's Representatives" should be founded in Lower Saxony.

The Lower Saxony Network for Women with Disabilities was founded back in 1994. It celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2024. In its exchange formats, it addresses various topics relating to double discrimination on the grounds of gender and disability, such as "Prevention of (sexualised) violence". The focus topic for June 2025 will be "barrier-free gynaecological medical practices".

Within the scope of responsibility for the **guideline on coordination offices for migration and participation,** the topic of gender equality is treated as binding and given priority in the development of municipal integration concepts.

Within the scope of responsibility for the Migration Advice Directive, advisors are trained in the context of protection against violence and gender equality, and their networking with the regular services is strengthened.

The state-wide network of Cooperative Migration Work Lower Saxony (KMN) supports the strengthening of competencies, information transfer and networking of both the responsible authorities and actors in the field of migration and participation, as well as a wide range of Regular services and NGOs (including women's organisations).

Combating domestic violence and violence against women is a top priority for the Lower Saxony police. For measures, see above (1).

The **Lower Saxony Police** also works intensively to combat hate crime, especially crimes directed against the LGBTIQ community. Since 2019, there has been an increase in such crimes, which has led to increased recording and analysis by the Criminal Investigation Department. The state government emphasises the protection of the LGBTIQ* community and works closely with its representatives to ensure safety at events and gatherings. The Lower Saxony Police attaches great importance to training its officers to deal confidently with diverse groups of people.

Although promoting acceptance of different sexual orientations and gender identities is a task for society as a whole, the police have a particularly important role to play in protecting LGBTIQ people and, in particular, in building trust in the police as a protective institution for LGBTIQ people. The Lower Saxony police force is aware of this and is successfully addressing the challenges posed by an increasingly diverse society.

Against this background, a "Recommendation for police handling of transgender and intersex persons" was drawn up in 2020, together with appendices. These documents are intended to inform employees about the current legal situation and thus promote professional behaviour towards this group of people. It should also be noted that the State Police Headquarters has been actively addressing the issue of diversity for many years. Accordingly, when the police's own strategy for 2020 and the follow-up strategy for 2027 were introduced, the strategic goal of "We enable and live diversity" was defined and backed up with numerous strategic measures.

In this context, the guide "Contact persons for LGBTIQ people in the Lower Saxony police force" was updated and further developed in 2023. The resulting "LSBTIQ Concept", which was published in October 2023, is intended to help build the trust of LGBTIQ people in the Lower Saxony police force and thus indirectly shed light on the dark field. The overarching goal is for the Lower Saxony police to make an important contribution to creating and maintaining a non-violent climate for LGBTIQ people. To this end, the Lower Saxony police stand firmly alongside queer people and consistently combat hate crime in Lower Saxony with all means at their disposal. LSBTIQ contact persons (AP) have been appointed within the Lower Saxony police force. These AP LSBTIQ and the LSBTIQ state coordination team are competent contact persons for LSBTIQ people both within and outside the police force.
the Lower Saxony Police.

9. Rhineland-Palatinate

The work of the police is based on the applicable legal provisions and complies with the principles of neutrality and equal treatment. The police are therefore aware of the issue of intersectionality, promote diversity within the police force and conduct research on values and attitudes within the organisation through the INSIDER project.

Promoting cooperation between addiction counselling centres and women's support organisations

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Transformation and Digitalisation, which supports general addiction counselling centres in Rhineland-Palatinate, assists the Ministry of Family, Women, Culture and Integration in networking and exchange to establish contacts between addiction counselling centres and women's support services (e.g. by providing contact details and websites for both support systems).

See the answer to question 1 (p. 13) for more information. Combating violence against women is considered a cross-cutting task for all departments in Rhineland-Palatinate. Six ministries were involved in developing the

action plan: the Ministry of the Interior and Sport, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Transformation and Digitalisation, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science and Health. This interministerial cooperation ensures that all relevant aspects of preventing and combating gender-based violence are taken into account and that the necessary measures are implemented effectively and sustainably.

Taking **intersectionality** into account: The action plan of the state government of Rhineland-Palatinate for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention (see the answer to question 1, p. 13), it was stated that when creating new women's support facilities, renovating or expanding existing ones, care should be taken to ensure that they are accessible, if possible, in order to improve access to services for women with disabilities. In addition, the action plan includes measures for women with a migrant background,
women with addiction problems, homeless women, women in prostitution, children and explicitly girls, as well as for queer people.

10. North Rhine-Westphalia

Article 7 of the Istanbul Convention provides for the development of a comprehensive nationwide strategy that includes relevant measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence falling within the scope of the Istanbul Convention.

The development of a state action plan, "NRW together against violence – State action plan for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention", was launched on 25 November 2024 as part of a kick-off event. [33]The kick-off event will be followed in 2025 by five focus events on the topics:

- "Domestic violence in family court proceedings",
- "Digital violence in the immediate social environment",
- "Protection against violence for all – focus on vulnerable target groups",
- "Police measures and police victim protection" and
- "Prevention".

In addition to the relevant departments and representatives of the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia, victims and civil society organisations are also involved in the development process of the action plan in order to take into account the provisions of Article 7(2) and (3) of the Istanbul Convention.

The results of a state-wide inventory of measures to implement the Istanbul Convention by the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia and the results of the kick-off and focus events will form the essential basis for the action plan "NRW together against violence". Scientific support will be provided by the Centre for Evaluation and Policy Advice. The state action plan "NRW together against violence" is scheduled to be published in 2026.

Based on the results and recommendations for action, the established protection and counselling system as well as other legislative and other measures taken to date in the area of gender-based violence are to be further developed in a targeted manner. The state action plan is to be designed as a permanent instrument for evaluating the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in North Rhine-Westphalia and will be updated and revised at regular intervals through monitoring.

The state government is focusing on the empowerment and rights of LGBTIQ* people affected by violence – those who identify as female and beyond – in the above-mentioned measures by
implementing a principle of helping people to help themselves. On the one hand, the specialists employed are characterised by minimum qualifications in a specialist area of

[33] https://istanbul-konvention.mohr-live.de/Auftakt.php

Social work/social pedagogy or another relevant qualification. They also bring important experiential knowledge as LGBTIQ* people to their counselling practice, covering the living environments and challenges of queer people.

The intersectionality of queer political violence prevention, intervention and aftercare is addressed through specialised services dedicated to different topics:

- One of the above-mentioned psychosocial counselling centres is dedicated explicitly to queer people with an international history and refugee background at Rosa Strippe e.V. in Bochum;
- The State Coordination for Anti-Violence Work brings proven expertise in the concerns of queer people with an international history and refugee background to everyday counselling – in addition, competencies are being expanded, particularly in counselling for the concerns of trans*, inter* and non-binary people, who are disproportionately affected by violence and discrimination;
- The Trans* State Coordination and Inter* State Coordination are two further intersectional specialist units funded by the state that connect trans* and inter* persons – female-identified and beyond – in local and regional groups, raise awareness of the needs of trans* and inter* groups and individual trans* and inter* people in North Rhine-Westphalia (including experiences of violence and discrimination) and initiate and support the joint development of demands and priorities. The specialist centres contribute expertise and experience in counselling multiply marginalised trans*, inter* and non-binary persons who, in addition to their gender identity, are often marginalised and discriminated against on the basis of other characteristics (sexual orientation, immigration history and experiences of racism, discrimination in the labour market/worker background, disability and health status, etc.). The funding amounts for the state coordination for the survey period are broken down as follows:

Year	State Coordination Trans*	State Coordination Inter*
2022	172,000 euros (1.25 FTE)	80,000 euros (0.5 FTE)
2023	159,000 euros (1.35 FTE)	110,000 euros (1 FTE)
2024	159,000	111,800 euros (1 FTE)
2025	159,000 euros (1.35 FTEs)	110,000 euros (1 FTE)

- Together with Department 6, Department 3 funds the #MehrAlsQueer (#MAQ) specialist unit. The specialist unit provides information and offers counselling – for example, on the topics of sexual and gender diversity in the context of experiences of racism, migration, religion and flight in North Rhine-Westphalia.

From an intersectional perspective, the specialist unit raises awareness of the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans*, inter*, non-binary and queer (LSBTIQ*) people who experience multiple discrimination.

Year	Share of Dept. 3	Share of Dept. 6
2022	70,000 euros (0.8 FTE)	140,000 euros (1.7 FTE)
2023	0	230,000 euros (2.5 FTEs)
2024	115,000 euros (1.25 FTEs)	115,000 euros (1.25 FTE)
2025	45,000 euros (0.5 FTE)	45,000 euros (0.5 FTE)

It should be emphasised to law enforcement agencies and criminal courts that they are required by law to investigate the facts of a case objectively. This is inextricably linked to the unbiased examination and evaluation of

statements made by all parties involved in the proceedings, including the alleged victims of criminal offences, regardless of their sex and gender.

In principle, all investigations and criminal proceedings are conducted in accordance with the constitution and legal regulations without regard to the person and thus regardless of whether a person has distinguishing characteristics such as ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, etc. In doing so, every effort is made to avoid re-traumatisation and secondary victimisation. However, in view of the requirements of a fair trial under Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the right of the accused to confront witnesses and the presumption of innocence, the rights of women and their empowerment cannot be the sole determining factor in criminal proceedings under the rule of law
the proceedings.

11. Bremen

Since the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, the police forces in the state of Bremen have taken comprehensive measures to improve victim protection in the area of violence against women. A detailed analysis of the current status of existing police procedures in victim protection formed the basis for an internal reorganisation aimed specifically at optimising protective measures. The aim of this reorganisation is to ensure that all police officers involved in victim protection have a uniform approach and confidence in their actions when providing victim aftercare. In addition, forms have been revised to provide clarity and facilitate the work of police officers. Another key element is the mandatory training and further education of employees, which places particular emphasis on raising awareness in dealing with victims. These training courses focus on topics such as victimology, the stress experienced by victims during and after the crime, and specific measures for dealing with victims in a neutral, non-discriminatory, empathetic and appropriate manner. Another important step was the establishment of a low-threshold contact option via the Central Office for Victim Protection, which enables victims and relatives of serious crimes to obtain information about protection options, victims' rights, procedural processes and support and compensation options even before filing a report.

In addition, a structured, multi-stage procedure for **risk assessment** in cases of individual risk, particularly in the area of domestic violence, was developed. This procedure is supported by background information and checklists that enable targeted processing and effective intervention in individual cases. The multi-stage risk assessment model regulates the process flow in a binding manner and aims to identify high-risk cases at an early stage.

Overall, the Interior Ministry, the Bremen police and the Bremerhaven local police authority ensure that interdepartmental **networking** with governmental and non-governmental organisations is continuously monitored and promoted. This ensures effective cooperation that meets the requirements of the Istanbul Convention in order to provide a safe network for those affected. All internal measures are regularly evaluated and adjusted as necessary.

In order to prevent discrimination in its processes, the authority has taken a clear stance against all forms of discrimination and promotes diversity. This approach is consistently pursued. The Bremen Police and the Bremerhaven Local Police Authority attach great importance to diversity and anti-discrimination. For this reason, speakers and representatives for the topics of anti-discrimination, racism, diversity and LGBTIQ* have been appointed in recent years. These experts are available to the authority's management with their specialist knowledge, evaluate internal processes and, in addition to advisory services, also offer events to reduce any form of bias and discrimination within
the authority.

Under the responsibility of the Senator for Children and Education, the new DiBS! (Discrimination Protection and Counselling for Schoolchildren) service was developed at the ReBUZ (Regional Counselling and Support Centres for all Schools) in Bremen and Bremerhaven in 2022. The service includes case-by-case counselling for pupils who experience discrimination in a school context and their confidants, as well as services for schools and school staff (specialist counselling, prevention services, further training). DiBS! provides advice on all forms of discrimination, including intersectional discrimination.

In **the youth sector** of the state of Bremen, the focus is on strengthening self-determination, protection against gender-based violence and the participation rights of young people.

The counselling centres of the Alliance for Child Protection work in a trauma-sensitive, resource-oriented and participatory manner – especially for girls and young women. The aim is to stabilise and empower those affected, to respect their rights and to actively involve them in support processes.

Intersectional approaches are taken into account by specialised organisations such as Refugio Bremen and Fluchtraum Bremen e. V., which provide services for young refugees, young people affected by racism and queer young people. Professionals receive regular training on experiences of discrimination and dimensions of diversity.

Gender-specific needs are systematically anchored in protection concepts and assistance plan procedures. Youth welfare services work closely with violence protection and women's assistance structures to provide comprehensive protection for children and young people.

In order to improve cooperation between the various support systems (e.g. women's support system, addiction support, migration counselling, youth welfare, disability support), the working group continued its work after the completion of the state action plan. The working group focuses on the topic of interface optimisation and networking with regard to women* with special protection needs. As part of this, lectures and training courses were organised, including a lecture by Professor Dr Urmila Goel on "Intertwined power relations – An
intersectional perspective for counselling" followed by a discussion.

12. Berlin

Human rights and an intersectional and non-discriminatory approach are guiding principles of Berlin's State Action Plan for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention (see Chapter 4 of the LAP). When expanding protection and counselling services, care is therefore taken to ensure that needs arising from different and
possibly reinforcing characteristics of discrimination in order to be able to truly address the individual situations of those affected by violence.

13. Baden-Württemberg

The development of the LAP, with high participation from practitioners (around 80 experts), reflects an intersectional approach and a focus on empowerment and the inclusion of the perspectives of those affected. The parallel development of the equality strategy of the
State of Baden-Württemberg underlines the empowering approach of the state government.

14. Brandenburg

Through the cross-departmental development of the LAP, the state government has agreed on a joint strategy that is currently being implemented. It recognises gender-specific violence as a structural problem, as well as the fight against discrimination and unequal participation.

The LAP takes an intersectional approach and includes recommendations and goals to improve intersectionality in the area of the LAP. These include:

- Development of easily accessible language mediation for counselling, central interpretation services for communication between immigrants and authorities, social and medical institutions, digital services for audio and video interpreting, over 50 languages
- Intersectional expansion of the existing protection and support system
- Institutionalisation, supervision/training and networking of women's and gender equality officers in workshops and establishment of women's or gender equality officers in integration assistance facilities

Article 8: Financial resources

4. Please explain all developments since the adoption of the GREVIO baseline evaluation report on your country with regard to the provision of adequate and sustainable financial and human resources for the implementation of integrated policies, measures and programmes to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by the Convention.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia
Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

1. Hamburg

During the period in question, the Hamburg Senate continuously increased its financial support for victim counselling centres and women's shelters. In addition, human resources were temporarily strengthened in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic in order to meet the increasing demand for counselling services. For details of the funding amounts, see Appendix 1 (appendix follows a response to a written minor interpellation by the Left Party on 26 August 2024).

It is not possible to differentiate between the resources available for combating violence against women within the meaning of the Istanbul Convention with regard to the standard services provided by the
Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice.

2. Hesse

The State of Hesse's third action plan to combat domestic violence was adopted in December 2022 and serves to implement the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. It is structured in accordance with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention and thus differs in its structure from the two previous state action plans. Since the first state action plan in 2004, the state of Hesse has strengthened the prevention of domestic violence as part of its governmental responsibility and, with the second state action plan in 2011, further developed measures to protect and assist victims and to intervene against perpetrators. The third state action plan now aims to further expand existing measures and close gaps, particularly with regard to particularly vulnerable groups, in accordance with the requirements of the Istanbul Convention. With the third state action plan, the state of Hesse is ensuring that these measures are maintained in the long term, that recognisable further needs are met and that planning bases are created in order to expand the desired comprehensive provision of services.

Until now, the financing of women's shelters, women's counselling and intervention centres and women's emergency hotlines in Hesse has been a voluntary service provided by the state. Through target agreements, local authorities are provided with local budgets to finance women's shelters, intervention centres, women's counselling and women's emergency hotlines, which they then pass on to the providers of these services according to need. The state
does not directly fund the services. Funding for the women's support system has been

increased continuously over the last few years. In 2024, €7.5 million was available for women's shelters (2023: €6.9 million, 2022: €5.4 million, 2021: €3.4 million, 2020: €3.4 million) and €2.9 million (2023: €2.75 million, 2022: €2.4 million, 2021: €2.4 million, 2020: €2.4 million) for counselling and intervention centres and women's emergency hotlines.

In addition to institutional funding for women's support services, the state of Hesse also provides funding for measures and projects to implement the Istanbul Convention, in particular for the prevention of gender-based violence and healthcare for victims of violence. Around €2.14 million was available for this purpose in 2024 (2023: €2.14 million, 2022: €1.74 million, 2021: €1.64 million, 2020: €1.54 million). This funding supports, for example, the "Emergency medical assistance after rape" initiative and services for women affected by violence with special needs.

From the perspective of the Ministry of Justice, it is not possible to answer this very extensive question in such a short time. In addition, reference should be made to the following answers. From the perspective of the Hessian judiciary, however, it should be noted – in summary – that combating the forms of violence relevant here is always a particular focus of the work of all agencies.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Between February 2024 and July 2024, the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania participated extensively in the data collection process carried out by the Reporting Office on Gender-Based Violence at the German Institute for Human Rights. This involved providing information on the financing of the existing counselling and support system in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania for victims of violence as well as for perpetrators. In addition, information was provided on prevention campaigns and coordination activities. In addition to this, the following key points are highlighted once again. In preparation for the development of the state government's strategy mentioned under 1, a research project was commissioned. The state spent €100,000 on the project in the 2023/2024 financial years. The results of the evaluation were presented in April 2024. For the IK coordination office created on 1 May 2024, which is affiliated with the ministry responsible for
Ministry of Equality, financial resources will be provided for one staff position (E 13) plus material resources.

4. Saxony

Human resources at the state level were expanded. For example, as already described in section 1, a state coordination office was established in 2020 in accordance with Article 10 IK (+ 1 FTE). There have also been additional staff increases in the area of protection against violence. This is evident, among other things, in the fact that since November 2023, the area of gender-based and domestic violence has been organised as an independent department called "Implementation of the Istanbul Convention". At the ministerial level, the area of violence protection is funded as follows: 2022: €550,000; 2023: €360,000; 2024: €325,000.

With the adoption of the LAP IK, the departments have agreed to provide the human resources necessary to implement the measures falling within their respective areas of responsibility. Objectives 68 to 77
of the LAP IK focus specifically on coordinating measures and integrated policies.

5. Saxony-Anhalt

For the period from 2022 to 2025, the following budget funds have been directly allocated by the state for the **core area of the protection and support system** (with reference to the presentation of state-funded projects: GREVIO 2022 Länderannex ST) for the prevention and combating of violence:

2022 5,167,700 euros

2023 6,106,800 euros

2024 7,469,100 euros

2025 7,618,200 euros

The guideline on the granting of subsidies to promote the work of women's shelters and their outpatient counselling centres (RdErl. des MS vom 15. Dezember 2022 – Referat 56-43196; amended by RdErl. des MS vom 13. Dezember 2023 – 56-43196; last amended by Circular of the Ministry of the Interior dated 11 June 2024 – 56-43196 (MBL. LSA 24/2024, p. 416)) has been continuously developed to include, in addition to the specialists who accompany and care for women seeking protection, additional staff for the adequate care of vulnerable children as an integral part of the workforce. To this end, binding staffing ratios for the care of women and children have been established. Pay in line with collective agreements is specified in the guideline. In addition, staffing capacities for domestic work were specified, thus creating the basis for the financing of these positions. In 2024, financial resources amounting to
500,000 euros and commitment appropriations of 200,000 euros each have been made available for continuation in the 2025 and 2026 financial years. During the budget deliberations for the 2025/26 double budget, the planning was adjusted so that €310,000 can now be made available annually for investment measures.

Payment in line with collective agreements and classification were also ensured for the employees of the women's centres.

As women are particularly affected by all forms **of digital violence**, the tasks and activities of the Saxony-Anhalt State Women's Council (LFR) have been expanded to include hate crime and digital violence in implementation of the coalition agreement, and since 2023 it has been allocated around €37,800 more funding per year. The objectives are to strengthen and raise awareness of the rights of those affected and to prevent violence through appropriate public relations work, event formats and networking, in particular with the Central Office for Combating Hate Crime in the Digital Space, training and further education opportunities for the member associations of the State Women's Council and the protection and support system, and press and public relations work.

Digital violence is also increasingly threatening the institutions of the protection and support system itself. In order to strengthen the technical expertise of professionals in the support system for women affected by violence and to better protect those affected, the state of Saxony-Anhalt was the first and only federal state to become a model location for comprehensive further training in 2024. As part of the model project of the Ministry of Equality, the State Women's Council and
"A team against digital violence" trained specialists from the protection and support system to prevent digital tracking, surveillance and cyberstalking. In implementation of the findings of the model project, in 2024 the state provided funds for the purchase of so-called no-signal sleeves for the extended protection and support system, which block smartphone signals and prevent the location of mobile devices. This complements the protection of women affected by violence in women's shelters.

In order to create local services for victims of violence, the state government continuously supports the development of branch offices for the protection and assistance system projects. In this regard, branch offices of the intervention centres based in Magdeburg, Dessau, Halle and Stendal have been established in recent years. The counselling centres for victims of sexual violence have been given branch offices in Genthin, Quedlinburg, Querfurt and Salzwedel. This development is to be continued.

For women affected by gender-based and sexual violence, a comprehensive system **for the confidential collection of evidence** is being established and the corresponding project implementation is being funded by the state (see also answers 19, p. 208, and 28a, p. 273).

Since 2011, the **Social Service of the Judiciary** has been offering anti-violence training (AGT) based on the Magdeburg model, which can be carried out free of charge as a group or individual measure
. Perpetrators of violence participate in this training after being referred by the public prosecutor's office or

court order. However, voluntary participation is also possible. The AGT is a measure that includes areas such as body language training, de-escalation training, communication training and empathy training. Ten employees of the Social Services of the Saxony-Anhalt Justice System are currently trained
anti-violence trainers. In addition, victim counsellors in Saxony-Anhalt offer prevention measures at schools and other institutions.

6. Schleswig-Holstein

Since 2018, the state coordination office pursuant to Art. 10 IK has been located in the ministry responsible for equality. The State Coordination Office records developments that are implemented under the decentralised responsibility of the respective departments. The exchange of information on projects and measures of the departments concerned is ensured by the respective contact persons and the State Coordination Office and is part of the Schleswig-Holstein State Strategy for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention, which was adopted on 13 May 2025.

201a LVwG Proactive counselling (here: for children and young people)

Since 2025, funds amounting to €300,000 have been made available for proactive counselling of children and young people following police intervention in cases of domestic violence.

Violence prevention in schools

The Centre for Prevention (IQSH) has personnel and financial resources at its disposal for the topic of violence prevention, most of which cannot be clearly distinguished from other tasks. The IQSH has an annual budget of €50,000 specifically for the topic of sexual violence in schools.

Funding of €500,000 per year is available to support pupils, parents and school staff as part of the emergency programme for psychosocial health in schools in the state of Schleswig-Holstein.

The association "Notruf und Beratung für vergewaltigte Mädchen und Frauen e.V." (Emergency Hotline and Counselling for Raped Girls and Women) in Kiel receives €198,000 in funding annually as part of the PETZE prevention office project.

State Office for Immigration and Refugees

Human resources include the transfer of tasks to employees of the State Office for Immigration and Refugees to ensure the protection of vulnerable groups in accordance with Section 44 2a of the Asylum Act through appropriate measures. Employees from a wide range of areas of responsibility have developed appropriate measures to protect women in shared accommodation from violence as part of the revision of the protection concept in 2023. The protection concept is still being implemented. Protection against violence should be achieved in particular through preventive measures. In cases of violence or dangerous situations, there are clear channels of interaction and the effectiveness of the measures is continuously monitored.

With regard to financial resources, a budget item is available for material costs incurred in the implementation of the protection concept in the accommodation facilities of the state of Schleswig-Holstein.

Staff unit for victim protection & specialisation within the public prosecutor's offices

The state-specific measures described in Art. 7 (1) are included in the state budget.

7. Thuringia

Financing of the personnel and material resources of the IK coordination office by the state, including the accompanying committee structure.

The implementation of the state action plan is the independent responsibility of the individual departments of the Thuringian state government involved in their respective areas, including

financing. Financing is subject to budgetary constraints.

Training and further education opportunities on the topic of equality in the state further education programme.

The Free State of Thuringia continues to promote **violence and conflict counselling for perpetrators** of domestic violence, thereby fulfilling its obligation under Article 8 of the Istanbul Convention. Violence and conflict counselling is provided by an agency, the Verein Bewährungs- und Straffälligenhilfe Thüringen e.V. (Thuringia Probation and Offender Support Association), as part of the ORANGE project. Funding is provided in the form of project funding covering 90% of personnel and material costs. The remaining 10% is contributed by the organisation itself. The programme, which was launched at the end of 2012, has been running at all four regional court locations in Thuringia since 2017.

Local youth support:

Funding is provided for measures and projects in accordance with Section 15b of the Thuringian Youth Welfare Act (ThürKJHAG), including measures for the protection of children and young people. A small proportion is used by the recipients of the grants to finance child and youth protection services.

The minimum amount with which the state supports local public youth welfare organisations was increased to €17,917,600 per year with the amendment to the Thür KJHAG on 2 February 2024. In addition, the ministry responsible for child and youth welfare reviews the amount of the subsidy adjustment annually on the basis of need, particularly with regard to the development of personnel costs, and informs the state parliament committee responsible for youth affairs of the results of the review (cf. Section 15b ThürKJHAG).

State child protection programme:

Continuation of the programme – funding will be provided in particular for staffing to meet the needs of coordinating regional network structures in early intervention and child protection, as well as quality development in accordance with Section 79a of Book VIII of the Social Code (SGB VIII) and further training for specialists on the duty to protect children at risk at local public youth welfare agencies, as well as projects and services of supra-local importance for child protection.

Funding volume for local public youth welfare agencies:

2020: EUR 1,000,000

2021: EUR 1,000,000

2022: EUR ,900,000

2023: EUR ,900,000

2024: EUR 1,000,000

Financially supported projects of supra-local significance:

- "Project to promote child protection and provide advice on the prevention of and intervention in sexualised violence in Thuringian club and association sports" Organiser: Thuringian State Sports Federation
- State Coordination Office for Medical Child Protection (2020-2024), from 2 July 2024 anchored in the Thür KJHAG
- The ongoing support of the basic structure of supra-local independent child and youth protection organisations – including the State Working Group for Child and Youth Protection in Thuringia, MitMedien e. V. and the Thuringian Child and Youth Helpline – was continued.

New:

Funding for the model project "Safe talk – real talk – talking about mediatised sexualisation" Violence (Prevention project against sexualised violence using digital media for Schoolgirls and Schoolboys of the 5. Up to 8. school year) through

Office of the State Commissioner for Child Protection, funding

period: 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026,

State funding 2023: EUR 52,450, State funding 2024: EUR 70,000

8. Bavaria

Funding for measures to support women affected by violence and their children has been increased again since the 2023 financial year. In addition, there is a good staffing ratio in the counselling centres.

Adequate funding has been made available for the prevention network in the area of female genital mutilation.

The Free State of Bavaria contributes to the financing of specialist counselling centres and shelters in the area of human trafficking, forced prostitution and forced marriage.

In Bavaria, there are three specialist psychotherapeutic outpatient clinics for violent and sex offenders in Munich, Nuremberg and Würzburg, with branches in Memmingen, Kulmbach, Regensburg and Landshut. For many years, these specialist outpatient clinics have been making a significant contribution to the outpatient aftercare of violent and sex offenders, especially after their release from prison. The idea behind this is that timely psychotherapeutic aftercare contributes significantly to minimising the risk of reoffending. Treatment is provided through specialised psycho- and social therapy services in the form of individual or group sessions, tailored to individual needs.

The **specialist outpatient clinics** are run by social welfare organisations but are fully funded by the Bavarian State Ministry of Justice. While the budget for 2022 allocated €8,311,000 to the specialist outpatient clinics, the budget for 2024 already amounted to €9,911,000.

In addition, the "Kein Täter werden" (Don't become an offender) project, which has three locations in Bavaria in Bamberg, Munich and Regensburg, is now supported by the Bavarian State Ministry of Justice with €925,000, compared to only €575,000 in 2022. The project offers counselling and therapy services to people with paedophilic tendencies and supports them in not becoming offenders.

The **child protection competence partners** (see Article 7, p. 10 above) are partially exempted from their regular work in order to be able to perform their child protection tasks in a targeted manner.

As part of the federal innovation programme "Together against violence against women", the Bavarian State Ministry of Justice is contributing €24,494.73 to the co-funding of the research project "Safety first!". The project website is also financed by the ministry.[34]

The budgetary and human resources available to the Bavarian police must be used to fulfil all tasks assigned by law and within the administration. This naturally includes police measures against violence against women, including prevention and education. It is not possible to calculate specific figures for individual areas (such as , for example prevention measures) . Specific
budgetary resources cannot be specified.

9. Lower Saxony

An interministerial working group (IMAK – IK) was set up in Lower Saxony to develop a state strategy for the implementation of the IK. The main task

[34] https://www.safetyfirst-umgang-sorge.de

The IMAK's task was to prepare for the establishment of a coordination centre in accordance with Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention. The Lower Saxony Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Health and Equality (MS) was in charge. The IMAK was made up of the Lower Saxony Ministry of the Interior and Sport, the Lower Saxony Ministry of Culture and the Lower Saxony Ministry of Justice. Three staff positions have currently been created in the MS for the state-wide coordination office in accordance with Article 10 of the IK. The staff positions are financed from the MS budget in accordance with the MF's standard personnel cost rates (A 12, A 13, A 14). In addition, the MS provides the coordination office with 40,000 euros annually from its funds for campaigns and public relations work in accordance with Article 10 of the IK.

Funding based on the "Guideline on the granting of subsidies to promote measures for women and girls affected by violence" of 31 January 2022: 46 women's shelters with 454 places for women and around 900 places for children (cf. 2022: 398 places for women and around 800 places for children), 47 violence counselling centres and 29 counselling and intervention centres (BISS) with 19 branch offices. (2024, 2025: EUR 10.275 million each; cf. 2020: EUR 9.2 million)

The "Words Help Women" project (€280,000/year) offers institutions that provide counselling on women-specific issues the opportunity to use translation services for refugee women and girls who came to Germany after 1 January 2015. [35]

Federal investment programme "Together against violence against women": Construction, conversion, new construction and purchase as well as renovation of women's shelters and specialist counselling centres. By the end of 2024, approximately €10.5 million had been committed for NI; seven projects approved. Completion of construction work in Verden, Emden and Holzminden in 2025.

Funding for (smaller) barrier-reducing conversion measures in women's shelters based on the former "Guideline on the granting of subsidies for the general promotion of welfare tasks and for exceptional measures in the social sector" of Dept. 1; 14 projects to date.

Currently 11 perpetrator work facilities (TAE) funded by the state (2024: EUR 320,000; 2025: EUR 530,000): The medium-term goal is to expand from 11 to 20 TAE. The expansion is planned in stages; funding of EUR 50,000 per TAE is calculated. This requires the prior creation of a funding guideline, which is currently being worked on. For 2025, increase in funding via the political list. This will allow for an increase in funding for the existing 11 TAE in 2025. An expansion is only possible after the guidelines come into force. As part of the budget preparation process, EUR 750,000 (EUR 50,000 per FTE) was registered for the 2026 financial year, as well as a continuous increase to EUR 1 million for 20 FTEs in 2028.

Human trafficking/forced prostitution: (2024: EUR 528,000) Three specialist counselling centres to combat human trafficking in the context of forced prostitution and sexual exploitation (KOBRA e.V. in Hanover and SOLWODI e.V. in Braunschweig and Osnabrück) with sheltered accommodation. In 2025, SOLWODI received an increase of EUR 50,000 via the political list (measures against forced marriage and forced marriage).

Counselling centres for sex workers: Establishment of a satellite project for counselling sex workers in Lower Saxony based on the "Guideline on the granting of subsidies for the general promotion of welfare tasks and for exceptional measures in the social sector (Phoenix e.V.), 3 years, 427,500 euros.

New in 2024 with its own budget item: €160,000 to strengthen counselling work for sex workers as a specialist counselling centre in accordance with Section 9 of the Prostitution Act (ProstSchG); 2025 increase to €210,000 – again €160,000 and an additional €50,000 via the political list for the La Strada sub-project (low-threshold drop-in and specialist counselling centre for women who use drugs
women).

[35] https://worte-helfen-frauen.net/
[36] www.taeterarbeit-niedersachsen.de

Three girls' shelters in Hanover, Oldenburg and Osnabrück (until 2024, EUR 75,000 per year each; 2025 increase to EUR 95,000 each via political list).[37]

Since 2012, the "Netzwerk ProBeweis" project (2024: EUR 410,000; 2025: EUR 450,000): Anonymous and free evidence collection; currently 45 examination centres in 40 clinics. Since 2024, GKV benefit, contract signed as the first federal state in August 2023. Since then, there has been an increase in the number of victims making use of procedure-independent evidence collection. In order to continue to guarantee the service – especially for victims who are not insured or who have private insurance (this is not covered by federal law) – the current state funding will be increased by 40,000 euros in 2025.

A model project entitled "Multiplier training: Children and young people in families affected by domestic violence for teachers and social workers in Lower Saxony" is currently being funded. Participating teachers and (social) education professionals in day-care centres, schools, women's shelters and facilities, as well as independent and public child and youth welfare institutions, are provided with in-depth knowledge about the connections and dynamics of domestic violence and its effects, enabling them to understand the signals and signs exhibited by affected children and young people and to counteract developmental risks through supportive educational measures.

No specific funding has been allocated to the Domestic Violence Coordination Office. The measures and activities carried out are financed from the budget allocated to the Lower Saxony State Prevention Council by the state government. In addition, the respective departments provide additional funds, for example for the organisation of events or further training courses. The coordination office is equipped with personnel resources for 1.0 AKA consultant, remuneration group
14 TV-L. No specific funding has been allocated to the aforementioned action plan (LAP IV). The financing of the listed measures is the responsibility of the respective department.

In 2001, one million euros was made available from the state budget as foundation capital for the Lower Saxony Victim Support Foundation. In addition, a total of 300,000 euros was allocated to the foundation from the state budget in 2001 and 2002 as start-up funding. Since 2003, the foundation has financed itself from monetary penalties and fines as well as donations. The staff of the Lower Saxony Victim Support Foundation consists of four state employees and civil servants.

With the exception of employees of the Lower Saxony Victim Support Foundation, psychosocial support workers receive a flat-rate remuneration based on the Act on Psychosocial Support in Criminal Proceedings (PsychPbG). A maximum flat rate of €1,100 is granted per individual case. In addition, the state of Lower Saxony grants a supplementary allowance to organisations that provide staff for psychosocial support during court proceedings. The allowance is granted as a non-repayable subsidy in the form of proportional financing for project funding. Recipients receive a subsidy of up to 80% of the eligible personnel expenses per specialist employed:

- for personnel deployment of up to 0.5 full-time equivalents (FTE), a maximum of €6,000, and
- for personnel deployment of more than 0.5 AKA, a maximum of EUR 12,000.

In addition, the state of Lower Saxony grants the Lower Saxony Victim Support Foundation a biennial subsidy of EUR 90,000 as a voluntary contribution towards the implementation of a Psychosocial support training course (up to 20 participants

[37] www.maedchenhaeuser-niedersachsen.de
[38] www.probeweis.de

and participants) and for other topic-specific day events in cooperation with the coordinating office (30 to 60 participants).

The background to this is that the Lower Saxony quality standards, which have been in place since 2012, provide for a more comprehensive service than the nationwide recommendations for minimum standards. Furthermore, the service is also offered in Lower Saxony in cases that do not fall under the provisions of Section 406g of the Code of Criminal Procedure, but where there is a corresponding need.

In 2024, the MK's business division developed an interactive travelling exhibition entitled "undoing/violence against women" for vocational schools in cooperation with the House of Church Services. This has been offered to vocational schools throughout the state since the 2024/2025 school year. The costs of the jointly financed exhibition amounted to €24,000 for the 2024/2025 school year. €16,000 is listed for the following school year 2025/2026.

No separate resources are allocated for the implementation of integrated policies, measures and programmes for prevention and Combating all forms of violence covered by income.

10. Rhineland-Palatinate

A total of four budget items have been allocated to combating domestic violence. Since the last evaluation, these have been significantly increased.

The majority of the budget funds go towards supporting a total of nine **perpetrator intervention centres** (TAE) in Rhineland-Palatinate. Since 2021, the total annual budget for this item has been €477,800. The funding amount was divided between the Mainz Institute of Legal Medicine to finance the flat rates for anonymous evidence collection from victims of sexual violence, with up to €25,000, and the nine TAE centres and a TAE coordination office, with €43,300 each. In addition, there is a one-off annual amount of €14,500 for holding case conferences.

Based on the needs of the TAE, the 2025/2026 double budget was increased. €529,500 has already been approved for the TAE in 2025. The Mainz Institute of Legal Medicine received funding for 2025 to finance evidence collection kits [39]for cases of sexual violence, increasing from up to €8,000 to over €30,000.

The annual budget item for non-allocable administrative expenses has been increased from €5,000 to €6,000 in 2021. A total of €8,800 is earmarked annually for **public relations** measures.

€5,000 is available annually to finance topic-related **training courses**. For the 2025 and 2026 financial years, the budget in this area has been increased to around €20,000 in order to meet the need for further expansion of police expertise.

For the **pact against sexualised violence against children and young people** (see the answer to question 1, p. 13), budget funds amounting to €120,000.00 were available in 2022 and €600,000.00 in each of the years 2023 and 2024. The budget funds were mainly used to organise a participation process in collaboration with an expert commission, which developed and issued recommendations to the state government for improving prevention and intervention.

The Quint* **specialist counselling centre** is an active centre for queer people (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and non-binary people, LGBTIQ*) who have experienced violence in Rhineland-Palatinate. It offers professional support and is one of the few organisations in Germany that specifically provides counselling for queer victims of violence and their relatives. It complements

[39] Based on the Measles Protection Act, the flat-rate payments have been covered by health insurance companies since 2025.

to existing peer counselling and other counselling services and is open to all queer people affected by violence and their relatives.

The Quint* specialist counselling centre is funded by the MFFKI:

2022: €56,457.00 (preparation for the installation of Quint*)

2023: €98,450.00

2024: €120,000.00

2025: €124,700.00 (estimated).

Most aspects of violence against women are dealt with at state level by Unit 753 "Violence Prevention/Violence in Close Social Relationships" of the Women's Department in the Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration. This unit also coordinates the Rhineland-Palatinate intervention project against violence in close social relationships and the implementation of the Istanbul Convention at state level. In 2024, a case worker was hired specifically to support the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, who has since been assisting the department with 32 hours per week.

With regard to the provision of adequate and sustainable financial and human resources for NGO measures, please refer to the answer to question 5 (p. 49).

In Chapter 0919, TG 92 "Measures to prevent violence in schools" provides appropriate budgetary funds for the related topics of violence prevention, extremism prevention, democracy education and historical-political **education**. These measures also serve, among other things, to implement the Istanbul Convention.

- Approach 2025: 931,000 euros
- Estimate for 2026: €932,000

11. North Rhine-Westphalia

The state budget allocated funds for the **funding area "Protection and assistance for women affected by violence"** (grants to the operators of women's support system facilities in the form of general women's counselling centres, specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence and women's shelters, as well as grants to specialist counselling centres for victims of human trafficking, specialist counselling centres for protection against forced marriage and for counselling
, networking and prevention measures in the area of female genital mutilation) an appropriation of around 25 million euros in 2020, around 30 million euros in 2021, around 35 million euros in 2022 and around 33 million euros in 2023.

After succeeding in recent years in providing more money for the range of state-funded support structures, the state budget for the 2024 and 2025 financial years also includes funds of around 33 million euros each for the funding area "Protection and assistance for women affected by violence".

In addition to the ongoing general expansion of the women's support infrastructure, the state of North Rhine-Westphalia has been able to implement further measures with regard to the provision of financial and human resources. For women's shelters, general women's counselling centres, specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence and specialist counselling centres for victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced prostitution, subsidies for personnel expenses will be increased by 1.5% annually. For 2024, the annual lump sums for personnel expenses were increased by around 3.3 per cent compared to the previous year, in addition to the annual increase, in accordance with the remuneration table for social and educational services in the collective agreement for the public sector in the federal states (TV-L).

The annual subsidies for flat-rate material expenses were increased by €2,500 (from €7,500 to €10,000) for the aforementioned
women's support infrastructure facilities by €2,500 (from €7,500 to €10,000). As an incentive for further expansion of places in women's shelters, the annual

Flat-rate subsidy for each women's shelter place above the minimum number of eight places increased from €7,000 to €10,000 from 2024.

Since 15 April 2023, women's shelters have been given the opportunity to apply for funding for an additional fifth specialist position for working with children in women's shelters, which is granted upon application if the requirements are met. At present (as of April 2025), 47 operators of state-funded women's shelters are taking advantage of the funding for the additional specialist position for working with children. Two of the state-funded women's shelters will take advantage of the funding for the additional specialist position at a later date, from 1 September 2025 and from 2026 respectively.

The two **specialist centres for counselling and prevention of female genital mutilation** (FGM/C) and the two **specialist counselling centres against forced marriage** receive funding in the form of grants for personnel and material costs. The funding is subject to annual indexation. In the area of specialist centres for counselling and prevention of female genital mutilation (FGM/C), funding was made permanent from May 2023 and extended to another location in Westphalia (Herford) from November 2023.

Funding **for** the eight specialist **counselling centres for** girls and women affected **by human trafficking** for sexual exploitation or forced prostitution was increased in 2023 and 2024. An increase in the flat-rate material costs allowance from €7,500 to €10,000 took place in July 2023. In general, personnel expenses are increased by 1.5% annually %. In addition, an adjustment of personnel expenditure to the TVöD Social and Educational Services (TVöD SuE) was included in 2024, which is why personnel expenditure was increased by 4.8% compared to 2023. Furthermore, since 2024, 17 FTE have been funded instead of the previous 16.5. The specialised counselling centres receive additional grants for expenses for fees and for the protected accommodation of those affected.

See draft answers Art. 7, question 3 on budgetary resources for central queer policy measures (p. 30).

The annual funding for measures under the **state violence protection concept** for refugee accommodation facilities in North Rhine-Westphalia was increased by €1 million in 2025 compared to the previous year, to a total of €6 million. This can also be used to finance measures against violence against women in state reception facilities for refugees.

No special financial or human resources outside the generally allocated budgetary funds are available in the justice system.

In the context of discontinuing proceedings and probation decisions, courts and public prosecutors' offices may assign payment obligations to support organisations and victim protection organisations involved in combating violence against women or domestic violence. The Attorney General in Düsseldorf – Central Office for Non-Profit Organisations – has reported the following to the Ministry of Justice:

	2022	2023	2024
eligible women-specific Facilities	51	46	46
Allocations	€114,715	€142,768.19	€120,555

Provided that the legal requirements are met, the state treasury also bears the costs of the psychosocial support provided to victims during the trial, the assistance provided by a guardian or the representation of the joint plaintiff.

12. Bremen

To implement the Istanbul Convention, two staff positions were created in the State Coordination Office for the Istanbul Convention. In addition, since 2021,
550,000 euros per year and 945,000 euros in 2024. Over the last four years, funding for specialist counselling centres in the areas of domestic violence, sexualised violence, forced prostitution and FGM/C has also been continuously increased.

13. Saarland

New grant agreement Women's emergency hotline Saarland (Counselling centre for women affected by violence) completed
incl. expansion of personalisation of 2.5 on 4
Full-time positions with a state share of 30%.

14. Berlin

In 2020, the position of anti-violence officer was created in the anti-violence department of the Senate Administration responsible for women and equality. A temporary position was also created in 2020 to coordinate the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

Since March 2024, the Tempelhof-Schöneberg district office has had an employee responsible for implementing the Istanbul Convention, who reports to the Women's and Equality Officer and contributes to the sustainable implementation of integrated measures.

In 2024, a new coordination office for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention was also established in the Marzahn-Hellersdorf district, which is staffed by one person. This office is based at the district's Women's and Equality Officer.

The State of Berlin is also supporting the **innovation project "Gewaltfrei in die Zukunft" (A Violence-Free Future)** with its own funds**.** This is an innovative app to support victims of gender-based violence in relationships (see also answer to question 25, p. 254). The Senate Department for the Interior and Sport has set up a project office for this purpose. Personnel costs 2022: €8,856; 2023: €119,635; 2024: €153,687; 2025 estimated €182,858).

For the 2022/2023 double budget, funding for **education and family counselling centres** (EFB) in the state of Berlin was increased by a total of €5,300,000. This has enabled the EFBs to significantly expand their services by increasing staffing levels in each district by two full-time psychologist positions at independent institutions and one full-time psychologist position at public institutions, and to secure funding for material resources (rent and operating costs) at independent institutions. The counselling service (80 cases per counsellor) can thus be increased by 240 counselling cases per district.

Work with girls and social work with girls and young women is a cross-cutting task of youth work (Section 11 of Book VIII of the Social Code) and youth social work (Section 13 of Book VIII of the Social Code), with the aim of contributing to the equality of girls and young women. Overall, since the introduction of the Youth Support Act (AG KJHG) in 2020, the field of youth work in Berlin has been significantly strengthened, but there is still a need for further expansion in order to fully meet the professional standards for scope and quality.

Both extracurricular political **education** and state funding for media education have been strengthened overall since 2024. In addition, the state of Berlin is funding queer youth facilities and other queer youth work programmes at the state level and in co-financing with the districts to the tune of around €1.3 million in 2025. This focus has grown steadily since 2022.

, a total of funding and support young people via
Senate-funded programmes and projects approx. €10,700,000, excluding district budget funds, made available.

[40] https://www.berlin.de/sen/jugend/jugend/jugendarbeit/jugendfoerder-und-beteiligungsgesetz/.

In Berlin, non-governmental organisations contribute significantly to the implementation of the measures mentioned in the question and receive financial support for this; see the response to 5 (p. 50).

15. Baden-Württemberg

A full-time position has been created in the Ministry of Social Affairs for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

In Baden-Württemberg, **victim advocates** are currently being implemented in the 19 **public prosecutor's offices** in the state, who will be available as guides to support services, particularly for victims of domestic violence. To implement the concept, the budgetary authorities created 17 positions statewide in the 2025/2026 double budget. This is a unique step nationwide to strengthen victim protection and victim assistance, especially
for women affected by violence.

16. Brandenburg

The LAP contains measures from several departments, which are funded directly by the departments. Many measures are carried out within the scope of the departments' responsibility without extra funding being allocated. Due to the scope of the more than 80 measures and the departments managing the funds, the following exemplary projects are funded by the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (MGS):

Projects to prevent violence against women and to help victims of human trafficking

	2023	**2024**
INVIA Catholic Association for Girls' and Women's Social Work for the Archdiocese of Berlin gGmbH	€103,000	€103,000
Coordination office of the Network of Brandenburg Women's Shelters e.V.	€130,800	€130,800
Confidential forensics and immediate medical assistance after a rape	€195,000	€195,000

In Brandenburg, a pilot project for offender-oriented prevention work has been funded by the state since September 2019 and is being further expanded. Offenders either register to participate themselves or are referred by institutions (jurisdiction, youth welfare offices). There are counselling and training groups (as required).

Perpetrator work, Violence Prevention Centre Brandenburg	€410,000	€410,000

The Contact Point of Civil Society Actors for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Federal State of Brandenburg (KIKO) was established in 2024 to support the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the state. KIKO informs and networks within civil society and state actors at local/regional level. One focus is the establishment of regional networks on domestic violence. KIKO also supports round tables and municipal actors by providing expertise on strategies, professionalisation and best practice examples of networking in the field of domestic violence and victim protection in Brandenburg.

KIKO	175,000 €	175,000 €

From 2025, the establishment of intervention centres in the state is planned.

5. Please provide information on all developments with regard to the

the provision of adequate and sustainable financial and human resources for women's rights organisations that offer specialised support services for victims, including those that support migrant women and girls.

Contributions: Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Brandenburg

FA (reference question 4)**:** Hamburg, Hesse, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia

1. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Please refer to the comments on question 4 (p. 35). In addition, the funds allocated in the 2022-2025 budget of the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania for the specialised counselling and support network and the State Women's Council are shown below 2022-2025 budget of the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

Budget year	2022	2023	2024	2025
Advice and support network	€2,580,000	€2,639,400	€2,840,100	€2,905,400
State Women's Council	€100,500	€105,900	€105,900	€105,900

2. Saxony

Research: The Free State of Saxony has funded projects that contribute to a better understanding of gender-based violence. One example worth mentioning is the Saxony **Victimisation Study**, which examines the impact of sexualised violence, domestic/partner violence and stalking on women in Saxony. In addition, an interdisciplinary **model study on protective facilities** for adult victims of domestic violence (and their children) in Saxony was funded. It examines the structural and spatial inventory and identifies areas where action is needed (publication planned for 2025). A study was also funded that fundamentally examines **femicide** on the basis of **file analyses by the police and public prosecutors**. (The results are expected in the course of 2025.)

Data collection: Goal 76 of the LAP IK addresses the development and expansion of statistical data from the police, public prosecutors, courts, assistance and protection systems, and social compensation law. This data is to be collected by the state coordination office and evaluated jointly.

Furthermore, there have been changes in **data collection**. Since 2022, statistical data for the support and protection system (men's and women's shelters, special protection facilities, intervention and coordination centres) has been collected digitally via a digital form service specified by the Free State (Saxony Participation Portal). A statistical query has been set up for the newly established specialised counselling centres for sexualised violence, similar to the other counselling centres. Data collection has not been changed for the area covered by the Ministry of the Interior (including the State Criminal Police Office and the police). For law enforcement statistics from the judiciary, reference is made to the information under II. E. of the State Report for Germany (from p. 12) and to the comments in the state contribution for Saxony (Appendix 3 from p. 44). No changes have been made.

3. Saxony-Anhalt

In order to ensure access to counselling and support services for women affected by violence, women's centres are supported in the use of interpreting services, in addition to specialised support services.

The state-wide network for a life without violence [41]initiates networking with migrant women's organisations, such as DaMigra. The state coordination office for civil society actors (LIKO) is funded by the state. The funding amounts provided were:

2022	142,600 euros
2023	187,700
2024	202,700 euros
2025	203,900 euros

Since 1 December 2023, the project "SAIDA mobil" has been running as part of the integration support guideline.
– Education and counselling for girls and women in Saxony-Anhalt on female genital mutilation", which addresses precisely where there is an urgent need for action: it offers psychosocial counselling, medical support and educational work to facilitate access to support services for affected women and girls and to take preventive action
against female genital mutilation (see also answer 9b, p. 73).

4. Schleswig-Holstein

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Women's shelters	5,812,198.41 €	5,953,108.99 €	6,122,911.62 €	6,860,408.71 €
Women's counselling centres	1,757,875.00 €	1,801,821.88 €	1,846,867.42 €	2,824,888.98 €
MYRIAM - Mobile Legal advice for refugee women	€135,000.00	€135,000	€135,000	€135,000
Against	€134,750.00	€136,543.75	€141,774.51	€145,417.51

5. Thuringia

Funding for women's shelters, intervention centres and the State Women's Council was guaranteed for the entire period as project funding; see also the country report.

The reporting period covers the preparation of the ChancGlFöG with 100% funding of the necessary personnel and material costs, funding for intervention and counselling centres for domestic and gender-based violence, and the continuation of funding for cooperation between women's associations in Thuringia.

The guidelines for the granting of subsidies by the Free State of Thuringia for the promotion of the integration of people with a migration background (project funding guidelines for integration) provide funding for various integration projects aimed at the social and economic integration of people with a migration background in Thuringia.

Furthermore, measures such as integration projects specifically for women and girls with a migration background were funded.

This also includes project funding for the SAIDA association, which campaigns for women's and children's rights. The project in question, "SAIDA expert advice on gender-based violence against girls and women", was not affected by any cuts during the reporting period. Other project sponsors offering services for migrant women and girls have been subject to budget cuts in the past.

However, the required long-term structures cannot be met in this way.

[41] https://www.gewaltfreies-sachsen-anhalt.de/

. Project funding allows successful approaches to be tested in an initial three-year project phase and, if they prove successful, to be incorporated into permanent structures. This requires the establishment of permanent institutional funding for these purposes. Experience has shown that this is difficult to achieve.

Continuation of the state interpreting programme.

Since November 2021, the specialist prostitution counselling centre "Allerdings!" has been set up by the state of Thuringia and is funded by the State Equal Opportunities Officer. The counselling provided to the target group also covers areas relating to the Istanbul Convention.

A state council for victims of sexualised violence in childhood and adolescence was established in 2024. The victims' council is a voluntary body set up to better protect children and young people from sexualised violence. It advises the state commissioner for child protection and aims to give victims a voice in politics, society and academia. On 19 September 2023, the cabinet took note of the concept for the establishment of a state council for victims at the State Commissioner for Child Protection in the Free State of Thuringia. Thuringia is the second federal state after Rhineland-Palatinate to establish a council for victims.

6. Rhineland-Palatinate

Support for self-advocacy measures to combat violence against women with disabilities

In addition to regular counselling services, the Rhineland-Palatinate State Commissioner for the Interests of People with Disabilities provides financial support for measures aimed at educating, networking and training women through self-advocacy groups. These are additional measures that are developed innovatively in the form of events, public relations activities and participation formats based on current issues.

Women's support organisations are funded by the state government. The following funds were/are available for the period 2022 to 2025 (figures rounded):

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Women's shelters	€2.8 million	€2.9 million	€3.2 million	€3.4 million
Specialist counselling centres for women affected by violence women [42]				€380,000
Women's emergency hotlines	€1 million	€1 million	€1 million	€1.5 million
Intervention centres	€1 million	€1.1 million	1.15 million £	€2 million
Children's intervention centres	€120,000	€240,000	€240,000	€240,000
Girls' counselling	€88,000	€90,000	€93,000	€98,000
Girls' flat	€20,000	€25,000	€25,000	€25,000

Funding for the state project "Effectively combating female genital mutilation: supporting those affected, training professionals and creating sustainable networks" (see answer to question 1, p. 13) was increased from €50,000 to €70,000 per annum from 2024.

The Ministry for Women supports **counselling centres** for women and girls with refugee and

[42] These are independent, external counselling centres affiliated with women's shelters. They perform a clearing function and help to relieve the burden on women's shelters in their actual work.

migration (Solwodi, RAHMA and Utamara), for women with disabilities (Kobra at ZsL Mainz), for homeless women (Haltepunkt des SKF Trier), women-specific addiction counselling centres and prostitution counselling centres. The target groups are particularly at risk of becoming victims of violence. The Ministry also supports a model project to improve care for women with addictions who have experienced violence. There is a close link between experiences of violence and addiction.

All counselling centres are funded through an annual grant. As a rule, increases in line with collective wage agreements are taken into account.

7. Bremen

Women's and girls' organisations in Bremen offer various forms of support for women and girls affected by violence: there are state-funded women's shelters that offer protection and counselling, as well as counselling centres for different target groups: women and girls affected by sexual violence, but also other forms of violence.

The Frauengesundheit Tenever association, for example, has been in existence since 1989. The aim of Frauengesundheit Tenever is to support users in taking control of their own health. The services focus on the needs of women and take into account their national origin and personal history.

In addition, there are services for pregnant women (pregnancy counselling centres and midwifery centres) where women affected by violence are referred to counselling and support structures. The midwifery centres offer help with family planning as well as support during pregnancy and
after birth.

8. Saarland

The specialist counselling centre for migrant women at the ALDONA e.V. association was personalised in order to expand the services offered in the area of prevention (from 2 to 2.5 full-time positions).

New funding agreement concluded for the NELE counselling centre (German Child Protection Association, Saarbrücken branch), which counsels girls, including an expansion of staffing from 2.5
to 3.5 positions with a state share of 40%.

9. Berlin

Since the adoption of the GREVIO baseline evaluation report, the budget of the department responsible for women and equality has seen a significant increase in funding for women's rights organisations in line with the above question: For counselling and support services, measures against violence and women's centres, the available funds have been increased from around 23.9 million euros in 2022 to around 25 million euros in 2023. Due to the structure of the budget at the time, this amount also includes grants to women's rights organisations that do not primarily work in the field of violence protection, but rather act as "door openers" to the support system (such as migrant women's projects or women's centres).

For the 2024 and 2025 financial years, the funds available for these non-governmental organisations will increase again from around 32 million euros in 2024 to around 37.9 million euros in 2025. This increase is mainly due to additional funds for the implementation of new measures under the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention (approx. 3.1 million in 2024; approx. 5.8 million in 2025) and an increase in funding for shelters and specialised counselling, intervention and support services for women affected by violence and their children (to approx. 19.4 million in 2024; approx. 22.2 million in 2025).

Other departments were also able to expand measures that benefit victims of gender-based violence, such as services for people with

refugee backgrounds (Integration Department), LGBTIQ+ individuals (Anti-Discrimination Department) and homeless women (Social Affairs Department).

With the implementation of the
"Concept for a Child Protection Network" (MzK Drs. 16/0285) and the Berlin Act on the Protection and Welfare of Children (Berlin Child Protection Act), the state of Berlin has taken a wide range of measures to improve child protection in the areas of prevention, intervention and care, and has established binding structures for cooperation in the "Child Protection and Early Intervention Network". The problem area of (sexual) violence against girls is part of child protection and is accordingly anchored in the Senate's concept for the Child Protection Network.

Within the existing Child Protection and Early Intervention Network, various specialist counselling centres with different areas of expertise on violence against minors work closely together. The specialist counselling centres are funded by grants from the Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family Affairs.

Funding was provided by the state for the establishment of a network centre for the implementation of confidential births and a coordination centre for "emergency assistance after sexual violence" for quality assurance, networking, professional support, evaluation and public relations work for specialised and decentralised medical care services: €250,000 (2024), €312,070 (2025).

Additional personnel and material resources were approved for 2024 for the coordination and intervention centre of S.I.G.N.A.L. e. V. in order to expand the areas of intervention in clinics, training of health professionals and the coordination and support of proactive counselling services between central emergency rooms and specialist counselling and intervention centres for domestic violence (two part-time positions
advisors, one part-time position for organisational assistance).

15. Baden-Württemberg

The amendment of the administrative regulations (VwV Specialist Counselling Centres and VwV Women's and Children's Shelters) enables comprehensive institutional support, which includes prevention, counselling, support for those affected, cooperation, public relations and networking of the support network.

In addition, the state government finances a large number of organisations through project funding in the area of violence protection. The total amount of funds provided for violence protection in 2023/2024 was €12,609,800 per year and for violence protection in 2025/2026
16,109,800 euros

10. Brandenburg

In Brandenburg there are 17 women's shelters, 4 women's protection facilities and 3 counselling centres. They take on many tasks such as emergency calls, specialist advice centres, for which there are special specialist advice and intervention centres in other federal states. All women's shelters provide counselling.

The federal state supports its districts and independent cities in fulfilling their municipal tasks within the framework of public welfare in accordance with Section 2 of the municipal constitution. Funding is based on a funding guideline issued by the MGS. For the 2023/2024 budget, state funding amounted to EUR 2,994,800 per year. According to state budget regulations, the municipalities must contribute 40% of the total funding.

Since 2023, the state of Brandenburg has waived the collection of user fees for women affected by violence for their stay in a women's shelter by offsetting state funds. The amount of state funding for user fees is based on the space available in the facilities.

As part of the investment funding programme (Bundesinvestitionsprogramm), the number of

[43] https://www.berlin.de/sen/jugend/familie-und-kinder/kinderschutz/netzwerk-kinderschutz/

family rooms was increased.

Article 11: Data collection and research

6. Please provide information on any new developments since the adoption of the GREVIO baseline evaluation report on your country with regard to the introduction of data collection categories – such as the form of violence, the gender and age of the victim and perpetrator, the relationship between the two and the location where it took place, for administrative data relevant to violence against women and domestic violence and originating from law enforcement agencies, the justice sector, social services and public health services.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Schleswig-Holstein, Bavaria

1. Hamburg

One new development concerns the "Legislative Package against Hate and Incitement for the Defence of Democracy and the Rule of Law"[44] passed by the German Bundestag. Until now, only the threat of a crime – such as a "death threat" – was punishable under Section 241 of the German Criminal Code (StGB). Since 3 April 2021, threats of acts against sexual self-determination, physical integrity, personal freedom or property of significant value (such as threatening to set fire to a car) directed against the persons concerned or persons close to them are also punishable by up to one year's imprisonment or a fine (Section 241 (1) StGB).

In addition, against the backdrop of the need for quality-assured statistical data to combat "crimes specifically directed against women", the following offences have been included in the police crime statistics (PKS) since 1 January 2024:

- Violation of the highly personal sphere of life and of personal rights through image recordings in accordance with Section 201a StGB (PKS code 670034)
- Sexual insults pursuant to Section 185 of the German Criminal Code (PKS code 673110)
- Sexually motivated defamation pursuant to Section 186 of the German Criminal Code (StGB) (PKS code 673120)
- Defamation on sexual grounds pursuant to Section 187 of the German Criminal Code (StGB) (PKS code 673130)

Politically motivated crimes are statistically recorded and evaluated by the "Criminal Investigation Department for Politically Motivated Crime" (KPMD-PMK) of the State Criminal Police Office, Department of State Security (LKA 7). Nationwide guidelines and catalogues are used to classify cases according to phenomenon areas, targets, means of attack and subject areas, among other things. These are regularly reviewed and adapted by the "AG Qualitätskontrolle PMK" (PMK Quality Control Working Group). On 1 January 2022, the sub-theme "Misogyny" was introduced under the main theme "Hate crime". Until then, crimes directed against women were classified under the main theme "Hate crime" and the sub-theme
"Gender/Sexual Identity". Transphobic and misandric crimes were also assigned to this sub-theme, meaning that a differentiation has only been made since 1 January 2022.

For innovations in the recording of femicides, see question 50, p. 371.

2. Hesse

[44] Printed paper *19/17741* – Draft bill by the CDU/CSU and SPD parliamentary groups – Draft bill to combat right-wing extremism and hate crime.

In 2024, the administrative statistics on the women's protection system in the state of Hesse (Social Monitor) were adapted and improved by the Hesse Ministry of Labour, Integration, Youth and Social Affairs to bring them into line with the German Institute for Human Rights' nationwide monitoring of gender-based violence. More specific questions about the funded institutions, their counselling services and institutionalised networks were included. Questions on the facilities, accessibility and financing of the institutions were included. In addition, characteristics of the women who received counselling or were admitted (age, gender and gender identity, residence status, disability/impairment, homelessness, place of residence, relationship to the perpetrator, cohabitation with the perpetrator, presence of minor children in the perpetrator-victim relationship) and of the perpetrators (gender, age, place of residence, relationship to the victim, cohabitation with the victim at the time of the violent acts, presence of minor children in the perpetrator-victim relationship) were included. The Hessian statistics are collected annually from the institutions of the women's protection system and the perpetrator work institutions.

The Hessian Ministry of Justice and the Rule of Law is not aware of any current developments regarding the introduction of corresponding data collection categories for the collection of administrative data in the justice sector.

In the final report published in August 2021 by the Federal-State Working Group on "Violence in the Family Environment" published in August 2021, a uniform nationwide definition of "domestic violence" was established. A corresponding adjustment regarding the associated expanded definition of domestic violence in the Police Crime Statistics (PKS) for Hesse is currently under consideration.

In the area of state security, categories for recording hate crimes were further developed in the "Criminal Police Reporting Service for Politically Motivated Crime" (KPMD-PMK). Crimes committed for political reasons are recorded in the "Criminal Police Reporting Service for Politically Motivated Crime" (KPMD-PMK). Based on the motives for committing the offence and the circumstances of the offence, politically motivated offences are assigned to corresponding subject areas/sub-subject areas or targets/sub-targets, and the recognisable ideological backgrounds and causes of the offence are mapped in a phenomenon area relevant to national security. Unlike the "Police Crime Statistics" (PKS), crimes are generally assigned at the beginning of the proceedings (so-called initial statistics).

- Recording takes place when the criminal investigation is opened by the police state security service, which allows developments/trends to be identified at an early stage and enables a current assessment/statement to be made.
- The facts of the case are assessed in consideration of the circumstances of the offence and the attitude of the perpetrator (exception: "genuine state security offences").
- At the beginning of 2021, the offence of incitement to hatred (§ 130 StGB) was classified as a "genuine state security offence", which means that gender-based incitement to hatred is generally subject to the KPMD-PMK because it is a state security offence per se, even if no political motivation can be established in individual cases.
- The KPMD-PMK's recording methods are subject to constant quality-oriented monitoring by the PMK Quality Control Working Group (KST), which enables timely adaptation to recognised new phenomena.

For the requested period, the KPMD-PMK was developed uniformly throughout Germany as follows:

Valid from:	Main topic area:	Sub-topic:	Definition
Since 2001	Hate crime	Sexual orientation	Sexual orientation refers to the desire for certain

			sexually attracted to . This can be heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or pansexual as well as queer .
01.01.2020: 01.01.2021:	Hate crime	Gender/Sexual Identity Recording of the victim's gender: male female diverse	Gender The totality of characteristics by which a living being can usually be clearly identified as male or female in terms of its reproductive function. Sexual identity Sexual identity refers to an individual's fundamental understanding of their own gender. According to , this is based on how a person perceives themselves and wants to be perceived by others. and wants to be perceived by others
01.01.2022: 01.01.2023:	Hate crime	Misogynistic	against women or the f e m ale gender (motive)
		Misandrist	against men or directed against the male gender (motivation)
		Gender-related diversity	against people whose gender identity differs from their biological (transsexual or non-binary people) as well as intersex people or those whose gender cannot be clearly determined as male or female (motive) male or female (motive)

3. Saxony

Research: The Free State of Saxony has funded projects that contribute to a better understanding of gender-based violence. One example worth mentioning is the Saxony Victimisation Study, which examines the impact of sexualised violence, domestic/partner violence and stalking on women in Saxony. In addition, an interdisciplinary model study on protective facilities for adult victims of domestic violence (and their children) in Saxony was funded. It examines the structural and spatial inventory and identifies areas where action is needed (publication planned for 2025). A study was also funded that fundamentally examines femicide on the basis of file analyses by the police and public prosecutors. (The results are expected in the course of 2025.)

Data collection: Goal 76 of the LAP IK addresses the development and expansion of statistical data from the police, public prosecutors, courts, support and protection systems, and
social compensation law. This data is to be collected and jointly evaluated by the State Coordination Office

and jointly evaluated.

Furthermore, there have been changes in **data collection**. Since 2022, statistical data for the support and protection system (men's and women's shelters, special protection facilities, intervention and coordination centres) has been collected digitally via a digital form service specified by the Free State (Saxony Participation Portal). A statistical query has been set up for the newly established specialised counselling centres for sexualised violence, similar to the other counselling centres. Data collection has not been changed for the area covered by the Ministry of the Interior (including the State Criminal Police Office and the police). For law enforcement statistics from the judiciary, reference is made to the information under II. E. of the State Report for Germany (from p. 12) and to the comments in the
state contribution for Saxony (Appendix 3 from p. 44). No changes have been made.

4. Saxony-Anhalt

Reference is made to the criminal statistics analysis on "domestic violence" by the Saxony-Anhalt State Criminal Police Office for the year 2024 (Appendix 1).

The Social Services of the Judiciary collect anonymous data on victim counselling according to gender, offence with specific reference to domestic violence, the content of the counselling (by category), frequency of contact and of the duration of counselling . Data from
law enforcement authorities are obtained in accordance with data protection guidelines after obtaining the victim's consent, if necessary.

5. Thuringia

In 2023, the Thuringian police compiled a situation report on domestic violence for the first time. [45]

The status quo has been maintained in the justice sector. In the healthcare sector, the consequences of violence have been systematically documented in ICD codes nationwide since 2023.

6. Lower Saxony

No personal or personally identifiable data on victims is collected in court statistics. It should also be noted that the gender of victims and perpetrators is recorded in the statistics of the public prosecutor's offices in Lower Saxony. The prosecution statistics are personal statistics, and the data collected is based on the respective convicted person. Data on victims is only collected if children were victims of the respective crime.

Based on Lower Saxony's quality standards for the provision of psychosocial support during court proceedings, the coordinating office based at the Lower Saxony Ministry of Justice collects data from psychosocial support workers every six months in the form of a statistical questionnaire. The following categories relating to violence against women and domestic violence are surveyed: gender and age of the victim, relationship to the perpetrator, offence, reason for special protection needs, access to services, duration of support.

The victim support offices of the Victim Support Foundation compile annual statistics on the cases they advise on. Some of this data is published in an annual report by the Victim Support Foundation on the foundation's website. The statistics cover the following categories: offence, age, gender, access to services.

The Lower Saxony Police records the crimes it registers in the Police Crime Statistics (PKS). The data is published annually and can be accessed on the websites of the Lower Saxony Ministry of the Interior and the Lower Saxony State Criminal Police Office.

The statistics are compiled in accordance with uniform federal standards. The introduction of the new

[45] https://polizei.thueringen.de/fileadmin/Thueringer_Polizei/polizei/Thueringer_Polizei-Portal/lpd/Polizeiliche_Praevention_Lebenslagen/Haeusliche_Gewalt/241111_Lagebild_HGW_2023.pdf

The definition of domestic violence (see Art. 7: 2, p. 21) meant that Lower Saxony had to present data from the reporting years from 2021 onwards in a comparable manner in the "Lower Saxony Police Situation Report 2024 Domestic Violence" with regard to victim offences in the context of domestic violence. Until then, this had been an internal police situation report. In addition, for the first time, a situation report on domestic violence has been prepared for the
reporting year BJ 2024. This is currently under review. See also Art. 7:1, p. 11.

7. Rhineland-Palatinate

Since the 2022 reporting year, the Federal Criminal Police Office has been publishing a federal situation report
on "domestic violence" since the 2022 reporting year, which is a continuation of previous criminal statistics analyses
"Partnership Violence". In 2023, the State Criminal Police Office compiled the first state situation report on "Domestic Violence" for the 2022 reporting year, based on the new federal situation report (see answers to questions 1 and 2). In addition to presenting police crime statistics (PKS), it also contains a state-specific evaluation that deals with further parameters of domestic violence cases and high-risk management in the area of intimate partner violence.

Since the 2023 reporting year, the PKS data collected in Rhineland-Palatinate has also been included in the federal overview of "Gender-specific crimes against women".

Note: With the collection of data on this issue (with regard to the introduction of data collection categories – such as the form of violence, the gender and age of the victim and perpetrator, the relationship between the two and the location where it took place, for administrative data relevant to the area of violence against women and domestic violence and collected by law enforcement agencies and the justice sector) was addressed by the inter-state committee for justice statistics in 2023, and the corresponding surveys submitted by the Federal Office of Justice were not implemented.

The state figures for law enforcement statistics (which are recorded and processed uniformly across all states) are compiled at federal level by the Federal Statistical Office. Since federal results are therefore available – insofar as they are relevant to answering questions 6 and 7 – a specific answer for Rhineland-Palatinate appears unnecessary.

The Federal Ministry of Justice may also point out the improvements proposed in this area in the draft bill entitled "Act on Statistics on Federal Criminal Justice" (see, for example, p. 19 of the aforementioned draft; see quote in footnote [46]) should be pointed out by the Federal Ministry of Justice itself, as far as it deems appropriate, within the framework of coordination at federal level.

A violence protection monitor has been in use since the beginning of 2024; data collection is supplemented by social services/administrative staff.

Through the use of digital violence protection monitoring in all AfA, quantitative data is entered several times a year by selected employees in a database developed and provided by the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM). Data is collected using a questionnaire consisting of 7 blocks of questions. The blocks are organised by topic: structures, building measures, residents, employees, children and young people, complaints procedures and dealing with violence.

The women's support centres collect their data as part of their reporting.

[46] "Finally, certain information on relevant areas of crime is missing across all stages of criminal proceedings, for example on the use of the internet as a means of committing the offence or on the relationship between the accused and the injured party. In contrast to police crime statistics, this information is not currently recorded in criminal justice statistics. International obligations, for example those under Article 11 of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence of 11 May 2011 (Istanbul Convention, Federal Law Gazette 2017 II p. 1027, 1033), cannot be fully met (see Reporting Centre on Gender-Based Violence, Report on the Data Situation on Gender-Based Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in Germany, p. 43 f.).

to verify the use of state funding. There is currently no uniform recording system. However, reliable and meaningful data is essential for further planning and political decisions. For this reason, and to make the work of women's support organisations easier, the Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration wants to establish a uniform, digital reporting system by 2028.

According to Section 10 of the GewHG, a uniform federal recording system is also required to implement the Violence Assistance Act.

8. North Rhine-Westphalia

As part of its state-funded support programmes for women's shelters and general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence, North Rhine-Westphalia carries out comprehensive web-based programme monitoring.

An annual controlling report is prepared for each funding programme on the basis of information provided by the recipients of funding. The data collected shows what services were provided with the state funding and also serves as a factual report on the use of funds by each individual institution. The data collection includes information on staff, clients and the performance of tasks in the institutions. The controlling report is not published. It is made available to the above-mentioned institutions in an anonymised version.

In the course of replacing the software tool previously used for **funding programme controlling** (formulardb.de) with the tool "fachdatenerhebung.nrw", the content of the data requested was also adjusted. For example, a new query on the accessibility of the facilities was added, the query on the types of counselling was differentiated and expanded for the counselling centres (face-to-face counselling, telephone counselling, counselling via video conference, email counselling, chat counselling), and the query on the reasons for admission and rejection was differentiated more individually for the women's shelters.

Data collection by means of specialist data collection will begin in 2024.

The judicial statistics are collected on a nationwide basis. The Committee for Judicial Statistics is responsible for introducing and revising the judicial statistics. The Committee for Judicial Statistics decides on any changes to the judicial statistics by majority vote at its annual meeting. In this context, it regularly reviews their content and constantly adapts them to current information requirements, for example due to changes in legislation or new requirements for calculating staffing needs.

At its meeting in Braunschweig from 7 to 9 May 2019, the Committee on Judicial Statistics discussed the inclusion of additional data based on the Act on the Council of Europe Convention of 11 May 2011 on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). The committee agreed at that time to open section ZD "Gender" in the order on the collection of statistical data in family matters (F statistics) for recording in violence protection proceedings as well, so that an evaluation is possible if necessary.

At the request of the Federal Ministry of Justice, item O. 8, "Completion
"by a measure under the Protection Against Violence Act" was added so that it would be possible to determine in how many cases a measure under the Protection Against Violence Act had been issued. However, the committee refrained from including further data on the grounds that the collection of personal data fundamentally contradicts the systematics of judicial statistics as procedure-related statistics. The results of such procedural statistics are generally not comparable with those of personal statistics, such as crime statistics, because court proceedings and the personal data recorded therein may be included in the statistics several times. At the time, it was pointed out that
that recording, among other things, the relationship between the parties involved would cause considerable

difficulties. A predefined catalogue of options would have to be created, as free text fields could not be implemented in the evaluation of the statistics. Determining the relationship between the parties involved, unless they were spouses, registered partners or relatives, would cause considerable additional work in individual cases and would require evaluation if the parties involved had provided contradictory information.

On 25 April 2025, the state government published the study "Queer through North Rhine-Westphalia – Living Conditions and Experiences of LGBTIQ* People". The study provides the first comprehensive data on the realities of life for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans*, inter*, queer and non-binary people (LGBTIQ*) in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The study was commissioned by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia on the basis of the state parliament resolution "Further developing the action plan for diversity and against homophobia and transphobia on an expanded data basis" (printed paper 18/6360). The aim was to gain in-depth insights into the living situations, challenges and needs of (LSBTIQ*) people in North Rhine-Westphalia. The findings provide a valuable basis for future measures and political decisions.

The study included quantitative online surveys of LGBTIQ* people, their relatives and professionals in North Rhine-Westphalia, as well as qualitative focus group surveys and interviews with experts. In total, more than 5,000 LGBTIQ* people, 775 relatives and over 5,000 professionals from various fields took part.

The study focused on three central topics. In addition to health/care and age, as well as integration/migration and flight, experiences of discrimination and violence, as well as questions about general safety, were also examined in detail.

Over 2,800 people, representing a majority of respondents, stated that they had either experienced assaults themselves in North Rhine-Westphalia in the past five years (37.9%) or knew people in their immediate personal environment who had been victims of assault (23.6%). Trans*, inter* and non-binary persons are disproportionately represented among the victims. However, only a small minority (9.2%) reported the incident to the police. Not even one in ten victims goes to the police and is thus potentially included in the official crime statistics.
tenth of victims go to the police and are therefore potentially included in the official crime statistics.

9. Bremen

The Legal Affairs Committee of the Bremen Parliament and the public are informed annually about **femicides** in the state of Bremen. Otherwise, changes in the area of violence against women and domestic violence are not recorded separately in statistics, and the same applies to the number of conflicts between spouses and partners. It should be noted here that the term "conflict" is so broad that it is not clear what the question is referring to. Ultimately, almost every case brought before the family court is based on a conflict. Conflicts occur both "within one's own four walls" and outside the home. Where conflicts take place is not recorded statistically. Ultimately, there is also no statistical recording of the "degree" of violence, so no statement can be made on this.

By recording crimes in the police case management system (VBS), data on perpetrators and victims can be recorded using various parameters. Personal data such as the age, gender and place of residence of those involved are recorded. In cases of domestic violence, the markers "relationship violence" and/or "separation violence" are also set. However, specific forms of violence are not recorded separately. The crimes recorded are always based on the legal norms of the Criminal Code.

Since the introduction of risk management in 2022, additional information, such as the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, has been recorded for the

[47] https://www.mkjfgfi.nrw/menue/lsbtiq/lebenslagenstudie-lsbtiq.

risk assessment . The survey form enables however systemic evaluation.

10. Saarland

(1) State Office for Social Affairs

Based on the figures recorded there, the State Office for Social Affairs can state that there are 93 women who have been harmed by a violent crime and who receive benefits under social compensation law. When applying for compensation, those affected must describe the act on which the claim for compensation is based. The forms of psychological and physical violence are recorded together and by gender in the data collection.

(2) State situation report "Domestic violence – gender-specific crimes against women"

Based on data from the Police Crime Statistics (PKS), a federal situation report on "Gender-specific crimes against women" was compiled for the first time for the year 2023. Based on this federal situation report, a situation report on
"Domestic violence – gender-specific crimes against women" is to be compiled for 2024. Since the 2024 reporting year, the State Police Directorate has been statistically recording cases that can be classified as domestic violence in accordance with the new, nationally uniform definition.

(3) Statistics for police measures

A new case management system is expected to be introduced at the State Police Headquarters at the end of 2025. This will enable the statistical recording of police measures (e.g. restraining orders).

(4) Police-reported cases of domestic violence in Saarland (using the example of the Saarland women's emergency hotline) and the gender of perpetrators and victims

In 2023, Saarland recorded a total of 3,077 cases of domestic violence; 2,473 suspects, of whom 1,929 were men and 544 were women; 3,224 victims, of whom 2,409 were female and 815 male.

- Suspects: 544 women, 1,929 men
- Victims: 2,409 women, 815 men

The survey defined domestic violence as crimes committed between people in close social relationships or family members. This includes: crimes against life, crimes against sexual self-determination, violent crimes and crimes against personal freedom, dangerous and serious bodily harm, mutilation
female genital mutilation, intentional simple bodily harm, deprivation of liberty, coercion, threats and stalking.

11. Berlin

During the period in question, there were numerous changes to the police data collection systems used nationwide, namely the Police Crime Statistics (PKS) and the Criminal Investigation Department's Reporting Service for Politically Motivated Crime (KPMD-PMK), which could also improve evaluations in connection with violence against women and domestic violence within the meaning of the Istanbul Convention. To this end, the federal government recommends a comprehensive overview.

In preparation for the implementation of the Violence Assistance Act, the existing data collection system used by the support system providers funded by the Department for Gender Equality is to be further developed in a participatory process. The aim is to ensure that, in future, data is collected on a regular basis in accordance with the legal requirements of Section 10 of the Violence Assistance Act and in line with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention.
An external service provider is to be commissioned to further develop the data collection system,

preparations for the contract award are currently underway.

The Berlin Round Table – Healthcare for Domestic and Sexual Violence (Chair: SenG) has produced a discussion paper on (routine) data collection in Berlin's healthcare system on domestic and sexual violence. It includes a data set for a survey on experiences of violence in the healthcare sector (basic data set) and outlines possible next steps (see also LAP No. 126). [48] The review of whether data collection by the public health service can be implemented in the course of digitalisation and, if necessary, included in the Health Service Act (GDG) has not yet been completed.

According to Section 98 of SGB VIII, data relating to violence against women is collected within the framework of child and youth welfare services in connection with measures to assess the risk to a child's welfare pursuant to Section 8a of SGB VIII and provisional protective measures pursuant to Section 42 of SGB VIII. The surveys ask about age, gender, signs of physical or psychological abuse, signs of sexual violence and signs of neglect. Completed assessments of child welfare risks and completed provisional protective measures in the respective reporting year are reported. Geographical data, information about the existence of a disability or information about other persons that allows conclusions to be drawn about a perpetrator-victim relationship are not mandatory to report. Statistical data is collected on the whereabouts of the child at the time of the final assessment of child welfare risk and before the start of protective measures. In addition, data is collected on whether other child and youth welfare services are used after the assessment of child welfare risk or the termination of protective measures.

Data collected in the ISBJ-SoPart IT specialist procedure on child and youth welfare statistics in accordance with SGB VIII is transmitted by the Berlin youth welfare offices to the Berlin-Brandenburg Statistics Office. In August of each year, the Federal Statistical Office publishes the data at federal state level for the previous year. The Berlin-Brandenburg Statistics Office publishes statistics for both federal states on its website.
Federal states available. [49]

12. Baden-Württemberg

In the area of specialist counselling centres and women's shelters, standardised reports on the use of funds and statistical forms on key figures relating to work with those affected must be completed.

As of 1 January 2024, the following offences

- Sexually motivated insults (Section 185 of the German Criminal Code)
- Sexually motivated defamation (Section 186 StGB)
- Sexually motivated slander (Section 187 StGB)

have been approved for recording as victim offences and can therefore be evaluated accordingly.

13. Brandenburg

Update of the state's women's shelter statistics in 2023 (including occupancy rate, special needs of women and children, origin, length of stay, reasons for non-admission and options for further placement, counselling, etc.). With the implementation of the Act to ensure access to protection and counselling for gender-specific and domestic violence (GewHG), a further adjustment of the women's shelter statistics is planned.

The Public Prosecutor General's Office of the State of Brandenburg is currently still using an old definition of domestic violence (“Close personal relationship between victim and perpetrator

[48] https://rtb-gesundheit.de/sites/rtb-gesundheit/files/2023-03/RTB%20Diskussionspapier%20Web.pdf
[49] https://www.statistik-berlin-brandenburg.de/).

within the framework of a domestic community or cohabitation existing at the time of the crime, regardless of the place of the crime, if one of the following charges is made: Sections 171, 174, 176, 176a, 176b, 177, 178, 179, 211, 212, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 235, 240, 241 StGB.”). However,
The definition is currently being revised in line with the Istanbul Convention. Implementation is to be carried out at the turn of the year with the adoption of the business distribution plans for 2026, as the change in the definition will have a significant impact on the organisation and internal structures of the public prosecutor's offices.

7. Please explain, if applicable, any developments since the adoption of the GREVIO baseline evaluation report on your country that enable the collection of disaggregated data:

a. the number of emergency protection and protection orders, the number of violations of these orders and the resulting sanctions;

b. the number of cases in which custody decisions have led to the restriction or withdrawal of parental responsibility because one parent was violent towards the other.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Brandenburg

FA: Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia, Bavaria, Rhineland-Palatinate (reference to question 8, p. 66), Saarland, Baden-Württemberg, Berlin

1. Hamburg

The Hamburg police do not keep statistics in line with the questions asked.

Emergency protection orders refer to all hazard prevention measures taken by the police that are based on state law. In Hamburg, the legal basis for these measures is provided by the Hamburg Security and Public Order Act (HmbSOG) and the Police Data Processing Act (PolDVG).

Protective orders are understood to be court orders under the Protection Against Violence Act. The question must be answered at federal level.

2. Hesse

Questions 7 and 57 are answered together due to their factual connection, insofar as statistics are concerned. For the rest, reference is made to the answer to question 57 and, in particular, to the attached tables (p. 413).

Protection against violence proceedings in family matters

In the nationwide statistics on proceedings in family matters, with regard to protection against violence proceedings, only the number of cases received and completed are recorded for the subjects of proceedings "Measures for protection against violence and stalking pursuant to Section 1 GewSchG" and "Transfer of residence pursuant to Section 2 GewSchG" – in each case according to the subject areas
"family matters" "interim orders", "remedial proceedings" and "civil partnership matters" – are reported separately.

With regard to the type of settlement, the Committee on Judicial Statistics decided at its meeting in 2019, with reference to the Council of Europe Convention of 11 May 2011 on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, to add two types of settlement for protection against violence proceedings (settlement by court-approved compromise pursuant to Section 214a FamFG and settlement by a measure pursuant to the Protection Against Violence Act) from 2020 onwards. However, these types of settlement are not evaluated separately according to the subject matter of the proceedings, but only for the subject areas "family matters", "interim orders", "remedial proceedings" and
"civil partnership matters" as a whole. This means, in particular, that, for example, in the case of

In the case of a settlement "by means of a measure under the Protection Against Violence Act", it cannot be determined whether this is a protection order under Section 1 of the Protection Against Violence Act, a transfer of residence under Section 2 of the Protection Against Violence Act or another measure – in some cases, proceedings may also be concluded with several measures. As in North Rhine-Westphalia and other federal states, data analysis has shown that the statistical recording of the above-mentioned types of resolution is highly likely to be inaccurate. In 2023, a total of 3,487 proceedings concerning measures for protection against violence and stalking pursuant to Section 1 GewSchG and 486 proceedings concerning the transfer of residential property pursuant to Section 2 GewSchG were concluded. However, of these proceedings, only 676 were concluded with the issuance of a measure under the Protection Against Violence Act and 93 with a court-approved settlement under Section 214a FamFG. From our perspective, the aforementioned types of resolution are likely to occur in a significantly larger number of cases. A comparable deviation can also be observed for the years 2020 to 2023. The division was therefore requested by decree of 23 November 2023 to ensure that the correct types of settlement are recorded in the proceedings concerned. In 2024, the number of proceedings settled by a measure under the Protection Against Violence Act increased slightly. It is not possible to assess whether these are now meaningful.

The reasons that led to a custody decision to restrict or withdraw parental custody are not recorded statistically. In the nationwide statistics, the subject matter "parental custody" covers all proceedings relating to parental custody, in particular proceedings under Sections 1617, 1626a, 1626c, 1628, 1630, 1631, 1666 to 1667, 1671, 1674, 1674a, 1678, 1680, 1681, 1687, 1687a,
1687b, 1688 BGB. No statistical records are kept of the reasons for decisions on access rights either, so no statement can be made in this regard.

Protection against violence proceedings in criminal matters

In the present statistics on proceedings in criminal matters – in accordance with the uniform federal regulation on the collection of statistical data in criminal and fine matters – no separate survey of offences related to domestic violence is carried out. These proceedings are recorded in various subject areas, such as
intentional bodily harm, offences against sexual self-determination.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Measures for protection against violence and stalking pursuant to Section 1 GewSchG (subject matter of the proceedings)	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**
New additions	392	447	478
Completed proceedings	399	455	459
Balance at the end of the reporting period	123	114	132
(Stock adjustment)			
The statistics differentiate the above-mentioned completed procedures by **subject area** as follows:	399	455	459
10 – Family matters, unless covered by subject areas 20 to 50	36	23	25
30 – Interim orders	363	432	434

The result is an increase in the number of cases. Violations of orders are not recorded here.

4. Saxony

For the area of justice, reference is again made to the information under II. E. of the state report for Germany on law enforcement statistics (from p. 12) and to the comments in the state contribution for Saxony (Appendix 3 from p. 44). There have been no changes. For the area of policing, it should be noted that
only partially recorded in the PKS. There has been a 13% increase in cases of domestic violence for 2023 compared to 2022.

5. Schleswig-Holstein

The number of emergency protection* and protection orders* and the number of violations of these orders are not available (*in valid form). Instead, the number of cases completed in proceedings under the Protection Against Violence Act (GewSchG) is reported here. No distinction is made according to the outcome of the proceedings (granting of the application, rejection, settlement).

Procedures: Main proceedings and summary proceedings (Sections 1 and 2 of the German Trade Secrets Act (GewSchG))

Subject areas	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
10 - Family matters	77	72	43	53	64
30 - single arrangement	1,937	1,783	1,848	2,073	2,052
30 - Complaints Interim orders	28	39	31	28	29

No data is available on the extent to which enforcement proceedings have been initiated for violations of protection orders against violence. However, data is available on convictions under the Protection Against Violence Act in criminal proceedings. A gender-specific breakdown is not possible here, as the number of female convicted persons is too small and therefore, for data protection reasons, only the total number can be reported.

Number of prison sentences/fines imposed on convicted persons under the GewSchG

Reporting year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	22	22	27	20

6. Lower Saxony

An expulsion order may be issued as part of the initial police intervention. An expulsion order is extended by 10 days after an application for a protection order has been filed (Section 17a (2) NPOG).

Violation of an expulsion order or removal order may be punished with a fine, monetary penalty or imprisonment of up to 2 years in accordance with Section 49a NPOG. Expulsion orders and removal orders cannot be represented via the PKS. They can only be represented as
"Measures" are recorded and researched in the data of the incoming statistics. However, there is no mandatory requirement to record police measures, which means that the data available does not provide a valid overview of the actual number of expulsion orders issued. The system cannot differentiate between expulsion orders pursuant to Section 17 NPOG and measures pursuant to Section 17a NPOG. It is therefore not possible to provide information on the number of measures pursuant to Section 17a NPOG alone.

The number of protection orders under the Protection Against Violence Act (GewSchG) is not recorded by the police, as these are issued by the locally competent district court.

Violations of emergency protection and protection orders recorded by the police are subsumed under offence code 720011 "Offences pursuant to Section 4 of the Protection Against Violence Act".

The figures for registered violations are neither valid nor meaningful, as the number of

violations reported to the police represents only a small proportion of the total number of cases.

The imposition of sanctions is the responsibility of the judiciary, which means that no statements can be made about the resulting sanctions.

See also the response to Art. 57, p. 424.

7. North Rhine-Westphalia

With regard to the number of urgent protection orders and protection orders, please refer to the response to question
I.6 (State Report 2020). The number of violations of protection orders or restraining orders and the resulting sanctions are not recorded in the judicial statistics. Nor is the number of cases in which custody decisions have led to the restriction or withdrawal of parental custody because one parent was violent towards the other. Although the F statistics record, among other things, to whom parental custody has been transferred, the content of decisions is not recorded in the judicial statistics as a matter of principle due to the nature of the statistics, so that it is not possible to determine
the reasons for the withdrawal of custody.

8. Bremen

The reason for the withdrawal or restriction of parental custody is not recorded statistically. Experience shows that such decisions are based on multiple factors. The answer to question 57 provides a detailed evaluation of the recorded violations (p. 426).

In addition to urgent protection and protective orders, there are other hazard prevention measures regulated by the Bremen Police Act (BremPolG). These include, among other things, expulsion from a location and expulsion from a residence. According to Section 11 BremPolG, the police may temporarily expel any person from a location or temporarily refuse them entry to a location if this is necessary to avert danger. According to Section 12 BremPolG, the police may also expel a person from a dwelling in which the endangered person lives, as well as from its immediate vicinity, and prohibit them from returning to this area in order to avert a danger to the life, limb or freedom of another person. The expulsion is for a maximum of
10 days. The measures may be limited to living quarters and adjoining rooms. The area to which the expulsion from the home and the prohibition on returning apply must be determined and precisely designated in accordance with the requirement of effective protection of the person at risk. This measure is used, for example, in the context of domestic violence
. Compliance with the measure should be reviewed at least once.

9. Brandenburg

There is no central statistical recording in the business area of the Ministry of Justice and Digitalisation of the Federal State of Brandenburg (MdJD).

At the Potsdam Local Court, the largest local court in the division of the President of the Higher Regional Court Brandenburg, there were in 2024

- regarding § 1 GewSchG: 72 proceedings (1x main proceedings, 71x summary proceedings)
- regarding § 2 GewSchG: 24 proceedings (1x main case, 23x urgent order).

In addition, there were 8 summary proceedings concerning the matrimonial home. It is not possible to determine whether these involved cases of protection against violence.

It is also not possible to determine in how many cases there were violations or whether and how these were sanctioned. The administrative fine procedure is not an independent procedure and is not recorded statistically. However, it is the exception rather than the rule.

8. Please provide information on the measures taken to enable cases of violence against women and domestic violence to be pursued from the reporting stage through to conviction at all stages of criminal investigation and court proceedings.

conviction at all stages of criminal prosecution and court proceedings.

Contributions: Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony-Anhalt, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, Bremen, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Hamburg, Hesse, Saxony (reference to 2020 country report), Bavaria, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, North Rhine-Westphalia

1. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

The different stages of the proceedings must be separated when answering this question: In the context of reporting a crime, it should be emphasised that violence against women and domestic violence are predominantly at least relative offences, meaning that when a crime is reported, the victim is given information and handed a criminal complaint form.

During the investigation stage, particularly in cases where there is an existing perpetrator-victim relationship that gives rise to a right to refuse to give evidence (e.g. spouses), an early judicial video interview of the victim is relevant and serves to ensure that the proceedings can continue if the victim is no longer able or willing to testify at a later date.

The right to refuse to give evidence also entitles the witness/victim to refuse to testify at a later stage of the proceedings, with the result that the minutes of any earlier police questioning may not be read out. In this case, a conviction is virtually impossible. However, a previous judicial video interview may also be introduced into the proceedings at a later stage if the right to refuse to give evidence is exercised. The introduction of the judicial video interview also spares the victim a stressful interrogation during the main hearing.

If the relevant conditions are met (risk of serious harm to health), it is also possible to conduct a spatially separate
or the defendant may be removed from the courtroom.

2. Saxony-Anhalt

With reference to the answer to question 1, please refer to the state police concept described there . Corresponding police measures (e.g. B. conversations with dangerous individuals, expulsions etc.) are recorded in the police case management system for each individual case.

3. Lower Saxony

The Federal Ministry of Justice had presented a draft bill for a Criminal Justice Statistics Act. This is also intended to create the possibility of longitudinal statistics. The legislative process has been discontinued and there is currently no information available on how it will proceed. Reference is made here to the existing legal provisions, in particular those of the Code of Criminal Procedure. However, as the question relates to federal law, it must be answered by the Federal Ministry of Justice.

Lower Saxony's "Guidelines for the police on dealing with domestic violence" (see above) contain detailed instructions and a standard portfolio of measures for police officers in the context of the initial response as well as for the subsequent police investigation.

In principle, all police officers are trained in dealing with victims of violence, with additional training available for officers working in the field of domestic violence.

In addition to welfare aspects, these also include the legal basis and options for offering victims case-specific and situation-appropriate support and protective measures. These include, among other things, providing information about further police measures, the possibility of obtaining a restraining order from the competent court, or the procedurally secure documentation of evidence of violence (including references to, for example, "ProBeweis"). As a matter of principle, victims are offered support and assistance.

4. Rhineland-Palatinate

To date, no measures have been implemented that are suitable for the continuous, complete statistical tracking of proceedings from the stage of reporting to conviction. Statistical recording is carried out separately for each stage of the criminal proceedings without any links between them. The police are responsible for recording crime statistics. Statistical recording of charges and convictions is the responsibility of the judiciary.

Confidential evidence collection after violent crimes (see question 1, p. 13) now also available in Rhineland-Palatinate: Rhineland-Palatinate is the eighth federal state to offer confidential evidence collection to women and men who have been affected by sexual and domestic violence, even if they have not yet filed a criminal complaint. The possibility of securing evidence independently of legal proceedings, which will apply retroactively from 1 January 2025, represents an active and important contribution to victim protection in Rhineland-Palatinate. Victims of violence will thus have the opportunity to decide in peace and at a distance from the crime whether they wish to file a complaint without the evidence of the crime being lost. To this end, the Ministry of Science and Health, together with the Ministry of Family, Women, Integration and Culture, the statutory health insurance funds and the Institute of Legal Medicine at Mainz University Medical Centre, has concluded an agreement to cover the costs of confidential evidence collection after violent crimes in accordance with Section 132k of the German Social Code, Book V (SGB V). The state government's goal is to cooperate with an initial 12 clinics throughout Rhineland-Palatinate in order to be able to offer confidential evidence collection as comprehensively as possible and thus close to home. For documentation that can be used in court, the victims are physically examined and, depending on the case, traces on the body may also be secured. Injuries are photographed . All findings are manipulated and
stored in a secure manner and can be requested in the event of a complaint and release from confidentiality and used in criminal proceedings.

5. Bremen

In Bremen, it is not yet possible to prosecute all cases of violence against women and domestic violence from the time of reporting to conviction.

Cases classified as high-risk can be followed up by the police: In 2022, the police forces in Bremen and Bremerhaven introduced the service instructions "Risk assessment for individual risk (VS-nfD)" (Bremen) and "Service instructions for dealing with domestic violence and the management of high-risk cases" (Bremerhaven). These service instructions regulate the procedures for risk management, which are specifically applied in cases of domestic violence. Since then, such cases have been handled according to established procedures that aim to identify risks at an early stage and initiate targeted protective measures for those affected. An essential component of the service instructions is the structured approach to hazard prevention measures, which are specifically geared towards the specific risks associated with domestic violence. Particular attention is paid to the interlinking of internal police areas of responsibility. In addition, cooperation with other governmental and non-governmental agencies is being intensified to ensure coordinated and targeted case handling.

The multi-stage model for assessing the risk situation, which is described in detail in question 48 (p. 363), ensures a binding and transparent process for
domestic violence. The aim of this model is to identify high-risk cases of domestic violence at an early stage

so that measures can be initiated immediately to prevent acts of violence in existing or separated partnerships.

Detailed information on the measures and guidelines followed by the Bremen police in cases of violence against women can be found in the following questions.

6. Berlin

Particularly in cases where there is an individual risk – which is regularly the case with domestic violence – the officers handling the case maintain close contact with the victims of violence as part of risk management, from the filing of a report to court proceedings and, in some circumstances, beyond. This allows the existing risk situation to be continuously assessed and evaluated and, if necessary, measures to avert danger or criminal proceedings to be initiated. For this purpose, the police information and communication system (POLIKS) has a special application that can be used to enter and retrieve up-to-date information on the facts of the case and the risk situation. The victims are informed about the implementation of risk prevention and criminal proceedings that could
impact on the existing threat situation.

7. Baden-Württemberg

Effective criminal prosecution is ensured in Baden-Württemberg through numerous measures and instruments.

For example, the majority of public prosecutor's offices in Baden-Württemberg have special departments for prosecuting crimes in the area of domestic violence, as specified in their respective case distribution plans. In smaller public prosecutor's offices, focused and therefore effective processing is ensured by assigning cases to a specific investigation department.

In addition, psychosocial support during proceedings and witness support help to assist affected women in criminal proceedings. This is a special form of non-legal support in criminal proceedings for particularly vulnerable victims before, during and after the main hearing. Its aim is to reduce the stress associated with criminal proceedings for victims and, in the best case scenario, to prevent their secondary victimisation. In addition to providing information, it includes qualified care and support during criminal proceedings, particularly in the context of contact with authorities and direct confrontation with the alleged perpetrator, for example during interrogations and the main hearing. Under certain legal conditions, it is also available free of charge to victims of serious cases of domestic violence. The coordination office for psychosocial trial support set up at PräventSozial gGmbH also contributes to further strengthening this institution in Baden-Württemberg. It received annual funding of €75,000 in 2022 and subsequent years. This state-wide office is responsible for professional quality development as well as networking and coordination tasks. Victims from all over the state can contact the PräventSozial coordination office for assistance with court proceedings. From there, a
forwarding the case to the locally responsible legal aid officers.

8. Brandenburg

Within the framework of protective police measures, a qualified initial response combined with high standards in the course of filing criminal charges is guaranteed. No adjustments were required in connection with the conduct of investigations. The possibilities for audiovisual questioning were expanded. In the future, a new law on criminal justice statistics could ensure that meaningful data is available for various stages of criminal proceedings – from the criminal investigation procedure to the criminal court decision to the execution of the sentence. (Draft

law on federal criminal justice statistics[50]).

The proceedings are handled by the public prosecutor's offices of the state of Brandenburg in special departments in accordance with the definition described in question 6 (p. 60). The Joint Legal Examination Office of the states of Berlin and Brandenburg (GJPA) regularly offers further
training for judges and public prosecutors in the area of "domestic violence".

50 https://www.bmj.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Gesetzgebung/RefE/RefE_StrafStatG.pdfation?blob=publicationFile&v=2

Part II: Information on the implementation of selected provisions in priority areas of prevention, protection and prosecution of criminal offences

Article 12: General obligations

9. Please provide information on all primary prevention measures aimed at changing attitudes and mindsets towards violence against women and reducing women's vulnerability to gender-based violence:

a. Measures that challenge dangerous gender stereotypes and prejudices, customs and traditions based on the idea that women are inferior;

b. Measures aimed at addressing the increased risk of gender-based violence for women and girls who are at risk of intersectional discrimination;

c. Measures that encourage all members of society, including men and boys, to actively contribute to the prevention of all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention and to promote the empowerment of women and girls in all areas of life, in particular their participation in politics at all levels and in the labour market.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

1. Hamburg

The violence protection concept provides for numerous measures to prevent violence against women and domestic violence, thereby increasing the protection of women and girls affected by or threatened with violence.

In the area of strengthening civil society, the Hamburg Social Authority has been supporting the preventive **boys' project** comMIT!ment since 2017. The project successfully pursues the goal of establishing a sustainable network of young peers who are encouraged to work towards equal coexistence of all genders and the dismantling of patriarchal structures and the violence associated with them.

The Social Welfare Authority also supports the preventive **StoP projects** "Neighbourhoods without Partner Violence" (StoP). The project activates neighbourhoods and creates a climate in which residents are sensitised to domestic violence and its consequences and encouraged not to look away, but to openly confront violence. The StoP projects are growing steadily in Hamburg, beyond Hamburg and throughout Germany.[52]

In implementation of the Istanbul Convention and to identify (further) areas where action is needed, the social services authority also conducted a broad participatory process from 2020 to 2022, the expert dialogue
"Violence against women" with experts from Hamburg's violence protection support services (see also answer to question 15, p. 167). One of the expert dialogues dealt with the
the topic of prevention and developed numerous recommendations for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the area of prevention. The recommendations were

[51] https://www.jungenarbeit.info/unsere-angebote/commitment
[52] https://stop-partnergewalt.org/

and incorporated into the violence protection concept.

One of the recommendations of the expert dialogue was to continue promoting high-profile campaigns against violence.

In 2024, the Senate launched a **high-profile campaign** entitled "600 minutes of extra time – real men seek help".[54] The well-known Hamburg sports club (HSV) was recruited as a strong partner. The campaign was aimed explicitly at men who were perpetrators or potential perpetrators of domestic violence and included, among other things, an eye-catching advertisement on the stadium screen, a subsequent presentation of the campaign at the HSV press conference, city-wide poster advertising and poster advertising on public transport throughout Hamburg, a social media campaign and, last but not least, a landing page to which interested parties were redirected via a barcode, offering them the opportunity to seek help. The campaign met with a broad response.

Training measures in the form of specialist conferences, advanced training courses and the development of recommendations for action continue to be important drivers for the establishment of cooperative, interdisciplinary intervention. Interdisciplinary specialist publications are updated and revised as necessary – such as the 2022 revision of the guidelines on intervention and support in cases of female genital mutilation[55] or the district working aid for the ASD on child protection in cases of domestic violence.[56]

In addition, the Hamburg Senate's Gender Equality Framework Programme (GPR), introduced in 2013, was updated in January 2023. [57] The GPR forms the basis for gender equality policy work in Hamburg and is regularly evaluated and updated. It sets out measures aimed, among other things, at breaking down gender-stereotypical role expectations and creating equal participation for women and men.

In 2024, for example, the relaunch of the website and an accompanying poster campaign by PINKSTINKS e.V. were financed as part of a funding guideline for the GPR. PINKSTINKS provides advice on gender equality, sexism and overcoming gender stereotypes.

In September 2024, a dialogue forum on the topic of "Multiple Discrimination against Women" was held with approximately 100 participants and experts. It aimed to facilitate an exchange on the topic, learn about practical examples and sensitise participants to intersectional perspectives.

In November 2024, "My Protectify" received the IDEA – Innovation in Digital Equality Award from the Hamburg Senate and with it financial support for the further development of the project. "My Protectify" is a multilingual and interactive AI tool that offers victims of domestic violence low-threshold access to individual information and contact points via a web interface or messenger.
to individual information and contact points via a web interface or messenger service. [58]

[53] https://www.hamburg.de/politik-und-verwaltung/behoerden/sozialbehoerde/themen/soziales/opferschutz/uebersicht-48526 [54] https://www.hamburg.de/politik-und-administration/authorities/social-services/topics/social-services/victim-protection/together-without-violence/campaign-600-minutes-extra-time-980762
[55] https://www.hamburg.de/politik-und-verwaltung/behoerden/sozialbehoerde/themen/soziales/opferschutz/weibliche-genitalverstuemmelung-37194
[56] https://www.hamburg.de/politik-und-verwaltung/behoerden/schulbehoerde/familie/kinderschutz/haeusliche-gewalt-37170
[57] https://www.hamburg.de/resource/blob/195146/d6e9034bf04a4d2a5af89693fd2a0939/2023-01-17-gpr-data.pdf
[58] https://myprotectify.org/

For information on prevention in schools and in the context of vocational training, please refer to the responses to Article 14 (Education) (p. 95).

The Hamburg police force has participated in the "Orange the World – Stop Violence Against Women" campaign and installed orange benches in front of police stations as part of the "Stop Violence Against Women" campaign.

At the 221st meeting of the Conference of Interior Ministers (IMK, 19-21 June 2024), the Ministry of the Interior and Sport supported agenda item 35 on the topic of "Implementation of the Istanbul Convention – Improving protection against violence". As a result of this proposed resolution, the Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ) has since presented a draft bill for a law to improve the protection of victims of violence in family court proceedings, to strengthen legal representation and to amend other procedural rules. In addition, the BMI agreed that mandatory participation in a so-called perpetrator work programme can contribute significantly to the protection of those affected. To this end, there has already been close consultation with the BMJ, which is responsible for the Protection Against Violence Act. A corresponding amendment to the Protection Against Violence Act is to be made.

2. Hesse

on a)

In 2023, the state of Hesse launched the high-profile **campaign** "...and what are you doing?" The campaign, with its six motifs, aims to raise awareness among the general population about various types of violence against women, highlight imbalances in the debate on violence against women and encourage civil courage. The campaign motifs are available for download free of charge in many formats on the homepage of the Hesse Ministry of Labour, Integration, Youth and Social Affairs. The motifs are also available in various languages. The campaign also includes a flyer with recommendations for action.

Since 2019, the state of Hesse has been supporting the "2RegionsNetwork – Hesse Specialist Centres against Violence in the Name of 'Honour', Tradition or Faith". The "2RegionenNetzwerk" is an association of specialist counselling centres in Hesse that provide counselling and prevention services on violence in the name of 'honour', tradition or faith. By establishing a state-wide network of cooperation and developing common working standards, access for those affected, case-related cooperation and awareness of the problem among the general and specialist public are improved.

Re b)

The focus of the project funded annually by the state of Hesse during the period in question "Model regions for Hesse – Advice for me! Local advice! Proactive advice for women and girls with disabilities" is the development of a counselling service for protection against violence that is interlinked with the **support system for disability assistance and self-help for people with disabilities**. As part of the project, municipal concepts are being developed to make existing knowledge on inclusive and gender-sensitive counselling available to the counselling landscape and to make it more inclusive and accessible for people with disabilities seeking advice.

Every two years, the state of Hesse awards the Elisabeth Selbert Prize in recognition of outstanding achievements in establishing and further developing equal opportunities for women and men. The award honours women and men who have made outstanding

[59] https://unwomen.de/orange-the-world/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=grants&gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIyfjL3ou0jAMVOjAGAB2NFjLuEAAYASAAEgJ0K_D_BwE

[60] https://soziales.hessen.de/frauen/hilfe-bei-gewalt/und-was-tust-du

who have contributed to the realisation of equality between women and men in society through their achievements and creative power. This also includes combating gender-based violence.

Re c)

Since 2020, the state of Hesse has been promoting the development and further refinement of the **online tool #1coolermove**. This tool is designed specifically for schools, school social work and youth social work to work with young people on discrimination and its various forms and to promote communication about possible solutions. The tool illustrates examples of exclusion, bullying, discrimination and moral courage on topics such as sexism, racism, homophobia and violence.

In workshops, educational professionals are sensitised to the various forms of discrimination and trained to use #1coolermove as an educational tool in their pedagogical work. In addition, multiplier training courses are held at various locations in Hesse.
training courses are held at various locations in Hesse.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Relevant primary prevention measures are being implemented in particular in the following departments of the state government of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania:

As part of its funding activities, the State Council for Crime Prevention[61] in the Ministry of the Interior supports various projects that draw attention to the right to one's own body and, in particular, teach children to say "no" with self-confidence, e.g. "My body belongs to me!" The interdisciplinary working group on victim protection of the State Council for Crime Prevention regularly organises interdisciplinary victim protection conferences.

Within the remit of the Ministry of Science, Culture, Federal and European Affairs, the key points for higher education development[62]stipulate that universities must take a stand against abuse of power, sexual discrimination, sexual harassment and violence, formulate appropriate measures and implement them at universities.

From the perspective of the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the federal integration course makes an important contribution to primary prevention, also with regard to the teaching of values in the areas of equality, tolerance and religious freedom. With its diverse modules on fundamental rights, the orientation course in particular can make a preventive contribution to the prevention of violence against women and girls.

For newly arrived refugees in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Sport (Ministry of Social Affairs)
immediately after their arrival in their language of origin, offering concise information on the essential basics of cultural coexistence in Germany and thus contributing to the teaching of values. In addition, the federal and state migration advice centres are early points of contact for
initial integration and can provide advice and referrals for any questions relating to gender-based violence.

4. Saxony

Reference is made to the LAP IK (cf. 1.) for the overall strategy of the Free State of Saxony. Chapter 2.2 summarises all planned prevention measures to be implemented over the next six years.

The following statement is made on this issue with regard to **children and young people**:

[61] https://www.kriminalpraevention-mv.de/Landesrat/
[62] See printed paper of the State Parliament of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, p. 37.

The Free State has no systematic knowledge of primary prevention measures for children and young people. The organisation of child and youth welfare in accordance with SGB VIII is a mandatory municipal task that is not subject to instruction. Within this framework, the districts and independent cities, as local providers of public youth welfare services, are responsible for the overall fulfilment of tasks, including planning and financing, in accordance with
Section 79 in conjunction with Section 85 (a) SGB VIII. At the state level, the Free State supports the Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Mädchen* und junge Frauen* in Sachsen e. V. (State Working Group for Girls* and Young Women* in Saxony) and the LAG Jungen- und Männerarbeit Sachsen e. V. (State Working Group for Boys* and Men* in Saxony), which raise awareness of gender-reflective perspectives. In the area of formal education (schools), a wide range of measures are in place to promote life skills and prevent violence, which include the objectives for implementing the Istanbul Convention. Offers for schools are available online[63].

The following statement is made for the **adult** sector:

Specifically, the LAP IK provides for measures to raise awareness of IK issues among the general public and to promote equal and respectful coexistence.

In addition, the funded organisations and regional networks of the existing violence protection infrastructure are doing important work on the ground. Examples include the travelling exhibition "Die Wut ist weiblich" (Anger is female) by Rosa Engel or lectures by a specialist counselling centre on the topic of "Catcalling – verbal sexual harassment", which are aimed at the general public.

In Saxony, there are also various initiatives concerned with the prevention and combating of female genital mutilation (FGM). SAIDA International e.V. is committed to educating and supporting those affected in central Germany with its SAIDA mobil project, offering mobile counselling services and training specialists.

The issue of intersectionality cannot be considered in isolation, which is why it has been anchored in one of the three cross-cutting objectives of the State Action Plan (Objective 2 LAP IK). This cross-cutting objective is to be taken into account in the implementation of all objectives and measures.

In addition, since 2024, the "Intersectional Competence Centre for Protection against Violence", based at the umbrella organisation of migrant women's organisations (DaMigra), has been receiving funding (see 5.). The centre of expertise is intended to pool in-depth knowledge on the specific needs of people affected by violence with an intersectional risk profile and proactively share this knowledge with institutions in the support system for domestic, gender-based and sexualised violence. The competence centre is also developing a culturally sensitive strategy for reaching migrant communities in Saxony. In addition, the training of so-called community trainers as multipliers is to be expected, who are to gain access to the communities as peer counsellors in the spirit of prevention.

In addition, the funded organisations and regional networks of the existing violence protection infrastructure are involved in a variety of ways at the local level. Examples include the self-efficacy courses offered by the intervention and coordination centres for combating gender-based violence against women and domestic violence, as well as specialised counselling centres for sexualised violence, which are primarily aimed at empowering
women.

5. Saxony-Anhalt on

a)

The state-funded **projects of the protection and support system** for women affected by domestic or gender-based violence provide counselling,

[63] www.unterstuetzung-sachsen.de, www.pit.sachsen.de

accompaniment, empowerment and a wide range of other support for affected women, they make an essential contribution to recognising, questioning and breaking down existing power structures. The tasks of the institutions in the protection and support system, as laid down in guidelines and funding decisions, include encouraging those affected to find their own ways out of traditional patterns or to assert themselves against dangerous structures and prejudices. In doing so, existing networks are used or new ones established to counter the narrative of women's inferiority. The women affected are given the opportunity to realise their own possibilities and paths and to decide for themselves on future courses of action.

In 2024, the **Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Equality** took part in various high-profile awareness-raising campaigns to raise awareness of the issue of violence against women. Among other things, it supported the One Billion Rising events on 14 February in Saxony-Anhalt.

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November 2024 and the subsequent "Orange Days", the members of the Statewide Network for a Life without Violence organised a variety of campaigns and events to draw attention to the issue of violence against women. In particular, the traditional memorial service in the Saxony-Anhalt state parliament, which is organised annually in cooperation with the State Women's Council, attracts a high level of political attention.

Since 2023, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Equality has awarded the annual State Equality Prize to recognise outstanding commitment to gender justice and equality between women and men. In this context,
, among other things, projects and initiatives that are committed to ending gender-based violence are also honoured.

An important component of **police prevention work** is preventive public relations work to educate and raise awareness about domestic and gender-based violence and the options for help. To this end, the state's own media and existing media from the Police Crime Prevention Programme (ProPK) are also used regularly.

Re b)

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Equality has been supporting the SAIDA International e.V. project since December 2023. The project includes counselling services for women and girls affected by or at risk of genital mutilation, as well as institutions and authorities (e.g. medical/educational staff, refugee aid workers, counselling centres, migration associations, police, youth and social services, etc.). It also provides expert opinions/assessments that are important for the further care and treatment of those affected. Referral counselling is also planned. In addition, the project offers workshops on sexual and reproductive rights as well as training courses for professionals in social and health work, migration and refugee aid, and in offices and authorities (see also question 5, p. 47).

Re c)

The Saxony-Anhalt State Women's Council (LFR) is a non-profit umbrella organisation for women's organisations and associations as well as women's groups within mixed organisations in Saxony-Anhalt. It is non-partisan and non-denominational, committed to the interests of women in the state, and acts as a mouthpiece and mediator for their concerns. Its tasks also include promoting the empowerment of women and girls in all areas of life, in particular their participation in politics and the labour market. To this end, the LFR organises events, press and public relations work, and contributes to a wide range of state committees on these issues. As the tasks of the LFR are in the
are in the state's interest and are of political significance, institutional funding is provided for an administrative office. In the reporting period 2022-25, this amounted to:

2022 185,200 euros

2023 223,000 euros

2024 237,200 euros

2025 251,800

The funding of projects and activities aimed at empowering women and changing social and cultural behaviour patterns (Articles 4, 6 and 12(1) IK), particularly in rural areas, will continue during the ESF+ funding period. EUR 6.67 million is available for projects aimed at initiating social change by strengthening the social and political participation of women in Saxony-Anhalt. The measures serve to reflect on and reduce gender stereotypes in the career orientation and life planning of girls and young women. The aim is to open up educational, career and life prospects in order to ensure independent livelihoods and lay the foundations for emancipated lifestyles, counteracting the exodus of young, qualified women and promoting gender equality in Saxony-Anhalt. In addition, one area of action is explicitly aimed at young, single mothers without vocational qualifications. These women are supported in their particular life situation and prepared for qualified vocational training.

Gender-equitable **education for boys** contributes significantly to the prevention of violence and discrimination and promotes an equal and respectful society. In 2024, the Saxony-Anhalt Competence Centre for Gender-Equitable Child and Youth Welfare offered various projects and training courses on this topic[64].

The Saxony-Anhalt State Working Group for Girls and Young Women has been in existence since 14 October 1996. It is a working group in accordance with Section 78 of Social Code VIII. Its objectives, tasks and working methods are laid down in its rules of procedure.

6. Schleswig-Holstein

Schools

The protection of pupils from violence is already an integral part of school prevention work in Schleswig-Holstein. The basis for this is provided by Section 4 (11) of the School Act:

"In order to protect the mental and physical integrity of pupils, the school has a prevention and intervention concept in place, particularly with regard to dangers associated with sexual, psychological and physical violence, to generally strengthen and support the personal development of pupils, and to implement structural measures for dealing with imminent and existing dangers to the welfare of children."

The school prevention and intervention concepts consist of various components. These include the "contact points" component, i.e. schools provide a contact person for questions and offers of help on the subject of violence, among other things.

State Prevention Council

As part of its efforts to promote projects for the protection of women in recent years (2022-2024), the State Prevention Council (LPR) has provided financial support for a number of so-called "self-assertion courses" as part of its promotion of projects for the protection of women in recent years (2022-2024); furthermore, in 2025, the
"Federal Conference of Intervention Centres against Domestic Violence" in Kiel in 2025

[64] https://www.geschlechtergerechtejugendhilfe.de
[65] https://lvwa.sachsen-anhalt.de/das-lvwa/landesjugendamt/kinder-und-jugend/jugend/jugendarbeit/geschlechtsspezifische-jugendarbeit

.

Re a)

Gender mainstreaming method

With the strategy of the state of Schleswig-Holstein for gender equality, all departments have committed themselves to determining the equality goals of specialist projects using the gender mainstreaming method. One of the aims is to avoid or break down stereotypes in all areas of specialist policy. In public relations work, women and men should be portrayed in the diversity of different life situations. Women and men must be made visible in texts in which persons are referred to or addressed. To this end, it is recommended that women and men be explicitly named and that neutral formulations, where they exist, be used for the sake of better readability.

State Office for Immigration and Refugees

These measures include training courses for people working in state accommodation (especially for employees who have contact with residents) on forms of violence, gender-based violence, values and principles of conduct (equality, inclusion, participation, non-violence, etc.). A call for tenders for a training service that organises all training courses at regular intervals is currently in progress.

Re b)

Competence centre against gender-based violence

A key instrument for implementing the Istanbul Convention in Schleswig-Holstein is the Competence Centre against Gender-Based Violence. With the participation of professional specialist institutions, the Competence Centre pools existing and new expertise in the state and raises awareness of the causes and consequences of structural violence against girls and women in all areas of society.

The focus is particularly on violence prevention. Two specific measures, PRÄVIO and OMÄGA, are currently being promoted in this area.

The "Prävio – Prevention in Organisations" project brings together expertise on gender-based violence and organisational consulting in Schleswig-Holstein and offers professional support and advice for individual prevention measures. The focus is on counselling and training on sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace. (For training opportunities, see Appendix Table 2 > PRÄVIO)

The project "Netzwerk OMÄGA" (OMÄGA Network) – For a society without male violence aims to make gender-reflective work with boys and men a natural part of the social infrastructure in order to enable boys/men to find non-violent solutions to problems. Six regional conferences and free training courses for multipliers are planned in Schleswig-Holstein for 2025.

The topics of safety and protection from (further) violence are also addressed at the competence centre (e.g. high-risk management). An intersectional approach is taken into account in the further development and formulation of new measures.

State Office for Immigration and Refugees

Here, too, training courses on various vulnerabilities and the increased risk of discrimination in the context of intersectionality, as well as training courses on procedures for dealing with various forms of violence, are intended to sensitise the respective staff to the increased risk of gender-based violence for women and girls who are exposed to the risk of intersectional discrimination.

The protection concept of the State Office for Immigration and Refugees provides for appropriate training courses. External service providers working in state accommodation facilities
are contractually obliged to comply with the protection concept. A mandatory

Participation by employees of the State Office is planned.

Re c)

OMÄGA network project – for a society without male violence

The state supports the "OMÄGA" network – for a society without male violence – with a focus on violence prevention work with boys and men. The aim of the project is to develop state-wide training and counselling structures.

State Office for Immigration and Refugees

The protection concept provides for opportunities for all residents to participate, e.g. through residents' councils. Residents' councils must reflect the diversity of those seeking protection in terms of gender, origin, religion, marital status and disabilities. In addition, no more than half of the participants may be male. Age-appropriate opportunities for children and young people to participate must be taken into account. The protection concept provides for house rules with reference to non-violence and equal rights for all people. The house rules
are handed out to residents, explained and receipt is confirmed.

7. Thuringia

on a)

Act now: annual media information since 2022 on forms of domestic violence and support services in Thuringia by the State Equal Opportunities Officer together with the municipal equal opportunities officers[66].

Travelling exhibition against sexism in everyday language and easy language since November 2024 by the Thuringian Coordination Office for the Istanbul Convention.

The Commissioner for Gender Equality of the Free State of Thuringia regularly provides information on the status of gender equality as part of her public relations and press work.

To this end, it regularly organises readings that focus on gender equality, question traditional role models and offer opportunities for discussion on how to implement gender equality in Thuringia. In 2024, Stephanie Lohaus read from her book "Stärker als Wut" (Stronger than Anger), and in 2023, Marlen Hobrack was invited to present her book "Klassenbeste" (Top of the Class). In 2022, Mareike Fallwickl presented her novel "Die Wut, die bleibt" (The Anger That Remains) as part of the Erfurt Autumn Reading Festival.

Furthermore, the Commissioner for Gender Equality uses promotional materials, such as flyers for display, to communicate current gender equality policy challenges, e.g. with regard to the distribution of care and educational work or the mental load on women, for example during the Christmas season.

The idea that women are inferior is legally and factually excluded for universities as public institutions. In their mission statements or other strategy papers (structural and development planning), all universities are committed to equal opportunities and non-discrimination.

The state of Thuringia promotes various measures for initial orientation, value transfer and counselling through its project funding guideline on integration. General offerings such as language cafés or empowerment events for women aim to counteract widespread prejudices and values that perpetuate misogynistic worldviews. These formats offer participants safe spaces to exchange ideas
discuss everyday life, work and personal problems. Referrals to special services and offers can then be made. One example is the project

[66] www.handle-jetzt.de
[67] https://gemeinsam-gegen-sexismus.de/ausstellung/

"Counselling and integration of migrant families with a special focus on women and children travelling alone" by the Protestant Church District of Erfurt. In addition, there are other similar services with a low-threshold approach that receive project funding through the Integration Project Funding Guideline.

Regarding b)

Thuringia's action plan for implementing the UN CRPD focuses on strengthening and empowering women and girls with disabilities to stand up for their rights and needs. To this end, the Commissioner for Gender Equality offered self-assertion courses for women in workshops for people with disabilities in 2018 and 2019, as well as in 2023 after a pandemic-related break. Women who took part in these courses felt visibly empowered to stand up for their boundaries and defend themselves in an emergency.

The majority of universities have issued or are working on guidelines for protection against discrimination, harassment and violence. Universities are committed to raising awareness of the issue, taking preventive measures and establishing adequate intervention options.

Regarding c)

The services and measures for educators (teachers, educators, special education specialists, teaching assistants, etc.) aim to provide further training on Thuringia's child protection concept – a protection concept against sexualised violence. Every school is required to develop a protection concept by the end of 2027. The services are provided on an ongoing basis for all schools as part of this process.

All training events within the framework of the qualification of educational leaders in Thuringia are based on the concept of the Ministry responsible for education for the qualification of educational leaders in schools (as of 13 January 2020) to directly or indirectly change attitudes and mindsets towards violence against women and reduce the risk of gender-based violence against women.

Concept of the Ministry responsible for education for the qualification of educational leaders in schools:

- Training for educational leadership is based on humanistic and democratic values. A democratic school culture promotes participation and shared responsibility. Educational principles such as maturity, mutual recognition, independence, the ability to cooperate, and democratic values such as self-determination, self-efficacy, participation, equality and tolerance are fundamental.
- As part of the programme of events offered by the State Agency for Civic Education, readings, workshops and similar events are held regularly with various cooperation partners to raise awareness of the topic.
- The work of the police in crime prevention takes place primarily in the area of secondary prevention. The police support actors in primary prevention through mutual mediation and, where necessary, by providing police expertise.

The Wartburgkreis district successfully applied for the project "Action Programme for Local Authorities – Women in Politics", which is funded by the BMFSFJ. The aim of the project, which will run from June 2022 to May 2023, is to get women in the Wartburgkreis district interested in local politics. This is considered essential for the future-oriented creation of equal living conditions, especially in rural areas.

The state government of the 7th legislative period had set itself the task of promoting career opportunities for

[68] https://www.gleichstellungsbeauftragte-thueringen.de/gleichstellungspolitik/frauen-mit-behinderungen

women in Thuringia and advocated for the introduction of a pay transparency law at the federal level. The Pay Transparency Act has been in force nationwide since 2017. With the new EU Directive (EU) 2023/970, the Pay Transparency Act must be amended by June 2026.

The new state government of the 8th legislative period intends to continue its efforts to promote the Pay Transparency Act and to support initiatives that promote career choices free of stereotypes (Klischeefrei, Girls' Day and Boys' Day, and the YouCodeGirls initiative).

In Thuringia, there is still a project financed by the Free State of Thuringia with funds from the European Social Fund Plus to support female entrepreneurs (ThEx FRAUENSACHE). The aim is to promote female entrepreneurship in Thuringia and increase the visibility of female entrepreneurs and businesswomen.

The Franz Liszt University of Music Weimar (HfM) is cited as an example. Due to the nature of the profession and the individual lessons that take place, there is a specific risk of abuse of power – not only towards women. For this reason, students at the HfM have founded the independent working group Awareness. It campaigns against all forms of discrimination in everyday life at the university and for respectful treatment, a constructive feedback culture and against abuse of power. To this end, it is in dialogue with the university management and those involved in equality and diversity. At the same time, it acts as a counselling centre for students by students. The university has placed an emergency button on its homepage. [69] The university management of the HfM is in discussion with university members and staff on the subject [70] and also offers events on the topic of closeness and distance. For example, on 9 and 10 May 2025, a public lecture and an internal university workshop will take place, which will focus on
explore the practical application of intimacy coordination in (musical) theatre and in teaching.

8. Bavaria

The Bavarian State Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Affairs supports projects against sexualised violence, such as the "EmpowerHer" conference, which raises awareness of this issue among girls and young women and addresses the consequences of sexualised violence, recommendations for action and support services.

In addition, funding projects such as "Demokratie on tour" (Democracy on Tour) (organised by LAG Mädchen- und Frauenpolitik Bayern e.V.) motivate and support women to actively defend their interests and rights and become politically involved.

In order to improve women's opportunities in **the labour market** and enable them to realise their potential in working life, the Bavarian State Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Affairs also supports projects through the Bavarian Labour Market Fund that offer career development and advancement opportunities.

The website "Jede anders stark!" [72]showcases female role models who can inspire other women, but also men.

The StMAS supports the Klischeefrei initiative for career choices without role stereotypes.

[69] https://www.hfm-weimar.de/hochschule/notsituationen
[70] https://www.hfm-weimar.de/berichten/pressemitteilungen/detailansicht?tx_jobase_pi2%5Baction%5D=news&tx_jobase_pi2%5Bcontroller%5D=Elements&tx_jobase_pi2%5BjoNewsDetail%5D=2098&tx_jobase_pi2%5BjoRefererId%5D=580&cHash=5f63cad76e1df9d26194efa02ae5665b
[71] https://www.hfm-weimar.de/hochschule/detailansicht?tx_jobase_pi2%5Baction%5D=news&tx_jobase_pi2%5Bcontroller%5D=Elements&tx_jobase_pi2%5BjoNewsDetail%5D=2296&tx_jobase_pi2%5BjoRefererId%5D=580&cHash=a065d6f074953111dd4673740e5a6ec4
[72] www.bayerns-frauen.de

In accordance with their constitutional mandate in Article 131 of the Constitution of the Free State of Bavaria, Bavarian schools focus on the holistic personal development of young people. One of the primary educational goals is to educate young people to become responsible, value-oriented, socially competent and cosmopolitan individuals who take on responsibility in the state, society and family.

Political education and education in democracy and values are established as interdisciplinary educational goals in all types of schools in Bavaria in the Lehrplan-PLUS [73]curriculum and are a fundamental principle of all educational work.

This also includes addressing cultural diversity as well as gender roles and gender identity. That is why imparting knowledge and reflecting on these topics is also essential in Bavarian classrooms. According to Article 48 of the Bavarian Education and Teaching Act (BayEUG), family and sex education are among the tasks of schools, without prejudice to the natural right of parents to educate their children. Due to the sensitivity of this topic, the specific framework for family and sex education in Bavarian schools is set out in guidelines [74] that are binding for all teachers in public schools in Bavaria and are also decisive in the development of curricula

9. Lower Saxony

Insofar as this also concerns the prevention of paedophilia and sexual abuse, reference should be made to the funding of two MHH projects by the state of Lower Saxony. EUR 210,000 is available annually for this purpose. Of this, just under EUR 100,000 is allocated to the Paedophilia Dark Field Prevention Project (PPD). This project provides services to adults for the prevention of crimes based on paedophilic tendencies through personalised therapies (financed by the statutory health insurance system) and non-personalised information, knowledge and (further) development services as well as networking (financed by the state of Lower Saxony). The MHH receives EUR 110,000 annually for the prevention project to prevent sexual assaults by children, adolescents and young people (PBdSJ).

Prevention campaign "Did you hear that too?"

The implementation of measures to raise awareness of violence against women and domestic violence is one of the IK's key demands. Against this backdrop, the Domestic Violence Coordination Office at the Lower Saxony State Prevention Council has teamed up with the MS to develop the prevention campaign "Did you hear that too?". Under the motto "An attentive neighbourhood is the best prevention", the campaign raises awareness of the issue of domestic violence and provides tips on how to deal with domestic violence in one's own neighbourhood. The information provided by the campaign is available in various languages.

Pilot project to adapt the Swiss prevention programme "Herzsprung"

The Lower Saxony State Prevention Council (LPR) has received funding from the political list for the implementation of a pilot project on the prevention of violence in teenage relationships in the 2024 financial year. The aim of the project is to prepare the adaptation of the Swiss prevention programme "Herzsprung – Friendship, Love, Sexuality without Violence" in Lower Saxony and to create the conditions for a state-wide implementation of the programme. The programme serves to promote relationship skills and respectful and non-violent behaviour in couple relationships for young people between the ages of 14 and 18. In the long term, the Lower Saxony State Prevention Council aims to implement the programme statewide. The programme is carried out with school classes and moderated by trained Herzsprung specialists in mixed-gender teams . "Herzsprung" is a effectiveness-evaluated programme and carries

[73] https://www.lehrplanplus.bayern.de/
[74] https://www.gesetze-bayern.de/Content/Document/BayVV_2230_1_1_1_1_3_K_964/true

has been proven to reduce violence in teenage relationships and prevent violence in adult relationships in the long term. For the operational implementation of the pilot project, a cooperation agreement was concluded in April 2024 with the German Child Protection Association of Lower Saxony (DKSB Nds.). Among other things, the DKSB Nds is responsible for adapting the Herzsprung materials, setting up an accompanying advisory board and coordinating the first programme runs at schools in Lower Saxony.

Re a)

In 2021, the Lower Saxony Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Health and Equality offered a 60-minute online seminar for child and youth welfare professionals to educate them about the consequences of genital mutilation.

Information on FGM is regularly published on the internet portal.

Re b)

In order to provide technical and needs-based support for the measures mentioned in points 9. a, b and c, the following activities are being implemented as part of the implementation of the Directive on Coordination Centres for Migration and Participation, the Directive on Migration Counselling and through the Network of Cooperative Migration Work in Lower Saxony (KMN): training and capacity building, networking and expansion, cooperation with specialist agencies and migrant and women's organisations.

10. Rhineland-Palatinate

The 14 **school psychology counselling centres** of the Rhineland-Palatinate State Institute of Education support numerous primary prevention measures, including:

- ICH und Du und WIR (Me and You and Us) for primary prevention in primary schools
- Primary prevention programme (ProPP) for grades 5 and 6
- Prevention in Teams (PiT) for grades 6 to 8

School psychology also offers training and counselling on violence prevention. In addition, measures to promote democracy in schools are a priority for the Rhineland-Palatinate state government.

Increased focus on the topic of "violence against employees" in the context of **occupational safety**

Employers must identify and assess the risks associated with their employees' work and derive appropriate measures. This also includes risks of (sexual) harassment or assault, both in the workplace and by third parties. The existence of risk assessments and the resulting measures is monitored by the occupational safety authorities. The Rhineland-Palatinate Trade Supervisory Authority, as the occupational safety authority, includes the issue of violence against employees – especially against women – in its advisory and supervisory activities. The Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Transformation and Digitalisation is communicating the issue more strongly to the occupational safety authorities and addressing it in regular staff meetings.

Re a) and b)

In cooperation with the state and federal police forces (ProPK), topics relating to **police crime prevention** are regularly addressed and implemented nationwide in prevention initiatives, including the above-mentioned issues. For this purpose, u.

www.kinderschutz-niedersachsen.de

a. information materials are developed and made available to the federal states for use. [76]The Rhineland-Palatinate police also provide information material on the prevention and combating of gender-based and domestic violence for use via traditional and new media and organise appropriate theme days and lecture series throughout the state. In addition, brochures from other authorities and institutions are available, such as the information leaflet "GEWALT – UND JETZT?" (VIOLENCE – NOW WHAT?) from the Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration.

Re a)

In the AfA, asylum seeker benefits such as pocket money/payment cards are paid out per person; i.e. women are only given pocket money/payment cards in person.

Furthermore, information about FGM is provided as part of the counselling services and during the vulnerability assessment.

Re b)

Empowerment is promoted through various group activities at the AfA locations.

The following primary prevention measures were promoted by the Ministry for Women. The Ministry for Women also participates in campaigns for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

2021:

- State subsidy for the exhibition "What I was wearing..." (exhibition on sexualised violence against women) in Speyer
- State subsidy for the follow-up project "The Positive Masculinity Campaign Goes Online – New Men, New Slogans, New Photos on the Website" by Frauennotruf Mainz
- State subsidy for Orange Days (International Day Against Violence Against Women) in Bernkastel-Wittlich

2022:

- State subsidy for the travelling exhibition "You decide masculinity" by Frauennotruf Mainz
- State subsidy for the campaign on 25 November at the Kornmarkt in Bad Kreuznach on the occasion of the "International Day Against Violence Against Women"

2023

- State subsidy for a reading as part of Orange Days (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) in Trier
- State subsidy for a "poster campaign for the International Day Against Violence Against Women in the Zweibrücken pedestrian zone" by the Round Table on Close Social Relationships in South-West Palatinate
- State subsidy for the campaign on the International Day Against Violence Against Women in Bad Kreuznach

2024:

- State subsidy for the exhibition "Women in the dark" against discrimination and violence against women, organised by the Alzey Women's Emergency Hotline
- State subsidy for the campaign week "No to violence against women and children" in Speyer
- State subsidy for the project "Orange benches against violence" (International Day Against

[76] https://www.polizei-beratung.de/, www.polizeifürdich.de (target group of children and young people)

Violence Against Women) in the district of Neuwied

- State subsidy for a public relations project by the Regional Round Table GesB Bad Kreuznach on the occasion of the "International Day Against Violence Against Women"

The Ministry for Women supports **counselling centres for girls and women with a history of flight and migration** (Solwodi, RAHMA, Utamara) as well as for women with disabilities (KOBRA). According to the analysis report on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Rhineland-Palatinate, which was prepared in preparation for the development of the Rhineland-Palatinate state government's action plan for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, women with a migration background are disproportionately affected by gender-based violence. The report's recommendations for action provide for the needs-based establishment and expansion of the support system and care structures for particularly vulnerable victims and vulnerable groups. These include victims of forced marriage, forced prostitution, human trafficking and gender-based persecution. In addition to counselling, some counselling centres provide support in the form of assisted living or shelters for affected women.

KOBRA is the **coordination and counselling centre for women and girls with disabilities** in Rhineland-Palatinate. The staff provide advice on all areas of life, covering a wide range of topics and disabilities, including experiences of violence and coping with one's own disability or chronic illness. They work according to the peer counselling principle, i.e. the counsellors themselves have a disability. KOBRA also connects women's representatives in disability support facilities, such as workshops and residential facilities.

Re c)

As a network partner and reliable cooperation partner, the police support educational institutions in informing and sensitising learners about gender-based violence and domestic violence. The PIT (Prevention in Teams) prevention programme, in which teachers and police officers work together on practical exercises (e.g. role-playing) on the general topic of violence, has a preventive effect in the broadest sense
effect in the context surveyed.

11. North Rhine-Westphalia on a)

The 62 general **women's counselling centres** funded by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, which focus on providing concrete help in all forms of violence against women, and the 57 specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence funded by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, which offer concrete help to women and girls after sexualised violence, also carry out prevention and public relations work in these areas in order to draw public attention to the issue of violence against women, to educate and raise awareness about it, whether through press work, campaigns, participation in campaigns, lectures or workshops.

Since 2021, a nationwide week of action has been held on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to raise awareness of the issue of violence against women among the general public and local women's support infrastructure and to provide information about various forms of violence against women and the protection and support services available to women affected by violence.

Awareness-raising campaigns and **public relations work** within the meaning of Article 13 of the Istanbul Convention are also carried out by the 40 local and regional round tables, working groups and cooperation initiatives against violence against women funded by the Ministry for Children, Youth, Family, Equality, Refugees and Integration of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

According to the state violence protection concept for refugee accommodation facilities in

North Rhine-Westphalia, residents of state reception facilities for refugees are informed and educated on topics such as gender equality, women's and children's rights, the criminality of violence against children and partners, and understanding democracy.

The North Rhine-Westphalia **Prevention Council** is an independent body that advises the state government on overarching issues of crime prevention. Its members include experts delegated by various departments of the state government and representatives of governmental and non-governmental institutions, organisations, associations and societies who are active in the field of crime prevention in North Rhine-Westphalia on the basis of their professional duties or social or private initiatives. The creation of networked intervention chains and target group-specific support structures for women and men affected by violence is an important contribution to violence prevention.

Re b)

The first state report stated that North Rhine-Westphalia promotes prevention services for girls and young women in the five **girls' shelters** in North Rhine-Westphalia. Since 2021, the funding has also included training measures for educational staff in some cases.

The Ministry for Children, Youth, Family, Equality, Refugees and Integration holds an annual meeting with the girls' shelters to discuss the (changing) needs of girls and necessary adjustments to the services offered. The expertise of the girls' shelters is also regularly sought on issues relating to the needs and circumstances of girls and young women and the prevention of violence against girls and young women in the parliamentary arena, for reporting requirements and for specialist events.

The girls' shelters and facilities in North Rhine-Westphalia are organised in the State Working Group of Autonomous Girls' Shelters / Feminist Girls' Work North Rhine-Westphalia.
e.V. To support this work, the state of North Rhine-Westphalia has been funding the Fachstelle Interkulturelle Mädchenarbeit NRW (Intercultural Girls' Work Centre North Rhine-Westphalia) for many years, which is run by the LAG autonome Mädchenhäuser / feministische Mädchenarbeit NRW e.V. (LAGAM) (around €107,000 in 2024; around €112,000 in 2025). The centre is the point of contact for organisations and multipliers and works at various levels.

In a total of two funding phases (2021-2023 and 2024-2026), the state of North Rhine-Westphalia is funding the pilot project "Overcoming Obstacles" run by the Cologne Girls' Shelter (Verein Lobby für Mädchen e.V.) with a total of €500,000 over the entire funding period.

The project focuses on the protection of girls and young women (aged 12 to 27) with severe mental and/or physical disabilities from violence (sexual, physical (non-sexual) and psychological). In addition to expanding the cooperation, networking and awareness-raising work of professionals in disability and youth welfare services, caregivers and relatives, the project also aims to establish and expand outreach prevention and counselling services for the target group. The aim of the project is to show how barriers to access on the part of child and youth welfare services can be removed and how access to the target group can be created.

The building blocks for overcoming obstacles are:

- Outreach counselling and support
- Outreach prevention services for groups: Workshop series "Self-determination! Girls' rights inclusive"
- Networking with specialists, organisations and institutions in the youth and

[77] https://www.mkjfgfi.nrw/Gewaltpr%C3%A4vention
[78] https://www.fachstelle-interkulturelle-maedchenarbeit.de/

disability services

- Information events
- Specialist lectures and training courses
- Strengthening and qualifying multipliers/peer groups

In the first funding phase (2021 to 2023), new approaches to the girls were developed and new networks were created (e.g. with workshops for people with disabilities). In addition, the girls' topics and concerns – care, love, sexuality, hobbies, and much more – were prepared in line with their needs (creation of materials) and conveyed in numerous workshops. In October 2023, a closing event for the first funding phase of the project took place in Cologne. The model project has been extended for the period 2024 to 2026. Further information on the project.

See question 3 (p. 30): All of the specialist agencies mentioned there offer training courses and information materials for a wide range of fields of action (including schools, daycare centres, justice, police) in order to prevent the emergence of queerphobic violence among the target groups of the fields of action themselves (schoolchildren, kindergarten children, the general population) or within their own structures, i.e. within the school body, the daycare centre or the justice and police structures, as part of primary prevention. Intersectional issues – such as those affecting queer BiPoC – are also proactively addressed.

Regarding c)

One aspect of the work of the specialist counselling centres within the framework of the state-funded project
"YUNA" aims to prevent and provide support in cases of female genital mutilation by raising awareness among men from countries where the practice is prevalent through workshops. Fathers, husbands and brothers are to be educated about the serious physical and psychological consequences of female genital mutilation. The specialist counselling centres for girls and women affected by female genital mutilation, forced marriage or forced prostitution/human trafficking for sexual exploitation
devote part of their working hours to prevention and awareness-raising work.

12. Bremen

In the state of Bremen, the **StoP© project** – Neighbourhoods without Partner Violence – has been promoted in two neighbourhoods since 2023. StoP© is a prevention project that aims to raise awareness of domestic violence through a community approach and to stop partner violence through social networks.

Self-assertion courses for women and girls are financed from central funds for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

The police raise awareness through workshops, seminars and/or lectures for external parties, focusing on fundamental democratic rights, in particular gender equality. Participants are presented with opportunities and exercises to improve their self-assertion. Another important aspect is education about digital sexual violence, especially in schools and in the context of legal guardians. In addition, the Bremen police and the Bremerhaven local police authority promote awareness of domestic violence and explain the various options for intervention.

Through educational work, values and norms as well as the limits of criminal behaviour can be clarified. On the one hand, this enables those affected by discrimination or violence to better understand the behaviour of others and
on the other hand, it gives everyone the opportunity to review their own values.

[79] https://lobby-fuer-maedchen.de/praeventionsarbeit/#huerden

A guide on experiences of violence among people receiving care from **healthcare** professionals in Bremen has been developed. The guide has been distributed and published online and serves as an everyday aid for healthcare professionals to recognise experiences of violence and initiate initial support.

Since 1 November 2022, DiBS! has been a service offered by ReBUZ (Regional Advice and Support Centres for Schools) and stands for discrimination protection and counselling for pupils in Bremen and Bremerhaven who experience (sometimes intersectional) discrimination at **school**. The counselling also includes the parents concerned or other trusted persons and the specialist staff at the schools. DiBS! also supports schools with specialist counselling, prevention services and further training.

The State Institute for Schools (LIS) offers a wide range of regular training courses for all teaching staff at schools on anti-bullying, sexualised violence and migration education.

Staff at **refugee accommodation centres** receive regular training on the prevention of various forms of violence.

Participation in politics and the **labour market**: Bremen's state strategy for gender equality in the labour market; women's advice centres to increase women's participation in the labour market; mentoring programmes run by political parties.

In December 2023, the Central Office of the State Women's Representatives (ZGF) organised a symposium on diversity and gender-based violence. The symposium addressed the question of how people from a wide variety of backgrounds can be reached, represented, understood and advised by the support system without (further) discrimination, clichés or misunderstanding. Renowned speakers at the symposium included authors Hadija Haruna-Oelker, Marlen Hobrack and Dr Elisabeth Lechner, as well as activist Nomazulu Thata. In addition, there was a collaboration with the OUT LOUD reading stage, which reached around 100 private individuals with a reading on the topic of gender-specific discrimination and diversity with the three authors Hadija Haruna-Oelker, Marlen Hobrack and Dr Elisabeth Lechner. The reading will also be made available to a wider audience in a podcast on Radio Bremen.

The majority of girls and women affected by violence do not report it to the police or seek help from counselling centres. However, girls and women do not necessarily remain silent about their experiences of violence. Rather, they confide directly or indirectly in teachers and educators, healthcare workers, church communities or migrant counselling services, for example. A working group was set up for this group of people, which began its work in June 2022 with around 50 participants. It is aimed at employees and representatives of institutions and organisations who are repeatedly confronted with experiences of violence in their everyday work, but for whom helping or advising on violence is not part of their direct responsibilities and areas of work. In order for the employees of these institutions to be able to help those affected in a targeted manner and to receive support themselves, they need appropriate training and networks.

The ZGF published a 40-page brochure entitled "Look, listen, support – information for professionals on female genital mutilation (FGM/C)", which provides information on key aspects of female genital mutilation. It is aimed at professionals in schools and daycare centres in Bremen, youth welfare offices, the police, and medical and social institutions. More than 1,000 copies have already been ordered by counselling centres and healthcare professionals, such as midwives. In addition, the ZGF proactively sends brochures to schools, daycare centres and doctors' surgeries in the state of Bremen.

The ZGF also coordinated the bundled and free dispatch of information materials from various institutions in the Bremen support system. To date

, the ZGF has received over 110,000 flyer orders from a wide variety of institutions, such as shelters for refugees, schools, counselling centres and churches. The orders also provide an overview of which languages are in particular demand and which forms of gender-based violence are of increased interest.

In order to discuss appropriate support for drug-addicted, homeless and prostituted women and girls, the ZGF organised the workshop "No longer falling through the cracks! A safety net for women* with special protection needs" in May 2023 to discuss appropriate support for drug-addicted, homeless and prostituted women and girls. Around 60 representatives from various disciplines met there to develop requirements for special support services and to form a broad network. Participants included employees from homeless shelters, counselling centres, clinics, the police, administration, women's shelters, various non-governmental organisations and street workers from Bremen and Bremerhaven. The event was kicked off with a keynote speech by Sabine Bösing, managing director of the Federal Working Group on Homelessness Assistance, expert on homelessness, health and women's issues, and member of the Istanbul Convention Alliance.

As the kick-off event for the series "Exchange on gender-based violence and migration biography/flight" (the series will continue in the coming years), a workshop on protection against violence and labour market integration was held. The workshop made it clear that protection against violence is not only a fundamental human right, but also an essential prerequisite for successful labour market integration. Strategies for labour market integration were presented, taking into account protection against violence, for example, what legal and institutional support can look like, what methods are available to promote self-confidence, and what networks and support structures exist in Bremen.

The second event in the series presented the general support system in Bremen and Bremerhaven as well as the work of the police and the youth welfare office, reaching over 100 multipliers with a migration background who are involved in voluntary work and are in contact with victims of gender-based violence. However, due to their voluntary work and the wide range of their initiatives, they are not always familiar with all aspects of the support system in Bremen or the legal background. At the same time, these committed multipliers are valuable sources of information for the (support) system itself. The series initiates an exchange to enrich each other and engage in dialogue.

The way **the media** reports on violence against women influences the public's perception of the problem. In a ZGF workshop in November, media professionals and communications officers from public authorities, the police and other institutions learned what to look out for when reporting on gender-based violence so as not to trivialise or distort the issue. The workshop was led by Jun.-Prof. Christine Meltzer from the Institute for Journalism and Communication Research at the University of Music, Drama and Media Hanover.

13. Saarland

on a)

(1) Development and distribution of the media kits "Gender and Diversity" KIDS and "Gender and Diversity" YOUTH

The media are child- and youth-friendly methods for reflecting on various dimensions of gender (including differentiation between sex and gender), gender stereotypes, role expectations and the associated power structures in our society, with a focus on topics such as the body and sexuality.

The kits contain media (books, games, CDs) that can be used independently by children and young people. The kits also include manuals for

educational professionals, which describe methods for explicitly addressing the body, gender and gender-related power relations in our society.

(2) Sexual education project

A model project in Neunkirchen is being organised by the community and youth work department in Neunkirchen and carried out by two specialists from the Gender Competence Centre at two community schools. Primary prevention measures are aimed specifically at 6th grade pupils in order to create awareness of gender stereotypes at an early stage. The focus is on reflecting on stereotypes and examining ideas about sexuality and power relations in relationships and the family.

(3) Symposiums for educational professionals working with children and young people organised by the Gender Competence Centre

In 2022, a symposium was held at htw saar on the topic of "Intersectional Perspectives: Discrimination and Empowerment". The symposium reached over 200 professionals and students at the university. In two specialist lectures, participants explored the concept of intersectional pedagogy and its foundations. The topic was then explored in greater depth in 10 workshops.

In 2023, training courses on the topic of body and health norms in girls' work took place, which were addressed in the form of a lecture and workshops.

A reading and a training day will inform professionals about the topic of anti-racist work with boys. The training deals with racialised images of masculinity and their significance for educational practice.

(4) Teaching methodological skills to educational professionals working with children and young people with the Gender Competence Centre

Educational professionals receive topic-related training courses in which the Mädchen:trophy also plays a central role. This competition was developed specifically for girls to promote teamwork, dexterity and social skills.

Various games and exercises strengthen self-confidence and assertiveness, enabling participants to gain valuable experience for their everyday lives.

(5) Increase in staffing levels (advice centre for migrant women)

At the counselling centre for migrant women, which is also responsible for caring for and supporting victims of forced marriage and forced marriage, staffing levels were increased by half a position from 1.5 to 2 FTE on 1 January 2024.

(6) Police support for competent authorities

The tasks of the police do not include primary prevention. Nevertheless, the Provincial Police Directorate supports the authorities with primary responsibility, e.g. in the form of lectures on the topics of violence against women, sexualised violence or digital violence.

(7) Equality strategy

The Saarland equality strategy includes the goal of "children and young people beyond role models", which comprises the following measures:

- Training courses on gender-sensitive pedagogy in early childhood education (e.g. for educators, family work, intercultural sensitivity)
- Gender-reflective training programme by youth welfare workers
- Equality-sensitive advice from the State Youth Welfare Office to associations, organisations and institutions on concept development and project planning for services for children and young people

- Equality-oriented review of funding requirements in the areas of leisure and educational measures by the State Youth Welfare Office.

These must be implemented and evaluated by 2028.

Re b)

Creation of barrier-free accommodation at two different institutions

In 2023, the AWO, as the provider of the FH in Saarland, improved access for women with disabilities by creating a barrier-free apartment in one of the four women's shelters. Through participation in the federal investment programme against violence against women, barrier-free access to the Elisabeth Zillken Haus (run by Sozialdienst katholischer Frauen Saarland e.V.) was completed in 2024. In addition, the bathrooms at the Zillken Haus were converted to be barrier-free, ensuring accommodation for women with disabilities.

Re c)

(1) Projects and workshops with young people through the Gender Competence Centre

There are a variety of projects and workshops for young people. Multipliers are specially trained in the area of voluntary services. A music workshop deals with hypermasculine and violent masculinity in rap.

(2) Regional job fairs for women in July 2024 and March 2025

Measures to promote professional integration are supported in order to strengthen socio-economic independence.

(3) State labour market programme "Women in Work – Strengthening Families"

The state programme "Women in Work" was recently expanded to include the area of "Strengthening Families" and further developed conceptually. This holistic strategy also reduces the risk of poverty among women in old age and focuses on the issue of child poverty.

The programme provides individual advice and support for women entering or re-entering the labour market.
entering the workforce. As part of this, the "Women in Work – FiB" network office was set up at the Chamber of Labour, as well as the "Women and Work" advice centres in all districts and the regional association for the specific advice needs of women. In addition, the aim is to improve the framework conditions so that training and further education can also be completed on a part-time basis.

The state programme has five main areas of focus:

1. State network office "Women in the Workplace – FiB" (based at the Chamber of Labour)
2. Regional advice centres "Women and Work" (in all districts and in the Saarbrücken regional association)
3. Measures to prepare women for (re)entering the workforce
4. Social pedagogical support during participation in qualification measures
5. Establishment of social space-oriented prevention networks in the context of "child poverty"

(4) Prevention campaign "You can't knock me out – together against knockout drops"

The campaign is aimed at the entire population and encourages all target groups to take measures to prevent people from becoming victims of perpetrators through the
use of knockout drops.

14. Berlin

Raising social awareness of the issue of gender-based violence is an important aspect of primary prevention. For information on regular action days on

violence against women, please refer to the 2020 Basic Report. Events are also organised regularly at district level.

In November/December 2023, the Senate Department responsible for women and equality ran a Berlin-wide multimedia and multilingual **campaign** called "#DasIstGewalt" (That's Violence). The campaign referred to the Istanbul Convention and aimed to inform people in Berlin about it and encourage those affected to seek help. Simple but clear messages on posters, illuminated signs, flyers, stickers and postcards also raised awareness among the general public about subtle forms of violence. Fourteen creators supported the campaign with messages on various social media platforms, and a campaign website was set up in 13 languages, including easy-to-read language.

On 10 June 2024, #DasIstGewalt was awarded the German Politics Award in the category "Best Social Campaign".

The Berlin Initiative Against Violence Against Women (BIG e.V.) carried out campaigns in 2022, 2023 and 2024 to raise awareness of domestic violence, with funding from the Senate Department responsible for women and equality: The #teamgewaltfrei campaign (2022/2023) aimed to form a broad social alliance against violence against women and emphasised that violence against women is a problem for society as a whole that requires structural change.[81] The public awareness campaign "Wir sind für dich da" (We are here for you) was designed to raise awareness of the various forms of domestic violence and to dispel prejudices about domestic violence. The aim of the campaign was to break down stereotypical notions of the "helpless victim" and encourage those affected to seek help. [82]

The "Stop the Stigma" campaign (website launch in 2023) aimed to reduce stigmatisation and discrimination against sex workers and thus also to prevent violence against this target group, among other things.

In addition to the above-mentioned high-profile campaigns, primary prevention measures form an important part of the work of numerous Senate-funded projects, such as information events and networking by Berlin women's centres and projects for migrant or refugee women, such as the women's centre at the Contact and Advice Centre (KuB), which is funded by the Berlin Integration Commissioner.

The Aufbruch Neukölln project, which offers preventive approaches and outreach formats for **working with men and fathers**, is an example of measures that aim to change gender stereotypes and thus contribute to the empowerment of women and girls.

In November 2023, a conference on "Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence against Women" was held at the Senate Department for the Interior and Sport. The aim of the conference was to provide a platform for innovations that had already been developed, to promote exchange, to discuss further prevention and support measures, and to underline Berlin's pioneering role as a driver of innovation.

As **a** central, Berlin-wide **prevention committee**, the Berlin State Commission Against Violence has raised awareness of the phenomenon of violence through educational measures. This took the form of an information brochure and a short video on the Istanbul Convention and through the Berlin Prevention Day 2024, which addressed gender-based

[80] https://www.dasistgewalt.de/de
[81] https://www.big-berlin.info/teamgewaltfrei
[82] https://www.big-berlin.info/wir-sind-fuer-dich-da
[83] https://stoppdasstigma.de/
[84] https://www.aufbruch-neukoelln.de/#

made violence a topic of discussion.[85]

Since November 2022, Police Headquarters 3 has had a plan in place to raise public awareness and intensify police measures to combat domestic violence. The aim is to present the **Berlin Police** as an important player in the fight against domestic violence and to contribute to the public's perception of domestic violence as wrongdoing, in order to encourage potential victims to seek help and report crimes.

Together with the women's aid organisation Terre des Femmes-Menschrechte für die Frau e.V., the Berlin Police Force offers annual prevention events on the subject of forced marriage immediately before the summer holidays (known as "White Week"). At selected upper secondary schools and vocational schools, teenagers and young adults are made aware of the issue of forced marriage and presented with options for help, courses of action and points of contact.

On symbolic dates such as International Women's Day, Gender Pay Gap Day and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, events are organised in collaboration with local actors to demonstrate a united stance across society in the fight against violence against women and girls. In addition, media products from external network partners (e.g. the nationwide helpline for violence against women and BIG e. V.) are used as part of public relations and prevention work.

Aspects of gender-based violence are also addressed as part of general violence prevention in **schools**. Awareness is raised and options for action are presented.

In various meetings between the Berlin Police and members of diverse communities (e.g. Muslim women, Muslim fathers, young violent offenders), different perspectives are exchanged with the aim of communicating socially accepted norms and values.

For prevention through work with perpetrators, see question 13 (p. 154).

Family support, as defined in Berlin's Family Support Act, aims to strengthen the partnership between both parents (Section 20a, Act on the Support and Participation of Families). Consequently, one of the premises of family support in the state of Berlin is to counteract gender stereotypes and promote attitudes of partnership. Similarly, the objective of "promoting democratic education, participation and engagement" makes it clear that the values of family support oppose any structures that disadvantage women and girls.

With the Stadtteilmütter (neighbourhood mothers), anchored as a Berlin state programme, a city-wide service has also been established that takes concrete action against gender stereotypes and gender-specific violence against women and girls. These issues are explicitly anchored in peer-to-peer counselling for mothers with a migration background and are regularly addressed through the training of the Stadtteilmütter.[86]

Youth work and extracurricular political youth education in accordance with Section 11 of SGB VIII (Social Code Book VIII) and youth association work in accordance with Section 12 of SGB VIII provide gender-reflective educational work,
e.g. with offers for discussing gender roles, sexism and power relations in everyday life (workshops, project days, role plays); space for reflection on one's own experiences, feelings and identities – e.g. in gender-specific groups (boys' groups / girls' groups / queer groups); specialists, the in
gender-conscious attitudes and language in everyday teaching, and to set an example and encourage critical discussion of gender images, stereotypes,

[85] https://www.berlin.de/lb/lkbgg/veranstaltungen/praeventionstag/2024/berliner-praeventionstag-2024-geschlecht-und-gewalt-vielfalt-ermoeglichen-gewaltursachen-bekaempfen-1505136.php
[86] https://www.berlin.de/sen/jugend/jugend-und-familienpolitik/familienpolitik/

Glorification of violence, etc., e.g. in media projects or youth culture offerings.

In the area of prevention and intervention of youth violence, measures to reduce dangerous gender stereotypes are integrated into Berlin's overall strategy and represent a long-term process. Concrete project work with the aim of achieving sustainable changes in attitudes, mindsets and behaviour is carried out through educational work, respect and the active involvement of girls and young women in decision-making processes. [87] There are also various networks in this area, e.g. the women's sports hall in Berlin-Marzahn, KiLeLe (Kinder Lernen Leben gGmbH) and MädchenSportZentren (girls' sports centres). These services support, promote and strengthen the needs and empowerment of women and girls.

With the introduction of the Youth Promotion Act (AG KJHG) in 2020, support for the participation of young people (e.g. children's and youth offices, strengthening children's rights, children's and youth parliaments) was enshrined in law as a separate form of youth work in Berlin and backed up with resources. The aim is to promote the self-efficacy of all young people through increased participation in decision-making processes in politics and administration.

Primary prevention measures are also being implemented in Berlin's districts. To raise awareness of domestic violence and violence against women, for example, the district of Treptow-Köpenick, with the participation of civil society actors and counselling projects, set up a "red bench" which was inaugurated in September 2024. The bench also features a plaque with the most important emergency numbers for those affected and a QR code linking to a page with further information on the topic. The aim is to send a strong message and provide those affected with direct access to information.
information.

15. Baden-Württemberg

In the second quarter of 2025, the revised action plan "For Acceptance and Equal Rights Baden-Württemberg 2025" will be published. The goals are to reduce discrimination against LGBTIQ* people and to promote an open and diverse society.

The first interdepartmental equality strategy of the state of Baden-Württemberg will be published in 2025. It includes measures to reduce gender-based discrimination and empower women in various areas of life (participation, education, career, economy, working life, culture, science, freedom from discrimination, safety, health, etc.).

In addition, there is targeted project funding for prevention, such as:

- The state-wide campaign "Nachtsam." to raise awareness and network relevant actors in cases of sexual harassment and assault in nightlife,
- the Männlichkeiten 2.1 project, which counteracts toxic gender and masculinity images through a campaign and educational work.

The **prevention programme** "Sicher. Unterwegs. – Gewalt gegen Frauen im öffentlichen Raum" (Safe. On the move. – Violence against women in public spaces), which has been in place since 2019, aims to strengthen women's sense of safety.

In addition to the actual target group of women aged 16 and over, events in schools, clubs and associations also specifically address young men (e.g. in their role as helpers and witnesses). They teach how to actively protect oneself from crime in public
by assessing and reducing one's risk and learning more

[87] https://www.berlin.de/rbmskzl/aktuelles/media/231024_handout_dritter-gipfel-gegen-jugendgewalt.pdf?ts=1698155017
[88] https://www.berlin.de/sen/jugend/jugend/jugendarbeit/jugendfoerder-und-beteiligungsgesetz/#headline_1_0

Confidence in taking action wins.

Furthermore, the **Baden-Württemberg police force** regularly draws attention to the issue via its social media channels, thereby helping to break down gender stereotypes and combat violence against women.

The concepts are continuously reviewed and further developed in line with the situation.

The "Police Crime Prevention Programme of the Federal States and the Federal Government" (ProPK) has produced a four-part podcast series on the subject of domestic violence, as well as further information material, which addresses the topics of physical, psychological and sexual violence, as well as digital violence, and provides recommendations for action.

In addition, the series "Gewaltig daneben" (Violently Wrong) offers **materials for teachers** and educational professionals on the topic of "violence prevention" for prevention work with children and young people aged ten and above. The film clips deal with the topics of verbal, psychological and physical violence, (cyber) bullying and blackmail, thus laying the foundations for combating violence against young girls and women.

The findings and expertise from police practice, teaching, science and research, as well as the specialist knowledge of victim protection, violence prevention, women's aid and women's rights organisations (e.g. the victim protection organisation Wildwasser) are incorporated into the concepts and implementation of training events in a needs-oriented manner with varying content, scope and objectives.
and implementation of training events.

16. Brandenburg

A recommendation for **media professionals** on "How to report on domestic violence" was published (May 2024).[89]

Promoting the empowerment of women and girls

- The **empowerment** of women and girls in all areas of life, in particular participation in politics and the labour market, is part of the focus on participation in the Gender Equality Policy Framework Programme Brandenburg 2020-2025 (GPR), which sets out a wide range of measures to empower women in the labour market, including the following:
  - Funding of projects for girls to counteract disadvantages, empower girls and young women to stand up for their rights, strengthen self-perception, self-confidence, career and life planning
  - Increasing the proportion of women in STEM subjects: among other things, by holding an online STEM training fair that makes the female face of STEM professions in particular visible and thus aims to attract girls to training in the STEM sector
  - Ensuring good transitions and fair career opportunities for both genders through, among other things, the promotion of professional training measures for career development up to the assumption of management positions with the Continuing Education Directive 2020 and the promotion of socio-pedagogically accompanied vocational education measures within the framework of youth welfare as help for self-help
  - Accompanying and supporting female scientists in the transition to a career through, including mentoring programmes at Brandenburg's universities for young female scientists as part of the Postdoc Network Brandenburg and a career certificate for STEM women (focus on computer science)
  - Increasing the proportion of women in academic leadership positions by supporting the Equal Opportunities Officers of the universities (GBA) in fulfilling their tasks, Female Professors Programme III: start-up funding for the initial appointment of women to permanent professorships and dual career offers and mentoring offers.

[89] https://mgs.brandenburg.de/sixcms/media.php/9/2024-06-04_Faltblatt_MSGIV_Haeusliche-Gewalt.pdf

- Securing economic independence for women and men through a living wage, good work and social partnership, including through consistent application of the minimum wage threshold in public procurement
- Care professions are upgraded, e.g. by improving training and working conditions in nursing through a training allowance and academisation, improving the training and working conditions of midwives through academisation.
- Opportunities on the labour market for women and men with a migration background are improved through counselling on the recognition of professional qualifications acquired abroad. Furthermore, there are measures in the context of recognition laws, intercultural skills development and anti-discrimination.
- Strengthening the empowerment of women in politics, developing measures to recruit women for political offices/mandates and lowering access barriers in political interest groups.

• Measures regarding the **labour market**:

- Assistierte Ausbildung Brandenburg supports young people who are looking for a suitable entry point into vocational training or who are experiencing difficulties during vocational training due to a wide variety of obstacles. People in need of support are assisted, for example, with the application process, through tutoring or language support, or in coping with everyday life. In this way, the programme contributes to more young women successfully completing their vocational training.
- KAUSA Brandenburg offers a comprehensive range of information for migrants and refugees, as well as companies and multipliers. The aim is to integrate migrants into vocational training and thus promote their participation in the labour market. Particularly in view of the cultural differences regarding the role of women, the information offered by KAUSA is important in order to break down prejudices and give immigrant young women an understanding of the opportunities in vocational training and the labour market.

• The following projects, among others, are funded by the European Social Fund Plus (ESF Plus) as part of the so-called PAV programme ("Programm zur Qualifizierten Ausbildung im Verbundsystem"):

- "Servicestellen Verbundausbildung" (Service Centres for Joint Training) support companies that want to increase the attractiveness of their vocational training places by addressing specific target groups. In this way, more young women are to be specifically recruited for vocational training (preferably in "gender-atypical" professions).
- "Good Learning in the Workplace Coordination Centres" support the initiation of mentoring for trainees in "gender-atypical" professions. For young women, for example, these are STEM apprenticeships that offer attractive prospects on the job market later on.

• The ESF Plus funding offered by the Ministry of the Economy, Labour, Energy and Climate Protection (MWAEK) aims to promote equal participation of men and women in the labour market. This funding is intended for programmes related to education, employment, or social inclusion, such as "Perspective Job," "Welcome to Brandenburg," and integration support for long-term unemployed individuals and families. For the ESF Plus funding period from 2021 to 2027, they take into account the so-called cross-cutting principles, which ensure that gender equality, gender mainstreaming, and the inclusion of a gender perspective are considered and promoted throughout the preparation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of programmes. Additionally, any necessary measures against discrimination must be implemented. Barriers to participation must be eliminated, and accessibility and inclusion must be promoted.

Measures regarding **education**

• In accordance with Section 80 of the Act on the Promotion and Protection of Young People

(Brandenburg Children and Youth Act (BbgKJG), only suitable educational professionals with supervisory and educational tasks may work in child and youth welfare facilities. Deviations require approval. People with a criminal record who work with children or young people are generally excluded in accordance with § 72a SGB VIII.

- In addition, all child and youth welfare services and other organisations that regularly work with children and young people must develop, apply and regularly review protection concepts against violence, discrimination and child endangerment. A protection concept tailored to the respective institution must analyse risks such as physical, psychological and sexual violence as well as bullying and contain measures for preventing and dealing with incidents. It should also define procedures for emergencies and be updated regularly. Incidents of violence must be reported.
- Section 4(5) of the Brandenburg School Act (BbgSchulG) states that equality and respect for one's own and other people's rights, justice and solidarity, especially towards women, should be promoted. The framework curriculum includes the overarching topics mentioned in the BbgSchulG (§12). In particular, the overarching topics "Education for the acceptance of diversity", "Prevention of violence", "Gender equality and equal rights" address general measures for education and awareness-raising. According to these overarching topics, pupils should learn about gender roles and are encouraged to question the classic role ascription. They also learn about what discrimination and group-related misanthropy mean and how they can be counteracted in the subject area of "Education for the acceptance of diversity". The Brandenburg State Institute for Schools and Teachers (LIBRA) has published various guidelines and teaching materials on this topic.

Article 14: Education

10. Please provide some promising examples of teaching or prevention programmes, materials or initiatives, training courses or prevention campaigns in formal education (from nursery school to higher education) that

a. enable children and young people to be educated about equality between women and men, the right to personal integrity, mutual respect and non-violent conflict resolution in interpersonal relationships, including the concept of voluntary consent;

b. address some or all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls covered by the Istanbul Convention;

c. promote the inclusion of digital literacy and online safety in formal curricula, as provided for in GREVIO's General Recommendation No. 1 on the digital dimension of violence against women;

d. ensure that teaching materials used in schools do not convey negative gender stereotypes of women and men of all ages;

e. offer targeted measures to prevent gender-based violence and empower all girls, including those at risk of gender-based discrimination.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

1. Hamburg

for a)

The "**Hamburg Educational Guidelines for Pedagogical Work in Daycare Centres**" are based on the

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and focus on the child's perspective. [90] Children's rights and inclusion as guiding principles form a value-based foundation for all educational work and shape everyday educational practice. Children's rights and child protection are understood as a legally binding and action-guiding basis for educational work. Children experience themselves in daycare as equal participants in their everyday daycare life. The focus is on both safeguarding children's rights, for example the right to complain and participate, and protecting them from all forms of violence. Concepts for the protection of children are an essential part of quality development in daycare facilities.

For an overview of measures in the area of **school and early childhood education** for questions 10 a-e, see:

- Educational mandate of schools[91]
- Requirements from the education plans[92]
- Guidelines on reporting violence[93]
- Development of protection concepts[94]

The following courses are offered by **universities** in Hamburg:

- Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW) / Hamburg Open Online University (HOOU): Provision of the open online resource "What is gender?"[95]
- University of Music and Theatre (HfMT): Voluntary commitment to the prevention of abuse of power; recurring internal workshops for teachers, staff and students; action days, awareness-raising formats and further training on the topics of abuse of power and equality; development of an anti-discrimination strategy.
- HfMT: Awareness team founded by students, which is available to fellow students and represented in various university committees and, among other things, advises the HfMT on planning events.

Regarding b)

The **universities** have set up various programmes and measures for this purpose:

- HAW: Confidential advisors for sexual harassment; website with advice and information on sexual harassment, discrimination and violence; regular awareness-raising events for teaching staff and training courses on diversity-sensitive interaction and processes; anti-discrimination policy with binding procedures for dealing with cases of discrimination and possible courses of action
- HfMT: Anti-discrimination policy with clear sanction mechanisms and measures in cases of gender-based violence; low-threshold contact and complaint points as well as empowerment formats; in planning: the creation of a protection concept for minors.

[90] https://www.hamburg.de/politik-und-verwaltung/behoerden/schulbehoerde/familie/kinderbetreuung/fachinformationen/bildungsleitlinien-35200

[91] https://www.hamburg.de/resource/blob/119676/97f8c3dba0e78795497517a661b7edf8/schulgesetzdownl oad-data.pdf

[92] https://www.hamburg.de/politik-und-verwaltung/behoerden/schulbehoerde/veroeffentlichungen/bildungsplaene

[93] https://www.hamburg.de/resource/blob/120786/3c0b35d6b59e63d88f11990f221f6464/richtlinie-meldung-von-gewaltvorfaellen-data.pdf

[94] https://www.hamburg.de/politik-und-verwaltung/behoerden/schulbehoerde/einrichtungen-beratung/gewaltpraevention/kinderschutz/kinderschutz-37190

https://gender.blogs.hoou.de/

- Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH): First point of contact for girls and women who have been victims of sexual violence. This office provides information, offers initial personal counselling and refers victims to specialist counselling centres.
- TUHH: The equal opportunities officers develop measures, projects and lectures, e.g. on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, which are aimed at everyone: victims, perpetrators and witnesses of violence.
- University of Hamburg (UHH): Establishment of the Anti-Discrimination Centre; enactment of guidelines for protection against sexual discrimination, harassment and violence; establishment of a working group on sexual discrimination, harassment and violence.

Re c)

- HfMT: With the Ligeti Centre and Music and Gender on the Internet (MuGI), the HfMT deals with digital skills, in particular the deconstruction of stereotypes.

Re d)

- HAW Hamburg / HOOU: Provision of the open online resource "Diversify! Teaching"[96]
- HAW: Workshop offering "Anti-discriminatory teaching – but how?"
- HAW: Principles for gender-neutral wording; joining the Hamburg alliance "die Mitgemeinten" (the included).
- HfMT: The "Diversity Steering Group" and the "Teaching & Diversity Mission Statement" working group are concerned, among other things, with making teaching content and materials less discriminatory.
- HfMT: The academic project MUGI (Music and Gender on the Internet) serves to inscribe FLINTA in music history.

Regarding e)

- HAW: The Equal Opportunities Office and the Academic Equal Opportunities Officer offer a free full-day WenDO training course (feminist self-assertion and self-defence) for students (female and gender-diverse) every semester.
- HfMT: Intersectional empowerment formats for students affected by discrimination, for example through protected discussion forums, raising awareness of diverse realities of life, and artistic and academic events on diversity.
- HfMT: The "Feminale" festival, initiated and organised by female students, aims to provide a platform for female composers.
- HfMT: Mentoring programmes with three schools within of which students and school pupils meet over a longer period of time in workshops, rehearsal visits and joint artistic projects.

2. Hesse

Schools pursue an educational mandate in accordance with Section 2 (1) of the Hesse School Act (HSchG), which is determined by the educational and training objectives in Sections 2 and 3 HSchG. This educational and training mandate defines the purpose associated with the school , thereby shaping the entire structure and ultimately binding every person involved. With regard to the prevention of gender-based violence, the

[96] https://diversify.blogs.hoou.de/diversify-lehre/

educational mandate of the School Act commits schools to the following objectives in particular:

- According to Section 2 (2) Nos. 4 and 5 of the HSchG, schools should enable pupils to recognise the value system of the Basic Law and the Constitution of the State of Hesse and, among other things, to conduct their relationships with other people in accordance with the principles of respect and tolerance, justice and solidarity. HSchG, schools should enable pupils to recognise the values enshrined in the Basic Law and the Constitution of the State of Hesse and, among other things, to shape their relationships with other people according to the principles of respect and tolerance, justice and solidarity, and to experience equality between men and women, including through recognition of the achievements of women in history, science, culture and society.
- In accordance with Section 2 (3) sentence 2 nos. 2 and 3 HSchG, pupils should also learn in particular to develop equal relationships between the sexes and to resolve conflicts reasonably and peacefully, but also to endure conflicts.
- Within the framework of the principles for the implementation of the educational mandate pursuant to Section 3 HSchG, reference should be made to the following guidelines:
- In order to take into account the principle of equality between women and men, efforts must be made to ensure that committees, advisory boards, commissions, other bodies and collegial bodies to be formed on the basis of this Act are composed on a parity basis.
- The school may not discriminate against or favour any pupil on the basis of gender, ancestry, race, language, homeland and origin, disability, faith, or religious or political views.
- Schools should create conditions that promote equality between boys and girls. Pupils are generally taught together. However, if it is pedagogically appropriate, they may also be taught separately at times.

With the amendment of Section 3 (9) of the Hessian School Act on 7 December 2022, all schools in Hesse were required to develop protection concepts against violence and sexual abuse. In addition to school measures in the area of child protection in the broader sense, this also includes the prevention of domestic violence. The related support measures for schools are being continuously developed in close cooperation with the state education authorities, the Hessian Teacher Academy, the Network Against Violence and the State Coordination Office for Specialist Advice on Sexualised Violence in Childhood and Adolescence.

Since the 2023/2024 school year, all teachers in Hesse have also had access to the online Moodle course "Kinderschutzfachtag Schule" (Child Protection Specialist Day at School) on the topics of child protection and child welfare risks. It provides comprehensive insights into the legal framework, role self-image, action strategies and methods of the professions and institutions involved in child protection and is also to be studied by all future teachers in preparatory service.

The Hessian Network Against Violence is working on further expanding the
"Prevention in Teams" (PiT) programme for violence prevention in secondary schools. PiT is a victim-centred programme against violence in public spaces. It is aimed at pupils in grades six to eight of all secondary schools. With the support of the so-called PiT teams, pupils in the relevant year groups train every two months or so in how to deal with violent situations in public spaces in an individual, non-violent manner. A PiT team consists of two teachers, a police officer and a social education worker.

As part of the state programme "Hesse – active for democracy and against extremism"

supports the network against violence in schools and the violence prevention and equality project "HeRoes – against oppression in the name of honour" run by the German Red Cross district association in Offenbach. The HeRoes project involves young men from honour-based cultures who are committed to fighting oppression in the name of honour. They undergo a one-year training programme to become multipliers and then hold workshops based on the peer education approach at schools, youth centres and in groups for unaccompanied minor refugees, among other places. In addition, the Network Against Violence provides an information flyer on forced marriage in various languages and the handout "Violence in the Name of Honour" and offers regular events on this topic.

Part of the card box "Sexualised violence: Recognise, Act, Prevent" deals with (sexualised) peer violence among young people, which can also occur in a domestic context. The card box is available to all secondary schools in Hesse for use in lessons and, in addition to issues of preventing sexualised violence, also explicitly addresses the concept of voluntary consent.

In cooperation with the Hesse police, schools also have access to the DIGITAL NATIVE programme, which includes police support and prevention measures in the areas of sexualised violence on the internet, hate speech and cyberbullying.

Examples of teaching or prevention programmes, materials or initiatives, training courses or prevention campaigns at universities in Hesse:

- The following universities in Hesse have professorships with a partial or full focus on women's/gender studies and/or diversity: Goethe University Frankfurt (GUF), Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU), Philipps University Marburg (UMR), University of Kassel (UKS), Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences (h_da), Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (FRA UAS) and Fulda University of Applied Sciences (HFD).
- Various universities offer certificate programmes in this field (e.g. "Gender Studies" (GUF) or "Gender, Sexuality and Diversity" (UMR)).
- Events such as "Sexism and Anti-Feminism – What Are They and What Can I Do?" (HFD), "Self-Assertion and Self-Defence for Women" (UKS and HFD), "Dealing Professionally with Sexualised Boundary Violations at University – Options for Action and Prevention" (FRA UAS)
- Guidelines such as the digital guide "Sex, Gender and Diversity in Research Proposals" from the GUF
- According to the Hessian Higher Education Act (HessHG), it is the responsibility of every university to enable discrimination-free study and discrimination-free professional and scientific activity (Section 3 (5) HessHG). According to Section 6 (2) HessHG, the provisions of the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG) apply beyond its scope of application to all university members, including students. In addition, the HessHG provides for the appointment of an anti-discrimination officer and a women's and equal opportunities officer.

Re c)

Protection against digital violence, especially against women and girls, is an important part of Hesse's school policy. Digital education, the promotion of media literacy and the protection of young people in the media are systematically interlinked. In principle, the topics of digital literacy and online safety, as well as the prevention of gender-based violence, are anchored in the Hesse curriculum at all stages of education

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The education and training plan for children aged 0 to 10 in Hesse (BEP) emphasises

- teaching values such as equality, tolerance, peace and respect
- Practising non-violent conflict resolution.

In addition, the topic of gender differences is explicitly addressed. In the area of media education, the BEP promotes the competent use of digital media. The aim is to educate children to become communicative and media-literate individuals who use digital content responsibly and safely. This also includes educating them about the opportunities and risks involved and strengthening their safe use of digital media.

The topic is also addressed in the core curriculum for primary school social studies in the subject area of "society and politics". Current plans to adapt the core curricula in Hesse include strengthening digital skills and online safety in the work programme. The aim is to further prepare pupils for the demands of the digital world and to teach them the necessary skills to use digital media safely and responsibly.

The current core curricula for lower secondary education already provide for the topic to be covered in lessons, for example in ethics under the subject area of "law and justice". This subject area focuses on the types of justice and codified law with its concepts of justice in a changing society. These aspects are examined on the basis of human rights and principles of justice.

The binding standard occupational profiles for digitalisation described in the strategy papers of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs, "Education in the Digital World" and "Teaching and Learning in the Digital World", are taken into account in the development of the new core curricula for general education subjects in vocational schools and in the development of new framework curricula for the professions.

The didactics and methodology underlying the new core curricula for vocational schools fundamentally promote the acquisition of digital skills. Examples include the corresponding formulations for the subjects of ethics, politics and economics, and German in vocational schools:

> "Learners should be enabled to use AI systems, critically reflect on sources of information and recognise false and disinformation. In addition to basic IT education, clarification of ethical and legal frameworks is also necessary for 'learning about AI'."

In addition, many of the framework curricula for the 327 vocational training occupations include occupation-specific digital skills and content.

As part of the Digital World school pilot project, pupils in years five and six acquire digital skills with a particular focus on socio-cultural issues. Topics such as equality, digital self-determination and the reflective use of social media are taught in an age-appropriate and practical manner.

In addition, Hesse is pursuing an integrated media education approach with its Digital School Hesse strategy, which is based on the KMK strategy Education in the Digital World. Media education and youth media protection are considered cross-curricular educational tasks and must therefore be taken into account both in the school programme and in all subjects. Schools have developed their own media education concepts for this purpose, which also include youth media protection. Topics such as sexting, cybergrooming and sexualised violence on the internet can be addressed on this basis both within individual subjects and across different subjects.

Schools, teachers and parents are supported by comprehensive services for

This includes training courses via the Hessen school portal, prevention programmes such as Gemeinsam gegen Cybergrooming (Together against cyber grooming) and counselling services offered by the Hessen Youth and Media Counselling Centre. Content ranges from legal issues and intervention plans to recommendations for parental involvement and school mission statements.

Re d)

Section 10 of the Hesse School Act (HSchG), in conjunction with the Ordinance on the Approval of Schoolbooks and Digital Teaching Materials, regulates the requirements and conditions for the approval of schoolbooks and digital teaching materials, ensuring, among other things, that the teaching materials used in schools do not convey negative gender stereotypes of women and men of all age groups. This is because schoolbooks and digital teaching materials must not contradict general constitutional principles and legal provisions. In particular, a schoolbook or digital teaching material may only be approved if it does not violate the principles of respect for human dignity and human rights, peaceful coexistence, tolerance and the prohibition of discrimination and indoctrination, does not promote gender, disability
, religious or racial discrimination, and do not contradict the educational mandate under Section 2 of the School Act.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

The educational concept for children aged 0 to 10 in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania forms the basis for the individual support of children in day-care facilities and child day care. It is based on the concept of diversity. Role models, prejudices, etc. are reflected in the content of the second area of education and upbringing, "Personal and social-emotional development, values and religiosity, culturally sensitive skills". Children should develop an awareness of gender equality at an early age by anchoring gender-conscious work in educational practice and actively questioning stereotypical role models. In this way, fundamental social skills and democratic values are taught in a child-friendly manner from the outset.

The educational concept for 0- to 10-year-old children in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania includes preventive measures aimed at identifying and preventing gender-based violence – especially against girls – at an early stage. In addition, the concept obliges educational professionals to adopt a gender-conscious and anti-discriminatory approach to their work in order to break down role stereotypes and promote the self-determination of all children, regardless of gender.

The topic of prevention is specified on the basis of the areas of responsibility set out in Section 5 (5) of the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern School Act (SchulG M-V)[97]in the cross-cutting themes of "prevention and health education" and "education for tolerance and diversity", which are fundamental components of the framework plans in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. In accordance with Section 11 SchulG M-V, schools are responsible for selecting their own teaching materials, provided that these are in line with the educational objectives and framework plans; there are no central guidelines from the Ministry of Education.

In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, a wide range of school-based prevention measures are also available to promote equality, protection against (sexualised) violence and digital safety. These include, for example, the following programmes: teaching modules on violence and crime prevention, "Klasse2000", "Mein Körper gehört mir!" ("My body belongs to me!"), "Gemeinsam Klasse sein" ("Being a class together"), "bewusstSIGN" ("consciousSIGN"), "Was ist los mit Jaron?" ("What's wrong with Jaron?"), "Helden statt Trolle" ("Heroes instead of trolls") and training formats
offered by the Media Education Centre. The basis for this is § 39a SchulG M-V[98] , which has been in force since 2020/21

[97] Mecklenburg-Vorpommern - SchulG M-V | State standard Mecklenburg-Vorpommern | Complete edition | School Act for the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (School Act - SchulG M-V) in the version of ... | valid from: 01.08.2009

[98] Mecklenburg-Vorpommern - SchulG M-V | State standard Mecklenburg-Vorpommern | Complete edition |

prescribes protection against sexualised violence and bullying in the school programme. The statewide implementation of the "Becoming Independent" programme is planned. The programme for promoting health and life skills in grades 1 to 6 is a central component of violence prevention in schools. It strengthens social skills such as empathy and conflict resolution at an early stage and pursues a holistic approach that integrates various areas of prevention.

The Ministry of Education and Childcare of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (Ministry of Education) has launched an awareness campaign on the topics of psychological stress and sexualised violence among children and young people. Two brochures have been published to inform schoolchildren and highlight support services available to them.

With the guiding principle of "Listen – Advise – Mediate", the Ministry of Education has extensively developed and expanded school psychological support. In this context, the control centre of the Central Department for Diagnostics and School Psychology (ZDS) is now also available nationwide for questions and concerns. Another new feature is mobile teams that provide immediate on-site support in acute situations. The Central Department for Diagnostics and School Psychology (ZDS) also offers training courses for teachers to prepare them for dealing with incidents such as mental stress (suicidal tendencies) or sexual assault.

The following measures are in place at universities in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania:

- "NoGo" prevention campaign: education, counselling formats,
- survey on discrimination (2023) launched and evaluated, and research projects such as Gender-specific violence on German television (cooperation project between Wismar University of Applied Sciences and the University of Rostock, funded by the MaLisa Foundation and UFA GmbH_ 2021**)**
- Film idea against violence "Lost Lifetime – Escaping Domestic Violence" (2022), which was shown in cinemas in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania as a supporting film
- **"Inju" is an app** that helps women affected by domestic violence on several levels / (2023)**.**

4. Saxony

Prevention work with **children and young people** is carried out in daycare centres and schools by educational professionals, the police, specialist counselling centres, public and independent child and youth welfare services, and the state sports youth organisation. The LAP IK places a special focus on formal education. The LAP IK plans to further develop and optimise preventive education programmes for children, young people and adults in school settings. This includes supporting teachers with specific training and materials to ensure they feel confident in dealing with legal issues relating to domestic and gender-based violence. In addition, regional support services and protection networks run by public institutions and organisations are to support prevention work in schools. Prevention services are provided via
Information is available on the "Prävention im Team" (PiT) portal, among other places. PiT is Saxony's comprehensive state strategy in the field of general early childhood and school prevention. Within the framework of PiT, regional cooperation agreements provide for binding cooperation between local authorities, the State Office for Schools and Education (LaSuB) and police departments with the aim of
networking and pooling resources for interdisciplinary prevention activities. Among the

School Act for the State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (School Act - SchulG M-V) in the version of ... | valid from: 01.08.2009

[99] https://www.bildung-mv.de/schule/zentraler-fachbereich-diagnostik-schulpsychologie-zds/

A total of 104 services for children and young people are listed throughout Saxony on the topics of domestic and sexualised violence (as of 25 April 2025). The LAP IK also addresses the fight against violence in teenage relationships in its 10th objective.

The portfolio of tasks of the state-funded intervention and coordination centres for gender-based and domestic violence also includes awareness-raising and educational work in formal education institutions. To this end, a series of workshops, action days and travelling exhibitions are organised, for example. The counselling centres are also involved in activities related to Girls' and Boys' Day.

In the area of **formal education**, the diverse life skills programmes (e.g. MindMatters, Lions Quest programmes) for schools are particularly effective, encouraging and empowering pupils to actively live self-determination.

In the higher education sector, the Technical University of Dresden (Saxony's second-largest university) is a prime example of this, with a programme of events running since 2021 to raise awareness, promote networking and empower women as part of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, with a variety of different focuses. Self-assertion and self-defence courses are also offered.

The State Working Group on Sexual Violence – Prevention and Intervention in Saxony e.V. (LAG SGPI) is a network and umbrella organisation of professionals and institutions working in the field of sexual violence. Among other things, the LAG office offers expert circles on the topic of sexual violence against children and young people, which are also aimed at professionals in schools.

5. Saxony-Anhalt

According to Section 5 (3) of the Act on the Promotion and Care of **Children in Day Care Facilities** and Day Care in the State of Saxony-Anhalt (Kinderförderungsgesetz – KiFöG), the education programme "Education: elementary – education from the very beginning" is the binding basis for work in day care facilities in the state of Saxony-Anhalt.

The current education programme has been in force since 2013. The themes of diversity, inclusion and the associated equality, mutual respect and non-violence run through the entire education programme. The educational staff in the day care facilities ensure that all children can participate equally in the community. Educational staff and children work together to develop rules to protect diversity in the day care facility and combat inequality. No child is exposed, shamed, condemned or excluded – either through actions or words.

In 2024, the educational programme was updated and published in 2025. The overall theme is still included and has been expanded.

The specific measures taken in childcare facilities are therefore determined individually on the basis of the educational programme and the specific concept and conditions of each childcare facility.

In 2024 alone, the state-funded VERA specialist unit against trafficking in women and forced marriage carried out 21 project days with young people using the the "Loverboy" method, reaching approximately 300 young people. The implementation of the project days was accompanied and supported by the interministerial coordination group on trafficking in women, forced marriage and honour-related violence.

6. Schleswig-Holstein on

a), b), e)

Child day care facilities and child day care

Based on the provisions of SGB VIII, the Schleswig-Holstein law on the promotion of children in day-care facilities and day-care centres

(Kindertagesförderungsgesetz – KiTaG) also contains provisions on child protection. Physical punishment, emotional abuse and other degrading measures are therefore prohibited. In

The KiTaG states that all children have the right to protection from abuse and violence. To safeguard the rights and welfare of children in early childhood education, care and upbringing institutions, a violence protection concept must therefore be developed and implemented by every childcare facility (Section 19 (6), sentence 2 KiTaG SH). Childcare facilities and childminders must ensure that child protection is guaranteed in their institutions and that appropriate processes are initiated if there are indications of child welfare risks in the private sphere (including domestic violence). In addition, children must be involved in all matters that affect them. For the benefit of children and to safeguard their rights, appropriate procedures for self-representation and participation as well as the possibility of complaining about personal matters must be provided for and practised (Section 19 (5), sentence 3). These measures also promote preventive protection against violence.

According to Section 19 (2) KiTaG, a special feature of educational quality is the joint upbringing and education of children with different abilities and from different social, national and cultural backgrounds. This should help children to recognise each other in their diversity, build emotionally positive relationships with each other and support each other.

Educational professionals in daycare centres and childcare facilities are required, in accordance with the guidelines on educational mandate, to recognise gender diversity and promote gender equality. Promoting gender equality requires educational professionals in daycare centres and childcare facilities to understand and appreciate each child's individual gender identity. Gender-specific barriers can be broken down through, among other things, the conscious selection of toys or materials, explicit room design and the reflective use of language. Inter- or transsexuality, as well as queer lifestyles, are also topics in early childhood education – affecting both parents and children. Discrimination based on gender and associated inappropriate or abusive behaviour should be resolutely counteracted.

The attitude and qualifications of educational professionals are crucial in raising awareness and reflecting on gender-specific forms of violence. The ministry responsible for early childhood education therefore promotes appropriate training opportunities for educational professionals, which are carried out by training providers, institutions and other organisations in the field of early childhood education, care and upbringing. In addition, there is a nationwide free programme of further training, counselling and supervision on the subject of trauma pedagogy, which supports educational professionals in dealing with highly stressed and traumatised children (TiK-SH.de).

Re a) and b)

Universities

The THL is working on a lighting concept for the university campus to make the environment safer.

The Kiel University of Applied Sciences offers specialised modules on "Gender-Reflexive Social Work" in its BA Social Work programme – in addition to introductory lectures on topics such as gender equality,

Feminism and its impact on social work, courses are offered each semester that explicitly address the topic of gender-based violence and/or its prevention/intervention. In the summer semester of 2025, for example: Masculinity and Social Work, Sexuality and Social Work, Protection, Prevention and
prosecution – with the Istanbul Convention against violence against women, the living conditions of

women in international comparison – country case studies on discriminatory practices and violations of women's human rights, gender and migration – current challenges for social work with refugees.

Furthermore, the OMÄGA network (For a society without male violence) was founded under the leadership of Prof. Dr Fabian Lamp (Kiel University of Applied Sciences). The project is funded by the Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of Social Affairs. In 2025, six regional conferences on violence prevention education for boys will be held in Schleswig-Holstein, as well as a six-day training course for trainers (train the trainer), both under the direction of Prof. Dr. Fabian Lamp and Thomas Hölscher (spokesperson for LAG Jungenarbeit Schleswig-Holstein).

At Flensburg University of Applied Sciences, the topic of gender-based violence is particularly well established in the newly established nursing programme. Among other things, aspects of women's health and the particular vulnerability of certain groups (e.g. older women, women with disabilities) to violence are addressed and taught as part of the course content. In this way, prospective healthcare professionals are taught a gender-sensitive view of care and support situations from the outset.

At CAU, various courses deal with gender-based violence and/or the Istanbul Convention, especially in social pedagogy and thus also for prospective teachers (e.g. lecture "Gender-Sexual Education-Prevention" with accompanying seminars on topics such as prevention of sexualised violence, theories on sexualised violence, violence prevention and protection concepts (in cooperation with Petze and Pro-Familia); Lecture on "Diversity-conscious pedagogy and social pedagogical professionalism" with accompanying diversity training; teaching research project "Social Pedagogy" and module "Discourses and Concepts of Social Pedagogical Action" with seminars on the topic of "Sexualised Violence" or on the various forms of gender-specific violence against women and girls and on topics of prevention;). In the Master's programme in Migration and Diversity, the following courses cover the topics of the Istanbul Convention and/or gender-based violence: In the seminar "Breaking Barriers", the Istanbul Convention is a central point of reference – especially in the discussion of gender-based violence and gender as a characteristic of discrimination. In the seminar
"Gender and Migration", there are teaching units on sexualised violence and the prevention of sexualised violence in the context of flight/migration; in the seminar "Social Pedagogy in the Migration Society", there are teaching units on intersectional perspectives on refugee girls; in the seminar "Gender, Diversity, Anti-Discrimination: Analysis and Intervention" includes teaching units on the Istanbul Convention with a focus on migration and asylum (with the LFSH). In the Faculty of Law, the topic is covered, for example, in the lecture "International Human Rights Protection". In political science, the Istanbul Convention is covered in seminars on the topic of "Feminist History of Ideas".

At the CAU, the teaching research project "Gender Reflections in Football" in the Master's programme in Education deals with awareness and protection concepts in stadiums in one of its teaching units.

The CAU has an SOS button on its homepage with relevant contact points and counselling centres for gender-based violence inside and outside the university.

Some universities in Schleswig-Holstein are officially part of the Alliance Against Sexism, as is the Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of Social Affairs.

Regarding c)

Universities

Together with the KIK network (Cooperation and Intervention Concept), the equal opportunities officer at Flensburg University of Applied Sciences is currently developing a training programme on digital security specifically for employees of women's counselling centres in the region. The aim is to strengthen their digital protection skills and improve support
women affected by violence in the digital space.

At the CAU, the seminar Gender, Diversity, Anti-Discrimination: Analysis and Intervention includes teaching units on digitised sexualised violence: prevention and intervention with a focus on children and young people (with N.I.N.A. e.V.).

Re d), e)

Universities

Universities in Schleswig-Holstein have created university-wide guidelines for protection against disadvantage, discrimination, sexual harassment and violence.

In cases of discrimination and violence, counselling and support services are available at the universities.

With the BASTA! project, Kiel University of Applied Sciences, in cooperation with the AStA and Frauennotruf
e.V., offers a wide range of ongoing counselling and support services with options for victims of sexual, physical and psychological violence (including domestic violence) in cooperation with an external specialist counselling centre (Frauennotruf Kiel e.V.). Appointments can be made via a dedicated FH email address and telephone number and take place at the Kiel University of Applied Sciences premises or, if desired, at the Frauennotruf Kiel premises, either digitally or by telephone.

The universities participate annually in the "Orange Days" and thus raise awareness of the issue on campus. This is done primarily through workshops, film screenings, discussion events, visible statements (flags, posters, homepages), poetry slams, exhibitions and similar formats.

In this context, Flensburg University of Applied Sciences offers awareness programmes for male members of the university as well as self-defence courses for female students and staff. In cooperation with the equal opportunities officer at the European University of Flensburg, an information campaign for first-year students on the topic of
"Celebrating and having fun together... but SAFELY!", which draws attention to potential dangers and highlights options for action and support.

In 2023 and 2024, Kiel University of Applied Sciences organised a public exhibition on "Femicide in Germany" and a reading on femicide.

The universities offer information events and workshops for various university groups (students, administrative staff, academic staff, etc.).

The universities work in committees in which a wide variety of actors from the federal government, the states, local authorities and civil society are represented.

Flensburg University of Applied Sciences is developing the design and implementation of an integrated protection and security concept (infrastructure, awareness raising, communication, etc.) for the Flensburg campus.

Some universities allow students and staff to change their first name and gender internally with minimal effort.

The universities promote gender-neutral language by, for example, publishing handouts in both German and English.

In addition, Flensburg University of Applied Sciences regularly provides so-called "knockout drop test bracelets" at student events (TOP Week, Schipper-Klause, Pizza Alumni). The aim is to raise students' awareness of the danger of knockout drop assaults in a low-threshold manner and to promote empowerment through action competence.

The CAU awards gender research and teaching prizes to theses that address gender-specific violence.

Schools

Protecting pupils from violence is already an integral part of school prevention work in Schleswig-Holstein. The basis for this is provided by Section 4 (11) of the School Act:

> "To protect the mental and physical integrity of pupils, the school has a prevention and intervention concept in place, particularly for dangers related to sexualised, psychological and physical violence, for the general strengthening and support of pupils' personal development, and for structural measures to deal with imminent and existing dangers to the welfare of children."

The school prevention and intervention concepts consist of various components. These include the "contact points" component, i.e. the schools have a contact person available for questions and offers of help on the subject of violence, among other things.

The Centre for Prevention supports schools in Schleswig-Holstein in their prevention work through measures including the following:

- Training courses for all school staff on the topics of protection concepts and child welfare risks, as well as on various topics related to violence prevention, including in the context of digital media use.
- Support in planning and implementing school development days on the following topics: protection concepts, child welfare risks, violence prevention.
- Organisation of regional and state-wide specialist conferences on the following topics: sexual violence, protection concepts, child welfare risks, violence prevention.
- Provision of guidance on the development of school prevention and intervention concepts. The topics of sexual violence, protection concepts, child welfare risks and various aspects of violence prevention are explicitly addressed here.
- In addition, the annual "Network Meeting – Sexual Violence" takes place with a changing focus.
- The training programme on violence protection offered by the Centre for Prevention is constantly being developed.
- The Centre for Prevention is planning a training event on the topic of "Violence against women".

In addition, courses offered by external organisations are promoted. For example, the association "Notruf und Beratung für vergewaltigte Mädchen und Frauen e.V." (Emergency Hotline and Counselling for Raped Girls and Women) in Kiel offers exhibitions for schools and training courses as part of the PETZE prevention office project to encourage children and young people, in an age-appropriate manner, to recognise their own boundaries, to know that they are allowed to set boundaries and to seek help if necessary, and to increase the confidence of teachers, school administrators and school social workers.

As part of the emergency programme to support pupils, parents and school staff, measures to promote empowerment and non-violent conflict resolution are being promoted. Funding is also being provided for the project "Zeit für Kinderrechte" (Time for Children's Rights) and, in cooperation with UNICEF Germany, "Kinderrechteschule - Wir
live children's rights". There are currently 16 primary schools in the network of children's rights schools in Schleswig-Holstein.

7. Thuringia

on a)

One example of a specific project is "Gemeinsam Klasse sein" (Being a Class Together), which is being implemented in cooperation with the Techniker Krankenkasse health insurance fund and aims to strengthen class cohesion and

prevent bullying and cyberbullying.[100]

In addition, there are local partnerships with child and youth welfare institutions (e.g. in the context of school-related youth social work services provided by school social workers, youth facilities and clubs) which support schools in their catchment area in the prevention of sexualised violence through various projects.

Re b), c) and d)

Publishers must submit a declaration when submitting school textbooks:

"The publisher assures that the textbook submitted for approval to the Thuringian Ministry of Education, Science and Culture also meets the requirements of
§ 3 paragraphs 1 to 3 of the Thuringian Teaching and Learning Materials Ordinance (ThürLLVO) and, in particular, that it complies with the constitution and other legal provisions and that its content enables the implementation of the nationally applicable educational standards.

Furthermore, the learning material contains content that is critical of racism and free of discrimination and prejudice, and it ensures a diverse representation of origin, religion, worldview, disability, social milieu, sexual identity and orientation, gender and the general representation of certain groups (Enquiry Commission 6/1 "Causes and forms of racism and discrimination in Thuringia and their effects on social coexistence and liberal democracy" (DS 6/7709, 24 September 2019).

This assurance also includes any subsequent additions and supplements to the digital form, regardless of the textbook submitted.

Re e)

Furthermore, the Commissioner for Gender Equality intended to offer a workshop for girls with disabilities as early as 2024, which would encourage them to assert their rights. This project is being rescheduled for this year and is to take place in cooperation with, for example, an organisation in the field of sport.

The offers and measures for educators and managers are generally aimed at providing further training on the Thuringian child protection concept – a protection concept against (sexualised) violence.

By the end of 2027, every school is required to develop a protection concept. The programmes are ongoing for all schools as part of this process.

In the further training courses and at specialist conferences, the topics covered by the IK in relation to women and girls are not exclusive topics. However, these topics are addressed within the events.

Topics/events in the area of further training that also deal with topics related to the Istanbul Convention include:

- "Confident action in child protection"
- Prevention of sexual violence in schools – Towards a protection concept
- "Dealing with child welfare risks (child protection §55a)"
- "Support through educational assistance - Confidence in action in child protection
- "Online consultation on creating a protection concept against sexual violence"
- "Safe Talk – Real Talk. Talking about mediatised sexualised violence".
- "Recommendations for action in the perception of signs of

[100] https://www.gemeinsam-klasse-sein.de/anti-mobbing

child welfare risks"

- "Options for action for child rights-based media education"
- "Youth welfare offices and their overall responsibility for early childhood"
- Cyberbullying (violence using digital media)
- Dealing with fake news and hate speech (RS/GY)
- "Successfully tackling bullying in schools: the 'NO - BLAME' approach"

Leadership development / headteacher training from ThILLM (Thuringian Institute for Teacher Training, Curriculum Development and Media)

In particular, topics from the IK are addressed in the regularly offered training courses, including:

- "Confident action in child protection"
- "School law"
- "Rights and obligations of school management"
- "Domestic violence – families affected by addiction: challenges for school management"

In addition, other ThILLM departments, such as media education for educational leaders, can also be used for this purpose (e.g. cyberbullying).

Further offers for lateral entrants to the teaching profession

The topic of "violence against women and domestic violence" is not explicitly covered in the intensive course for lateral entrants (5 times/year).

However, depending on the needs of the participants, there are points of reference in the following events:

- "Democracy education/dealing with inhuman statements"
- "Collegial case consultation"
- "The school psychology service"
- "School regulations"
- "Dealing with difficult teaching situations"
- "How do thoughts get into my head?"
- "Philosophical, ideological, civil society and religious education"

The online training course "What's wrong with Jaron?" – a basic digital course on protecting pupils from sexual abuse – is available on the Thuringian school portal website.

In addition, internal school training courses and consultations are held, in particular by school development advisors with a focus on child protection.

The courses also include case consultations.

The topic of "sexualised violence and gender-specific violence" is taken into account in the further development of the Thuringian curricula and then also in the classroom. The same applies to the topics:

- "Living beings and habitats"
- "Individual and society"
- and, in a broader sense, topics such as sexual and gender diversity, life in social communities, rules and values.

Insofar as the **higher education sector** is , it summarised reported the following prevention campaigns:

Exhibition "Together against sexism"

- In 2024, the exhibition "Together Against Sexism" was shown in person at the University of Applied Sciences in Erfurt and at the Ernst Abbe University of Applied Sciences in Jena.
- With the aim of raising awareness of how to deal with and prevent sexism, removing the taboo surrounding the topic of sexism and sexual harassment, and providing an opportunity to deepen knowledge and reflect on one's own behaviour, the joint implementation of the print-on-demand exhibition "Together Against Sexism" by the Thuringian Competence Network for Equality (TKG) is planned for the winter semester of 2025 in cooperation with the decentralised employees of the TKG.
  "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women" (25 November 2025). The exhibition will be presented in person at each individual location and opened individually. At the Ernst Abbe University of Applied Sciences in Jena, among other places, the exhibition will also be offered in easy-to-read language.
- To complement the exhibitions at the individual university locations, the TKG is preparing an accompanying programme of lectures and workshops to raise awareness of how to deal with and prevent sexism for all interested university members in an online format.
- The TKG is coordinating the implementation of the exhibition at the individual locations and financing the printing of the exhibition panels, advertising materials and the supporting programme.
- Further information on the exhibition "Together against sexism"[101] ; further information on the alliance "Together against sexism"[102]
- Further information on the exhibition in 2024 at the University of Applied Sciences Erfurt [103] and at the Ernst Abbe University of Applied Sciences Jena [104]

Declaration "Together Against Sexism"

- As part of the presentation of the exhibition "Together Against Sexism", some of Thuringia's universities, including Nordhausen University of Applied Sciences, are planning to sign the joint declaration "Together Against Sexism and Sexual Harassment" of the alliance "Together Against Sexism".
- The University of Applied Sciences Erfurt signed the declaration back in 2024.
- Further reading on declaration "Together against sexism and sexual harassment" [105]

Participation in the "Orange the World" campaign

- The "Orange the World" campaign has been raising awareness of violence against women and girls since 1991: from the "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women" on 25 November to 10 December, "Human Rights Day". Since 2008, it has been part of the UN Secretary-General's "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" campaign, which is implemented by UN Women.
- UN Women Germany various

[101] https://gemeinsam-gegen-sexismus.de/ausstellung/
[102] https://gemeinsam-gegen-sexismus.de/ueber-das-buendnis/das-buendnis/
[103] https://www.fh-erfurt.de/news/orange-the-world
[104] https://www.instagram.com/gdi_eahjena/p/DBqlncQMEP1/?img_index=1
[105] https://gemeinsam-gegen-sexismus.de/gemeinsame-erklaerung/

Possible actions for participating in the campaign include hanging an orange flag or illuminating a central building in orange. In 2024, the University of Erfurt participated in the campaign by hanging the flag at two locations, and the Erfurt University of Applied Sciences participated by illuminating a building.

- As part of the above-mentioned joint presentation of the exhibition
  As part of the "Together Against Sexism" campaign at Thuringian universities, several institutions, including the University of Erfurt and the University of Applied Sciences Erfurt, are planning to participate in the campaign again in 2025, while others are considering participating in 2025.
- Further information on the "Orange the world" campaign [106]
- Further information on the participation of the University of Erfurt in 2024 [107]and the University of Applied Sciences Erfurt [108]

8. Bavaria

Programmes, campaigns and materials:

- Preventive measures in general[109]
- Violence prevention[110]
- Help with violence and sexual abuse[111] Digital

literacy and online safety:

Media education and digital education are cross-curricular educational goals in the LehrplanPLUS curriculum and are therefore a mandatory part of teaching in all Bavarian schools. This subject-integrative approach is necessary in order to do justice to the complexity of the topic and the requirement for holistic media education.

In addition, the Bavarian Media Licence offers free teaching materials for all types of schools to promote digital literacy and safe use of online media. In order to do justice to the educational partnership approach in media education, materials for parent information evenings have been published.

The campaign "Don't turn your mobile phone into a weapon" aims to raise awareness of problematic content and criminal acts. It provides information about the legal consequences of misconduct when using smartphones and promotes media education. The initiative also includes educational measures, such as confiscating smartphones and participation in social training courses for young people who break the rules.

Curricula and learning materials:

Anchoring issues relating to violence against women:

- in various for all types of schools and year groups
  Binding interdisciplinary educational and teaching objectives in the Bavarian LehrplanPLUS curriculum:
- Social learning: treating each other with respect; learning tolerance and empathy

[106] https://unwomen.de/orange-the-world/
[107] https://www.uni-erfurt.de/universitaet/aktuelles/news/news-detail/aktion-orange-the-world-universitaet-erfurt-ist-dabei
[108] https://www.fh-erfurt.de/news/orange-the-world
[109] https://www.km.bayern.de/lernen/inhalte/geschlechtliche-bildung-und-vielfalt
[110] https://www.km.bayern.de/lernen/inhalte/gesundheit/praevention/gewaltpraevention
[111] https://www.schulberatung.bayern.de/themen-und-anlaesse/haeusliche-und-sexuelle-gewalt
[112] https://www.km.bayern.de/gestalten/digitalisierung/medienerziehung/mach-dein-handy-nicht-zur-waffe

and communication skills; non-violent conflict resolution

- Values education: "... Respect for life and human dignity. Pupils respect different beliefs and act in an open-minded and tolerant manner in a pluralistic society."
- Family and sex education: "Pupils recognise situations that pose a risk of sexual harassment and violence and learn preventive behaviours and strategies for responding appropriately in dangerous situations."
- and further specified in the subject curricula of all school types.

In Bavaria, school textbooks are subject to a central approval process by the State Ministry of Education and Culture. The basis for the assessment is the "Ordinance on the Approval of Teaching Materials" as well as a general catalogue of criteria and school-specific catalogues of criteria.

Within the framework of the general "Criteria for the Assessment of Learning Materials" (as of October 2024), teachers appointed as assessors are explicitly requested to ensure that "individuals and groups of individuals [...] are not portrayed in a discriminatory manner". In addition, "care must be taken to ensure that men and women are portrayed equally". With regard to the portrayal of gender roles in particular, the following is stated: "The reality of women's lives in our society, both in terms of burdens and conflicts and in terms of their participation in working life and public life, must be adequately portrayed. The learning material must not promote the development of one-sided ideas about the position or lifestyle of men and women in society and family or in other forms of cohabitation."

9. Lower Saxony

From 2019 to 2022, the three girls' shelters in Lower Saxony carried out the project "Empowering Girls" as part of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Lower Saxony. The project focused on digital violence, digital self-assertion and qualification, working with girls with refugee experiences, as well as online counselling and self-competence training.

As part of the ongoing task of updating and further developing school curricula, the guidelines are constantly being adapted, taking into account the requirements of the Istanbul Convention. This means that the issues mentioned under a.) to e.) are continuously incorporated into the educational programmes. The implementation of the Istanbul Convention is seen as a cross-cutting task. In addition to these ongoing developments, MK is making further efforts to support change in line with the issues raised in question.

10. Rhineland-Palatinate on b)

Reference should be made to the format "Lage live" (Live Situation) listed in Table 2 as an example of selective online training on the topic of "Monitored, controlled, threatened – digital dimensions of domestic violence: digitalisation of intimate partner violence" with the involvement of experts with operational field access or from research.

The Ministry of Justice does not provide its own learning materials; responsibility for teaching content lies with the universities within the framework of academic freedom. However, the State Examination Office works to avoid stereotypical role assignments and promote diversity in state examinations.

[113] https://maedchenhaeuser-niedersachsen.de/

The implementation of the Istanbul Convention should be understood as an ongoing task that permeates various facets of legal education.

Examples of teaching and prevention programmes

a) Education on equality, personal integrity and non-violent conflict resolution:

- Article 3(3) of the Basic Law is systematically addressed in legal education and forms a basis for understanding equality and the prohibitions on discrimination resulting from Article 3(3) of the Basic Law.
- Interdisciplinary seminars at the universities of Mainz also cover topics such as sexual offences, sexualised violence and/or domestic violence, violence against children, intimate partner violence, intimate partner homicide and prevention, as well as social therapy.

b) Combating gender-based violence against women and girls: An ongoing task:

- Criminal offences against physical integrity, coercion, threats and homicides are included in the catalogue of subjects covered by the legal training and examination regulations.

Other courses include:

- The seminar "Family Law and Psychology" analyses intimate partner violence, intimate partner homicide and child abuse from a legal and psychological perspective.
- Criminology courses focusing on criminal justice deal with the causes of gender-based violence and approaches to prevention.

c) Promotion of digital literacy and online safety:

- Not within the remit of the State Examination Office for Lawyers.

d) Avoiding negative gender stereotypes in teaching materials:

- Stereotypical role assignments are deliberately avoided in the examination tasks set by the State Examination Office. Women and marginalised groups are portrayed in active, responsible roles.

e) Measures to prevent gender-based violence and empower girls:

- See above.

School

The nationwide initiative for the prevention of child sexual abuse, "Trau dich!" (Dare to speak up!), has been established in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate. The target group is Year 5 and 6 pupils. In addition to theatre performances, the programme includes networking between school and extracurricular professionals in the region, information evenings for parents and further training for teachers.

The publication "Crisis Management: Guidelines for Dealing with Crisis Situations in Schools" has been available since November 2019 and contains an emergency plan for a structured approach to crisis situations as well as further information on dealing with sexualised violence.

Daycare

The following measures have been implemented for the daycare sector:

- The Ministry of Education's daycare server for Rhineland-Palatinate, which serves as a central information platform for the Rhineland-Palatinate daycare system (from daycare providers, specialist advisors and daycare managers to members of the daycare team), has been expanded to include two themes:

- The topic area "Democracy education and children's rights" [114] , which focuses in particular on the aspects of respect, protection against discrimination, participation and protection against violence. In addition, it provides concise information on training opportunities, links and materials specifically for the field of early childhood education.
- The topic area "Protection against violence" [115] , which in particular encourages reflection on current practice and is intended to provide impetus for the further development of protection concepts in daycare centres.

Both topics are being expanded.

- The Ministry of Education, the municipal umbrella organisations, the LIGA der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege (League of Independent Welfare Organisations), the representative of the Protestant churches in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate and the head of the Catholic Office in Mainz have agreed and signed a framework agreement on the design of management qualifications in accordance with the agreement on skilled workers for day-care facilities for children in Rhineland-Palatinate. The content of the qualification measures for management staff is specifically defined as follows:
  - the Perception of the protection mandate in connection with child welfare risks,
  - the protection concept for the daycare centre,
  - child rights-based work,
  - complaints procedures,
  - the education and training recommendations for Rhineland-Palatinate and
  - the quality recommendations.

The goal of training managers also includes further developing work in and with networks.

With the framework agreement on the design of basic pedagogical qualifications within the meaning of the agreement on skilled workers for day-care facilities for children in Rhineland-Palatinate, protection against all forms of violence, among other things, became mandatory.

The project Kinderrechte Konkret – RLP! Gemeinsam Verantwortung leben: Demokratie, Schutz und Qualitätsentwicklung (Children's Rights in Practice – RLP! Living Responsibility Together: Democracy, Protection and Quality Development) by the Institute for Education, Upbringing and Care in Childhood Rhineland-Palatinate supports daycare centres in 2025/2026 with the Quality Development in Discourse (QiD) method to further develop their concepts for the protection of children with professional support and to anchor them sustainably in everyday practice. In the course of the project's implementation, materials are expected in 2026 that will provide further impetus for practical application.

In 2024, the implementation of "LIEBESLEBEN – Das Mitmach-Projekt (LLMP)" began in Rhineland-Palatinate – an interactive programme offered by the Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA) (now: Federal Institute for Public Health (BIÖG)) in cooperation with the Association of Private Health Insurance Companies (PKV) and the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science and Health of Rhineland-Palatinate. School pupils interactively explore topics such as sexual self-determination, relationship building, understanding their own roles and dealing with
their own sexuality.

11. North Rhine-Westphalia on a)

[114] https://kita.rlp.de/kita-in-rheinland-pfalz/bildungs-und-erziehungsthemen/demokratiepaedagogik-und-kinderrechte/kinderrechte
[115] https://kita.rlp.de/kita-in-rheinland-pfalz/bildungs-und-erziehungsthemen/schutz-vor-gewalt

As part of the general educational mandate of schools in North Rhine-Westphalia, the development of mature and socially responsible personalities is an interdisciplinary task in schools and teaching. This explicitly includes gender-sensitive education. For example, the 2024 guidelines "Educational Principles for General Education Schools in North Rhine-Westphalia" state that gender-sensitive education aims, among other things, to eliminate explicit and latent gender-based disadvantages and restrictions (see Appendix 1, p. 10).

The Ministry of Schools and Education of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia is taking a variety of measures to support schools in providing gender-sensitive education. Gender-sensitive education is anchored in the core curricula of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. For example, the core curriculum for German in comprehensive and secondary schools, valid since 2022, provides for the reception of historical and current phenomena of language change with regard to gender-neutral language and the examination of linguistic gender-related attributions and discrimination for grades 9/10 (see Appendix 2, p. 28).

At the end of 2020, the Ministry of Schools and Education, together with the Quality and Support Agency – State Institute for Schools, published and comprehensively implemented the guide "Pedagogical Orientation for Gender-Sensitive Education in Schools in North Rhine-Westphalia"[116] (see Appendix 3). The guide, which was updated in 2022, also includes a chapter on violence prevention (ibid., Chapter 7.4, p. 25).

Schools can find further support in the area of gender-sensitive education on the internet portal for gender-sensitive education run by the Quality and Support Agency – State Institute for Schools in North Rhine-Westphalia (QUA-LiS NRW for short), which provides information and practical examples and is continuously being developed. The resources available there include, for example, the practical guide published by QUA-LiS NRW in 2023
"Gender-sensitive education in the subject of German" (see Appendix 4) with teaching examples, recommendations and ideas. QUA-LiS NRW also regularly holds events on gender-sensitive education. These include, for example, the symposium held in 2024 entitled "Shaping equality and democracy – gender aspects in democracy education in schools".

In addition, gender-sensitive education is anchored in teacher training and continuing professional development, as well as in the learning materials approval process (see point d and the contribution to Article 15, p. 181 for more details). The Ministry of Schools and Education also wants to support teachers, specialists, pupils and parents in violence prevention and anti-discrimination work in schools. Various forms of assistance and measures are offered for this purpose.

School psychology plays an important role in this context. It uses psychological findings to support schools in their educational mission and in the further development of their counselling concept, in questions of organisational and school profile development, and in the (further) development and evaluation of efficient teaching and support concepts. This is done, among other things, through school class-related counselling services, in connection with emergencies, crisis management and prevention, in cooperation with other support systems, e.g. child and youth welfare institutions, and in particular in the implementation of child protection in schools.

For example, every district or independent city has a school psychology service.
service. With its wide range of counselling and support services, it is an important point of contact for schools and an indispensable source of help for everyone involved in school life.

[116] https://www.schulentwicklung.nrw.de/q/gendersensible-bildung

Close cooperation between schools, school psychology, social pedagogy, social work, educational counselling centres, school, youth and social pedagogy enables preventive and intervention work in the context of violence prevention and psychological support when needed.

In addition, the 54 school psychology services offer information events and support on topics such as violence prevention for teachers, staff and schools. In addition, the State Prevention Centre against Violence and Cyber Violence in Schools[117]in North Rhine-Westphalia, which was established by the Ministry of Schools and Education in cooperation with the state capital Düsseldorf and the Düsseldorf district government, serves as a central point of contact for schools and systematically supports them in their efforts to combat violence and exclusion. It offers advice on prevention and intervention measures against violence and cyber violence. Specifically, the State Agency promotes school development, offers schools further education and training opportunities, and is represented in the field of teacher training with various workshops.

Re b)

Between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2024, several measures and initiatives were implemented in North Rhine-Westphalia in the field of formal education with the aim of preventing gender-based violence against women and girls. The Ministry of Schools and Education of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia has been cooperating with the Independent Commissioner for Child Sexual Abuse Issues since 2016. The initiative
"School Against Sexual Violence" is intended as a specialist portal for protection concepts aimed at teachers and professionals with the aim of educating these groups about abuse and making schools places where children and young people are protected from sexual violence and where they can find help if, for example, they experience sexual violence in a family context. This is also supported by the mandate of the "General Service Regulations for School Administrators and Teachers in North Rhine-Westphalia" [118], according to which suspected cases of child abuse must be reported. In addition, there is usually at least one counselling teacher in almost all secondary schools. They advise pupils, their legal guardians, and teaching and specialist staff in schools. Counselling teachers are also part of the school teams for counselling, violence prevention and crisis intervention, which provide significant support to the school management in their counselling, prevention and intervention work.

Schools therefore play a central role in implementing child protection. This also includes the prevention of female genital mutilation (FGM/C), which is classified as a serious human rights violation. The YUNA NRW project, funded by the Ministry for Children, Youth, Family, Equality, Refugees and Integration, comprises nationwide measures for education, (specialist) counselling and networking. Teachers and school staff are empowered to recognise warning signs and take appropriate action. Cooperation between the departments is beneficial here. This includes, for example, further publicising the YUNA NRW project and providing additional information and support services in the newsletter.
"Equality in Schools and Special Education" by the Ministry of Schools and Education on the topic of
"Female genital mutilation" from 2023.

In 2024, the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia funded the development of a prevention project and training concept on the topic of the "lover boy method". The aim is to reach both schoolchildren and professionals who work with young people through the specialist staff of the eight specialised, state-funded counselling centres for girls and women affected by human trafficking for sexual exploitation or forced prostitution. The training materials have created a uniform, state-wide
standard has been created, incorporating their collective expertise.

[117] https://www.duesseldorf.de/lps
[118] https://bass.schule.nrw/12374.htm

Re c)

The central goal of the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia is to create the conditions that enable teachers to prepare their pupils for the challenges of their future, increasingly digitalised living and working environments. Due to the increasing importance of digitalisation in all areas of life, the 16th School Law Amendment Act[119] , Section 2, supplemented the educational mandate. It now expressly stipulates that pupils should acquire digital skills in order to be able to cope with and seize future requirements and opportunities in a digitalised world.

To this end, the NRW Media Competence Framework, with its six areas of competence and a total of 24 sub-competences, forms the basis for age-appropriate and systematic media competence promotion from primary school to the end of compulsory schooling in secondary school. The competences are implemented in the core curricula so that digital competences are taught in subject lessons. Particularly in the context of the digital dimension of gender-based violence – as highlighted in GREVIO's General Recommendation No. 1 – the systematic teaching of media and information literacy contributes significantly to prevention.

Media education in schools raises pupils' awareness of risks such as cyberbullying, digital boundary violations and sexualised violence online, and strengthens their confidence in dealing with the digital space. These measures are accompanied by teacher training courses and specific teaching materials. The state government's goal is to establish protective mechanisms and to strengthen the empowerment of young people in the digital space in the long term. In 2021, the Ministry of Schools and Education, in cooperation with the State Media Authority of North Rhine-Westphalia, launched a state-wide prevention campaign against cybergrooming. The State Prevention Centre against Violence and Cyber Violence in Schools in North Rhine-Westphalia also regularly organises training courses and specialist conferences, such as the "Digital Violence" conference during the Week Against Violence Against Women in 2023, which featured an introductory lecture on "Cybergrooming and Perpetrator Strategies" and was attended by numerous teachers and school social workers. In addition, teaching materials for primary schools were developed in collaboration with the State Media Authority of North Rhine-Westphalia and made available to primary schools in a mailing campaign. This was accompanied by two corresponding online formats for parents and teachers.

Re d)

Teaching materials approved as part of the expert review process must meet certain interdisciplinary criteria as part of the teaching material approval process. They must not contain any form of discrimination or group-related hostility. This includes, among other things, racism, anti-Semitism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism and classism. In addition, it is necessary that people with different diversity characteristics – for example, with regard to gender, sexual identity, disability, ethnic and social origin, and religion – are represented to an appropriate extent. The portrayal of these individuals must be free of clichés and diverse. The aim is to promote prejudice-free participation and social acceptance. In addition, the different interests and living environments of learners should be taken into account. Gender, family and culture-related experiences should also be included, but without generalising.

These guidelines are specified in more detail by the stimulating questions on gender sensitivity in teaching materials provided by QUA-LiS NRW. They offer supplementary support for reflection and selection
on teaching materials and resources, for example with regard to the visibility of girls and women in learning materials. Reflection

https://www.schulministerium.nrw/schulrechtsaenderungsgesetz

common ideals of femininity and masculinity is also encouraged in this context.

Regarding e)

In North Rhine-Westphalia, the programme "We empower girls – future ready" is supported by the Ministry of Schools and Education. This is a nationwide programme offered by the German Children and Youth Foundation, which is specifically implemented in North Rhine-Westphalia as part of gender-sensitive career guidance.

The programme is aimed at schoolgirls between the ages of 10 and 18 and aims to strengthen their career orientation – especially where traditional role expectations restrict access to certain occupational fields, particularly in the STEM sector (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). Through their own project work, girls are encouraged to engage with future-oriented topics, try their hand at previously male-dominated occupational fields and experience professional self-efficacy. In terms of content, the programme ties in with the central objectives of the North Rhine-Westphalian state initiative "No degree without a connection – transition from school to work in North Rhine-Westphalia" (KAoA).

KAoA aims to provide all pupils from Year 8 onwards with systematic and compulsory support in their career orientation through standardised elements. "We empower girls – future ready" takes up central aspects of this system and supplements them with a specific perspective tailored to girls. In the spirit of target group-differentiated support
, the programme offers space for in-depth exploration of one's own career biography and for critical reflection on gender-specific expectations.

12. Bremen

All state universities in Bremen offer measures to prevent gender-specific discrimination and violence. They have anti-discrimination statutes and guidelines to protect against disadvantage, discrimination, sexual harassment and violence, including sexualised violence. Advice for women and on gender-specific discrimination is offered by women's representatives and the Office against Discrimination and Violence (ADE).

Numerous measures raise awareness of gender and diversity among students, teachers and employees, such as a self-study module on gender and diversity skills at the University of Bremen, topic-specific courses, the provision of topic-specific brochures and policy papers (e.g. "Policy Paper on Sexualised Discrimination and Violence at Universities" by bukof) or through cross-university quality standards for gender-equitable appointment procedures.

Further specific university-specific initiatives:

- University of Bremen: In 2020, the Violence, Age, and Gender Lab was founded to investigate violence-induced contradictions in the course of life. Since then, research findings have been published in a book, and a lecture series and face-to-face conferences on the topic of non-violent work have been held. Curricular adjustments have also been made: for example, the "Istanbul Convention" learning situation has been integrated into the Bremen curriculum for generalist nursing training.
- Bremen University of Applied Sciences: Empowerment workshops to support FLINTA* students.
- Bremerhaven University of Applied Sciences: WenDo courses as a prevention and empowerment measure, as well as topic-specific film screenings.

Re a), b), e)

Feedback from the State Institute for Schools (LIS) on measures in further training

- Discrimination-critical class council,

- Being a class together – bullying prevention,
- Acting professionally when sexual abuse is suspected,
- One-on-one discussions with pupils in cases of sexualised violence,
- Queer issues in the classroom,
- Is something wrong? – Child welfare risks in the school context,
- "Stop it!" Sexual and sexualised boundary violations among pupils:
- empowering children through the Healing Classrooms approach,
- Pro familia information event on female genital mutilation/circumcision
- Acting in a gender-competent manner – creating opportunities – developing teaching ideas

Re a), d)

There are generally sufficient, well-demanded and high-quality prevention, training, qualification and certification measures that focus on the opportunities and risks of using social media (and thus key areas where digital violence can occur).

The programme comprises several pillars:

- Department 10 at SKB – Media and Education in the Digital World and LIS offer the one-year "MediaCoach" certificate programme for teachers and school social workers. As part of this training, participants become media consultants and multipliers for media-related projects and topics. In addition, they are first responders in media matters for colleagues, pupils and parents. This format focuses specifically on the challenges that society faces as a result of digital change. "Youth media worlds" (and thus also social media) are therefore a consistent part of this qualification.
- Depending on demand, the department offers 10 training courses on this topic and occasionally works with external partners such as "weitklick". Trainee teachers regularly take part in a media day; for them, the workshop, which deals with young people's media worlds and thus, of course, with social networks, is an integral part of the programme. Schools can also use these and other specific offers from the workshop catalogue for targeted in-school training courses.
- Furthermore, media hype that spreads via social networks and thus (can) become a topic of discussion in schools is processed by Department 10. For classification, information, provision of teaching materials, etc., a support page is created in itslearning, which is accessible to all teachers in Bremen.

<u>State licence for the "Knowbody" app for sex education</u>

At the beginning of the 2023/2024 school year, the SKB procured the "Knowbody" app for sex education as a state licence and made it available to all schools in Bremen. "Knowbody" offers a wide range of topics and thus goes beyond a purely biological view of sexuality: the learning units "Recognising feelings", "Collecting values", "Relationship norms", "What is sex?", "Menstrual cycle", "Body scan", "What is gender?", "Contraception", "Context, please!", "Body" and "My body, my boundaries" address current social issues in addition to classic topics of sex education. By dealing with
diverse body images and relationship forms, or even the portrayal of sexuality on the

the internet and setting boundaries can lead to an intensive and interdisciplinary discussion. The extensive materials provide numerous opportunities for discussion, encouraging critical reflection and promoting students' ability to engage in debate. From a preventive perspective, using the app can help to break down any existing prejudices and discrimination with regard to homosexuality, transsexuality and intersexuality.

The information is scientifically up to date and is based on the curricula of the federal states, the standards of the Federal Centre for Health Education and the WHO.

The app is well structured and includes a glossary that complements the content, enabling pupils to access age-appropriate information outside of class.

On the other hand, contemporary sex education must not ignore the realities of children's and young people's lives, and the everyday lives of children and young people are now very much shaped by digital media. With the "Sexuality and Media" module, the app offers excellent content for addressing this important topic in the classroom. Here, the use of the app also makes an important contribution in line with the KMK strategy "Education in the Digital World" by enabling pupils to acquire skills in competence area 6 "Analysing and Reflecting" (in particular 6.2 Understanding and reflecting on media in the digital world). This collection of materials on sex education is based on human rights, reflects on discrimination and is designed with diversity in mind. This was a decisive factor in its acquisition and is an important component of our work in the context of digital violence prevention.

On training/teaching practice and further training:

The curriculum for teacher training in schools stipulates that sexuality and sexual self-determination are subjects in the specialist seminars for general studies and biology, gender diversity and justice in the specialist seminars for sport, religion and politics, as well as in educational sciences for all school types and
subject combinations.

13. Saarland

on a)

The teaching programme "Gemeinsam Klasse sein!" (Being a class together!) is aimed at primary and secondary schools and teaches core values such as equality, mutual respect and non-violent conflict resolution. In addition, training courses on gender-neutral language are offered to teachers to ensure respectful and inclusive communication in everyday school life.

b)

The 2025/26 certificate course for nurseries and schools in a multi-professional context offers practical training on strengthening and protecting children. It teaches professionals the skills they need to recognise gender-based violence at an early stage and take preventive action.

Re c)

The "Klicksafe" programme provides extensive teaching materials and workshops that address digital safety, dealing with cyberbullying and forms of digital violence. Gender-specific aspects are also taken into account in order to comprehensively protect and empower pupils.

Re d)

Topics such as respect, tolerance and the avoidance of gender stereotypes are firmly anchored in the curricula of almost all subjects. The guidelines for sex education in Saarland schools are currently being revised in order to anchor this content in an even more targeted
and contemporary.

Re e)

Girls' Day is an annual day of action to promote girls in technical and scientific professions and at the same time promote their self-empowerment. In addition, gender-sensitive career counselling services offer workshops specifically for teachers to provide targeted support for girls in their development.

The project "Teenpower – Ich gehe meinen Weg!!!" (Teenpower – I'm going my own way!!!) is aimed at young people between the ages of 12 and 16 and uses participatory workshops to strengthen self-efficacy, personal development and empowerment.

A special example of the targeted promotion of girls with a migrant background is the "Golden Goal" project run by the Saarland Football Association. This programme is carried out at the following primary schools:

- Wellesweiler Primary School
- Bach School Neunkirchen
- Schillerschule Wiebelskirchen
- Kirchberg Compulsory Full-Day Primary School, Saarbrücken
- Wallenbaum Primary School, Saarbrücken
- Folsterhöhe Primary School, Saarbrücken
- Füllengarten compulsory full-day primary school, Saarbrücken
- Bergstraße/Röchlinghöhe Primary School, Völklingen
- Odilienschule primary school, Dillingen

14. Berlin

on a), b)

Prevention of violence enshrined in school law

Prevention in schools is enshrined in the School Act for the State of Berlin and is based on the "educational and teaching objectives of the school" (Section 3 (1) and (3) SchulG). Schools are required to enable pupils in particular to form relationships with other people based on respect, equality and non-violent communication. In addition, prevention in schools is listed as a special educational task (Section 12 (4) SchulG). Violence prevention is one of the central areas of action in the context of prevention in schools.

Framework curriculum for grades 1-10 Berlin-Brandenburg

The orientation and action framework (OHR) for cross-curricular topics supplements Part B (Interdisciplinary Competence Development) of the framework curriculum for grades 1-10 Berlin Brandenburg, providing clarification and suggestions for interdisciplinary and subject-specific teaching on the cross-curricular topics *of violence prevention, gender equality and equal rights (gender mainstreaming) and education for the acceptance of diversity,* as well as sex education/education on sexual self-determination. They oblige schools to prevent and resolutely oppose gender-based discrimination and restrictions on pupils and provide content-related references to enable discussions on gender-specific discrimination and gender-specific forms of violence.

In subject area C, general studies, the topic of "children" addresses key issues of violence prevention and gender equality and equal rights. This continues in social studies 5/6 in the topics "Democracy and co-determination – equal rights for all?" and "Diversity in society – challenge and/or opportunity?". The subject of ethics explicitly addresses questions of gender in the topics "Who am I?" and "What is fair?".
Identity and gender equality. In history, an elective module on gender identities poses the key question of continuity or change in gender roles.

Child and youth protection concepts in schools within the framework of institutional child protection

Since the amendment of the Berlin School Act in 2021 to strengthen institutional child protection, public schools have been obliged to develop a school concept for the protection of children and young people as part of the school programme (Section 8 (2) sentence 5 of the School Act) to prevent risks to child welfare, in particular through sexual abuse, violence and bullying. This concept should also include clear guidelines on behaviour and response procedures for the school community in cases involving domestic and/or gender-based violence.

Schools also have access to a handbook (2023) for developing school protection concepts. A "Child Protection Action Guide" (2025) is also intended to provide educational professionals with assistance, confidence in their actions and guidance, and to support cooperation between schools and district youth welfare offices.

The School Psychology and Inclusion Education Counselling and Support Centres (SIBUZ) support schools with specialists who can advise and intervene in conflicts and incidents of violence. The SIBUZ offer support and counselling for pupils as well as for teachers, other educational staff at schools and parents/guardians.

Every school has a crisis team that can respond quickly in the event of violent incidents. These teams are trained in intervention so that they can act appropriately in critical situations, such as signs of domestic violence and child welfare risks in general, and ensure the safety of everyone involved.

The emergency plans (3rd revised and expanded edition, August 2024), which are available to every school in Berlin and contain a wide variety of scenarios involving incidents of violence and the respective situation-specific steps to be taken to deal with such incidents, the chapter "Threats from the family" clearly specifies how schools should respond in such cases and which other institutions and/or specialist agencies may need to be involved.

Higher Education

The Berlin Higher Education Act states in § 5c that all universities must provide regulations and concepts regarding equality between men and women. Furthermore, § 16 mentions possible sanctions for members of the universities who commit violence against others. The gender dimension is not mentioned. Gender equality as a goal is also functionally relevant in the teaching context, especially for teacher training, where it is laid down in all study conditions.

There is also a funding programme to support gender equality at Berlin universities called the "Berlin Equal Opportunities Programme" with a volume of around 3 million euros per year.

When assessing the professional suitability of bachelor's degree programmes in social pedagogy, the Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family Affairs, as the competent authority for the state of Berlin, ensures that the fundamentals of diversity studies are included in the curriculum and that aspects of gender discrimination, violence prevention and anti-discrimination practices are covered. If this is not the case, appropriate recommendations are made to the universities.

The Berlin framework curriculum for state technical colleges for social pedagogy defines
one of the training objectives as the examination of gender roles. The training provides fundamental and exemplary in-depth specialist knowledge of the factors influencing

[120] https://www.berlin.de/sen/frauen/arbeit/wissenschaft-und-forschung/berliner-programm/

group behaviour and attitudes, taking into account various aspects of diversity, such as gender. Skills are taught to recognise and assess gender-specific group behaviour, gender-related group norms and stereotypes about gender roles, to draw educational conclusions from them, to develop goals and to translate them into action.

People can obtain qualifications as social workers, social pedagogues, special needs teachers and early childhood educators by completing the relevant bachelor's degree programmes at universities of applied sciences. In accordance with the freedom of research and teaching, the universities have sovereignty over the design of the respective curricula. The professional qualification frameworks established by the respective departmental associations and federal working groups serve as authoritative standards throughout Germany. These qualification frameworks are formulated in a competence-oriented manner and do not explicitly name violence against women and domestic violence/partner violence as a focal topic; rather, graduates are to be taught needs analysis and preventive action skills.

Regarding c)

Media education

Strengthening the digital literacy of schoolchildren – including with regard to online safety and raising awareness of specific forms of sexualised violence on the internet, such as cybergrooming and other forms – is integrated into the basic media education curriculum in Part B of the Framework Curriculum 1-10 for Berlin and Brandenburg and defined as an educational mandate for schools. In the context of the topics of "domestic and gender-based violence", media education offers the potential to address hegemonic gender stereotypes and gender-specific negative attributions and, in the best case, to break them down.

Re d)

Selection of teaching materials in the context of gender equality education and training

Within the framework of independent schools, teachers select teaching materials in accordance with Section 16 of the Berlin School Act and ensure that these are age-appropriate, non-violent and do not reproduce or reinforce gender stereotypes (see also Section 16 (1) No. 5 SchulG).

According to Section 16 (2) of the School Act, subject conferences at a school decide on the introduction of textbooks, digital media/learning software or other teaching media within the framework of legal principles and the principles decided upon in the general conference. However, textbooks are not subject to approval and evaluation by the Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family Affairs. The law does not provide for a centralised review and approval of all available textbooks and learning materials to ensure that the teaching materials used in schools do not convey negative gender stereotypes of women and men of all ages.

However, the Senate Administration responsible for education ensures that teachers are sensitised to issues of gender discrimination and gender equality and equal rights at all stages of their training, further education and continuing professional development, and are thus qualified to evaluate the materials used accordingly. In addition to schools specific (teaching) materials,
publications and recommendations are made available.[121]

Re e)

[121] https://bildungsserver.berlin-brandenburg.de/gewaltpraevention-1/sexueller-gewalt-entgegentreten/wissen-sexueller-gewalt-entgegentreten

The obligation to provide child and youth protection concepts is an important step towards preventing child welfare risks in general and gender-based violence against girls in particular (see the detailed answer to questions 10 a. and b. for more information).

In addition, there are other targeted measures to prevent gender-based violence and empower all girls in schools:

- The "BIG Prevention" project run by the project organiser BIG e. V. (Berlin Initiative against Violence against Women) raises awareness among teachers, educational professionals, parents/guardians and children at primary schools for the topic "Gender-based domestic violence".
- There is a particular focus on improving child protection in close cooperation with youth welfare services. Education is used to make it easier for children, as victims of domestic violence, to access the support system. To this end, teachers, school social workers and educators at primary schools in all Berlin districts are receiving further training. Multi-day workshops and project days are being held for children in grades 4 to 6. The services offered to parents include parents' evenings and parents' cafés. In addition, BIG Prävention lends "ECHT FAIR – the interactive exhibition for children and young people on violence prevention" to schools and other institutions.
- Another measure is the state programme "proRespekt – demokratisch gestalten" (proRespect – shaping non-violent schools democratically), which supports schools in promoting a respectful school culture and integrating violence prevention and democracy education.
- The work of Queerformat – Fachstelle Queere Bildung (https://queerformat.de/#) contributes to the prevention of gender-specific and queer-hostile violence through its services for educational professionals. It empowers queer people, addresses intersectional social power relations and creates materials for teaching and school development. Queer young people want to strengthen the "queer@school" project of the Lambda Berlin-Brandenburg youth network, which works according to a peer-to-peer approach and offers workshops and working group support for pupils in the area of prevention and gender-based violence.

In 2023, Alice Salomon University Berlin developed a protection concept against sexual harassment and violence. The protection concept initiative offers workshops for students and all employees that teach action skills and empowerment for violence prevention and for those affected. In addition, the initiative offers all ASH teachers the opportunity to attend all teaching formats and inform students about the topics of sexual harassment/violence and the protection concept. The process of protection development process has also resulted in a publication on dealing with anti-feminism at universities.

15. Baden-Württemberg

on a)-e)

The programmes and information listed below do not exclusively address gender-specific violence against women or the handling of gender stereotypes, but they do include these topics.

Since 2015, the Baden-Württemberg police force has been offering various focus topics under the title "Police prevention on the timetable". These are specifically on the needs of schools tailored and also includes

[122] https://prorespekt.org/

Violence prevention. The "Challenge Violence" programme, which was designed specifically for primary violence prevention, teaches both the facets and consequences of violence in three modules. It also presents behavioural strategies for conflict resolution. This programme is offered nationwide for grades 6–8.

In addition, the Baden-Württemberg police offer school programmes for greater safety on the internet. The prevention programme "Klasse im Netz" (Class on the Net) uses examples from everyday life to address the realities of young people in grades 5–7. Among other things, it covers the topics of cyberbullying, hate speech and incitement, cybergrooming and sexting. The programme "Zivilcourage im Netz" (Civil Courage on the Internet) teaches pupils the difference between hate speech and freedom of expression as enshrined in the Basic Law. The relevant criminal law provisions are discussed and young people are encouraged to act responsibly and courageously. In addition, pupils become aware of the consequences for those involved and know who to turn to if they observe hate speech.

With regard to empowerment, the Baden-Württemberg police force offers tips on self-assertion on the internet. Participants are also made aware of how to recognise good self-defence courses.

Re a), b), c)

The orientation plan for education and upbringing in day-care facilities takes an in-depth look at the topic of gender-equitable pedagogy for early childhood and highlights possible courses of action for everyday pedagogical work in the facilities.

Gender equality and non-violent conflict resolution are integral parts of the training of educators and social education assistants in Baden-Württemberg. Developing practical skills for implementing gender-sensitive teaching methods and applying methods for non-violent conflict resolution are among the core tasks of these training programmes.

In the curricula of general education schools, gender sensitivity is anchored in the guiding principle of "education for tolerance and acceptance of diversity". In interdisciplinary lessons, pupils are encouraged to recognise and question gender-related prejudices, stereotypes and clichés.

In the curricula of vocational schools for the subjects of ethics, Protestant and Catholic religion, and social studies, units on the topics of violence, human dignity, law, and justice are mandatory in various types of vocational schools and educational programmes. These provide opportunities to address violence against girls and women in particular. Vocational schools also use the "Conflict Culture" programme, which is part of the state-wide prevention programme "stark.stärker.Wir" (strong.stronger.us). Social training courses are a component of this and are led by trained teachers. These courses deal with physical, sexual and psychological violence as well as the digital dimension of violence.

In all teacher training courses, the topic of prevention is to be taught as a cross-cutting competence in educational sciences and all subjects.

The state-wide prevention concept "strong.stronger.WE." provides concepts and programmes on the subject of violence for all types of schools. These include, among others:

- "Gemeinsam(es) Lernen mit Gefühl" (Learning together with feeling) as a primary school module of the MindMatters programme with a focus on promoting social-emotional skills and resilience.
- SEL 5+6 as a training programme for social-emotional learning for grades 5 and 6 of secondary general education schools.
- "Being a class together" from the Techniker Krankenkasse (TKK) health insurance company as a programme against bullying.
- "Stop bullying – strong.stronger.us" as a concept against bullying, cyberbullying and for a better class community for grades 1 to 13 in general education schools

schools.

Specially trained teachers advise and support schools as prevention officers and offer further training in the field of violence prevention (e.g. in the areas of bullying prevention, media education, prevention of sexualised violence, non-violent conflict resolution).

The State Agency for Civic Education offers materials that address the topic of equality/gender equality in the context of nationwide orientation courses and upstream integration programmes.

Re d)

In Baden-Württemberg, the new compulsory subject "Computer Science and Media Education" will be introduced in all school types from grades 5 to 11 starting in the 2025/2026 school year. It covers topics such as digital violence, especially cyberbullying, self-presentation and beauty ideals on the internet, sexualised violence on the internet (cybergrooming, cyberstalking, sextortion) and a critical examination of the topic of pornography. In addition, digital training courses are offered by prevention officers, as well as themed parents' evenings.

The existing interdisciplinary guiding principle of media education remains mandatory for all types of schools, grades and subjects in general education schools.

For projects and action days on the topics of cyberbullying and digital violence, the State Media Centre offers materials, training courses and activities as part of its "BITTE WAS?!" campaign.

Re e)

Based on the Learning Materials Ordinance and the Textbook Approval Ordinance, textbooks are only approved if they do not violate fundamental rights such as respect for human dignity and equality between men and women.

Schools are obliged to develop and implement a protection concept against sexualised violence. To this end, training courses are offered and information on various aspects of the topic, such as sex education, is provided. The protection concept should include rules and prevention strategies. In addition, contact persons must be appointed in schools who can offer help and support in cases of violence. In future, complaint procedures for pupils are to be established.

A service platform has been developed that offers schools tools and materials for developing prevention strategies against violence in schools, as well as teaching materials for empowering pupils.

Schools have access to guidelines on school intervention plans for sexualised violence, which include guidelines on how to proceed and information on support from external experts and training courses for school administrators and teachers.

In early childhood education and care, the respective institutions are responsible for implementing sex education concepts to protect against (sexual) violence. The institutions have access to guidance points from the state for this purpose. The concepts are reviewed when an application for an operating licence is submitted and on a case-by-case basis when reports are made in accordance with Section 47 (1) sentence 1 no. 2 of Book VIII of the Social Code (SGB VIII). A corresponding concept has been developed for child day care.

Since sex education concepts are not a mandatory part of the legally required concept for protection against violence in day care centres, many providers have voluntarily developed a sex education concept for their facilities. These concepts include rules and guidelines for dealing with closeness, distance and boundary violations and
are reviewed by the KVJS State Youth Welfare Office on a case-by-case basis in response to reports pursuant to Section 47 of Book VIII of the Social Code (SGB VIII).

16. Brandenburg

on a)

In the framework curricula, topics such as acceptance of diversity, democracy education, health promotion, violence prevention, gender equality and intercultural education are taught in class, including in vocational education. In this respect, content such as the changing family: lifestyles and family forms, living environments, gender role expectations, individual life planning and the social environment, diversity in society: prejudices, attitudes and changing attitudes, religious freedom in everyday life, homo-, bi- and intersexuality, the diverse gender and non-violent action, respecting (young) adults in their individuality and personality, etc. are also included in lessons.

Regarding b)

The prevention and combating of gender-specific violence against women is not explicitly mentioned in the framework curricula.[123] Measures must first be developed in schools and for schools

Re c)

Section 15 of the Brandenburg Child and Youth Media Protection Act (BbgKJG) provides for the protection of children and young people from content in electronic information and communication media and in media that is harmful to young people and impairs their development as a central part of the protection of children and young people. (Child and youth media protection) Youth welfare providers must ensure that children only use age-appropriate content and are enabled to recognise dangers, e.g. in connection with racism, sexualised violence or rights violations (media literacy). They work together with the police, regulatory authorities and schools. For the further development and qualification of youth welfare organisations to promote and support children and young people and their families and to carry out the protection mandate, the supreme state youth authority finances specialist units within the framework of the available budget.

Re d), e)

No special training courses, programmes, projects or materials are offered specifically for teachers and school administrators on this topic.

LIBRA has published the following handouts:

- Guidance and framework for action on the overarching topic of sex education (LISUM 2021)
- Handout for the overarching topic of sex education/sexual self-determination (LISUM 2024)
- Guidance and framework for acquiring skills for the overarching topic of gender equality and equal rights (gender mainstreaming) (LISUM 2021)

Article 15: Training and continuing education for members of certain professional groups

11. Please complete Tables I and II in the Annex to provide a comprehensive overview of the professional groups that receive training and further education on the various forms of violence against women and domestic violence. Please indicate how often and to what extent the training and further education is provided and whether it is compulsory.

[123] https://bildungsserver.berlin-brandenburg.de/rahmenlehrplan-berufl-bildung/unterrichtsvorgaben-und-rahmenlehrplaene-bb

Contributions: Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bavaria, Bremen, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg

FA/Reference tables in the appendix: Hesse (p. 436), Schleswig-Holstein (p. 450, 541), Lower Saxony (p. 437, 457), Saarland (448, 548), Brandenburg (448, 526)

1. Hamburg

In Hamburg, the city-owned social enterprise Fördern & Wohnen (F&W) operates a number of facilities for homeless people, refugees, people with mental illnesses and disabilities. There are no standardised or mandatory training and continuing education programmes for F&W employees that explicitly address violence against women and domestic violence. Nevertheless, the training courses include content to raise awareness of different cultures and behavioural guidelines to avoid discrimination. In addition, there are voluntary offerings in the F&W internal continuing education catalogue. These offerings are taken up depending on the facility and individual needs.

The care of victims of violence is predominantly an integral part of the training of medical staff in emergency and acute medicine in hospitals. In addition, individual hospitals offer internal training courses on the prevention of violence and sexualised violence as well as on child protection to raise awareness among employees. In forensic hospitals, there are ongoing training courses on de-escalation in cases of aggressive behaviour towards others
misconduct against fellow patients and nursing staff, doctors and therapists.

2. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

A summary response is provided to questions 11 and 12, and reference is made to the information in Tables I and II in the Annex (451, 535).

In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, there is no initial training/initial instruction on the subject of violence against women for judicial professionals (judges, public prosecutors, judicial officers, bailiffs, judicial administrators, court bailiffs). This topic is integrated into the respective training programmes (e.g. law studies or the respective preparatory service) alongside other key training areas.

In the context of further training, the Ministry of Justice of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania is organising a symposium on IK for family court judges, criminal court judges and public prosecutors at the beginning of July 2025. The expertise of the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania counselling and support network will also be incorporated into the programme. The training courses offered by the German Judicial Academy (DRA) do not include specialised support services such as the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania counselling and support network in their design.

The consistent implementation of the Istanbul Convention can only succeed if all professions working with victims of violence receive systematic and comprehensive training. In this context, the relevant professionals in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania use, among other things, the e-learning programme "Protection and help in cases of domestic violence – an interdisciplinary online course". The online training course provides comprehensive skills for the specialised support and care of victims and their children after experiences of violence. Through its interdisciplinary approach, the training also contributes to improving cooperation between the various actors involved in the protection and assistance processes. The online course is available free of charge to interested professionals throughout Germany.[124]

As part of the so-called situation training on the topic of domestic violence in the bachelor's degree programme for police commissioner candidates in accordance with § 12 PolLaufbVO M-V and in the

[124] https://haeuslichegewalt.elearning-gewaltschutz.de/

training programme for police sergeant candidates in accordance with § 10 PolLaufbVO M-V.
Actors serve as guest lecturers for the training sessions. In addition, representatives from the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania support network (intervention centre, perpetrator counselling, women's shelter, etc.) are involved in the teaching, particularly in the elective module on domestic violence, and take on part of the teaching themselves as guest lecturers. Information material from specialised support services is also discussed and presented in class. The elective module "Violence in the social environment" in the bachelor's programme (see above) involves various institutions and organisations, including forensic medicine (University of Rostock), youth welfare office/emergency service, public prosecutor's office, women's shelter and intervention centre.

The providers of childcare facilities are primarily responsible for the further education and training of educational staff in childcare facilities. The state provides the legal framework. According to § 17 of the KiföG M-V [125], the operators of childcare facilities must ensure that educational staff regularly participate in further education and training measures, which also include qualifications in the area of child protection and early intervention.

As part of violence prevention in schools, teachers and other educational professionals receive regular training in various key areas, including the basics of violence prevention, non-violent communication (NVC), de-escalation and self-protection, cyberbullying, setting professional boundaries and preventing sexualised violence. Since April 2021, a series of training courses on protection concepts in schools has also been running. The prevention of sexualised violence will be systematically integrated into the retraining of teachers who teach physical education as a non-specialist subject; a corresponding training concept is currently being prepared.

The Ministry of Education of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania continues to support the media literacy and digital skills of teachers with the measures of the Media Education Centre (MPZ). Among other things, the MPZ holds the Children and Youth Media Protection Conference twice a year, which addresses current challenges and developments in the field of digital child protection. On 26 February 2025, a symposium entitled "Sexual assault in the digital space – empowering young people!" was held at the University of Greifswald (in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, Building and Digitalisation of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and other partners). The aim of the event was to inform and connect stakeholders from education, youth welfare, specialist counselling and law enforcement about prevention and intervention approaches to protect young people from digital sexualised violence.
and to enable them to network.

3. Saxony

All intervention and coordination centres for gender-based violence and domestic violence (IKS) have concluded a cooperation agreement with the relevant police headquarters. Among other things, this agreement provides for regular training courses for police headquarters staff. The nationwide networking of organisations promoting equal opportunities in the field of violence protection through the FRL Chancengleichheit (Equal Opportunities) in the Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft (LAG) Gewaltfreies Zuhause e.V. (State Working Group for a Violence-Free Home) supports the transfer of knowledge between the LAG, intervention and coordination centres, and women's and children's protection facilities. The KOBRAnet project specialises in the areas of human trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced prostitution, honour-based violence and ritual violence. The specialist counselling centres work closely with counselling centres for sex workers, three health authorities and the police
. KOBRAnet organises training courses within the network, primarily for professionals working in general support services.

[125] Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania – Section 17 KiföG M-V | State standard for Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania | Training place planning, training, further education and continuing professional development | Section 17 – Training place planning, training, further education and continuing professional development | Valid from: 24 May 2024

The police do not keep statistics on the number of training and further education measures in the sense of the question.

Police officers receive comprehensive training on the basics of these topics during their training – in LG 1.2 Pol in the subjects of intervention law, police situation training and psychology/communication training, and in LG 2.1 Pol in the module Special Criminalistics and Criminology in the teaching complex Crimes against physical integrity; Domestic violence.

The topic of preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence is an integral part of centralised and decentralised training in the Saxon police force. Police officers therefore have access to a range of training and further education measures on the prevention and detection of violence against women and domestic violence, gender equality, the needs and rights of victims, ways of preventing secondary victimisation and coordinated inter-agency cooperation.

In the school context, violence prevention and dealing with violence are regular topics in teacher training courses. Child welfare risks are a compulsory elective module in the qualification of guidance teachers. In addition, further teacher training courses are regularly offered on both recognising and acting on child welfare risks, e.g.:

- Child in danger – necessary action in cases of child welfare risks,
- Between understanding and confrontation – Parent-teacher conferences in cases of child welfare risks,
- Legally compliant action as a manager in the context of internal child welfare risks, and
- Recognising child welfare risks and taking the right action.

In the higher education sector, the activities of the Technical University of Dresden can be cited as an example, with workshops on violence prevention being offered to both students and staff. Some of these courses are offered in English
.

4. Saxony-Anhalt

All state-funded projects within the protection and support system for women affected by violence offer training courses. Since 2024, these have been presented in a consolidated form on the LIKO website. [126] The (standardised) statistical recording of these services by the institutions with regard to their content, target groups and number of participants has not yet been implemented, but is currently being developed.

With regard to the state-co-funded online course "Protection and assistance in cases of domestic violence", reference is made to the evaluation by the University Hospital of Ulm.

The specific information required on occupational groups at the Central Contact Point for Asylum Seekers in Saxony-Anhalt (ZASt) and in the state's municipal shared accommodation facilities that receive training and further education measures on the various forms of violence against women and domestic violence is not available. No separate statistics are kept on this. The organisation of training and further education measures is not subject to any statewide requirements. The
The initial reception centre and the districts and independent cities organise their respective personnel measures under their own responsibility.

5. Thuringia

Training and further education for counselling professionals in the field of violence against women, as for almost all counselling professionals in the social sector, are covered by the state as part of material costs.

[126] https://www.gewaltfreies-sachsen-anhalt.de/veranstaltungen-fortbildungen/#fortbildungen

. Continuing education and supervision are mandatory in this area.

Police officers receive centralised and decentralised training (see table, pp. 447, 539).

In the health sector, Thuringia contributes to the costs of the Academy for Public Health (AÖGW). During the reporting period, various training events relating to violence against women and domestic violence were offered here. In 2024, for example, it offered training courses on "Intervention in domestic violence" and "Violence during pregnancy", among others. [127]

Table 2 was completed in accordance with the input for the judiciary (training and further education). The numbers of participants given refer to the period 06/2022 – 04/2025.

All family court judges in Thuringia received training in 2022 in accordance with Section 23b(3) of the German Court Constitution Act (GVG). These training courses each comprised two three-day working days. In addition, a two-day family court judges' conference is usually held annually (with the exception of 2023), at which the relevant topics are also discussed.

In addition, the German Judicial Academy, a joint educational institution of the federal and state governments, offers a variety of relevant conferences for judges and public prosecutors. These conferences are usually designed to last five days.

In the area of further training for school psychology consultants, there is close cooperation with ThILLM, and events on various topics relating to the tasks of the school psychology service are regularly offered. In March 2024, for example, a training course was held on the topic of "Responsibly addressing the diffuseness of derogatory behaviour".

Guidance counsellors at schools are regulated by Section 53 of the Thuringian School Act. Every state school has at least one guidance counsellor. The work of guidance counsellors is based on the administrative regulation governing the activities, further training and final examination of further training measures for guidance counsellors in the Free State of Thuringia. For example, guidance teachers support their school management in implementing protection concepts or in planning further training for the teaching staff. The corresponding resources (teachers' weekly hours) are regulated in the administrative regulation on the organisation of the school year. They are teachers with special responsibilities and support parents, pupils and teaching staff, for example, in cases of behavioural and developmental problems among pupils, child welfare risks or school development projects. Their further training as guidance teachers gives them additional skills that can be applied both in individual counselling and in system counselling.

Central training courses offered by the State Youth Welfare Office also cover topics that are relevant to dealing with (domestic) violence (in the area of child protection, e.g. trauma-sensitive work). These can be found in the current training programme on the website.[128]

6. Rhineland-Palatinate

Within the framework of academic freedom, responsibility for the content of legal studies lies with the universities and the relevant departments. In this context, responsibility for the specific design of the training programme lies with the respective university departments and the science department.

Responsibility for the design of the teaching content for judicial officer training lies

[127] https://www.akademie-oegw.de/fileadmin/Aktuelles/Fortbildungsuebersicht/FOBI_Uebersicht_2024_Final.pdf, p. 214.
[128] https://bildung.thueringen.de/jugend/landesjugendamt/fortbildung

within the framework of academic freedom at the University of Applied Sciences for Judicial Administration in Schwetzingen, Baden-Württemberg. The degree programme and practical year include learning units on the Protection Against Violence Act. In addition, the criminal law course covers bodily injury offences. In the context of fundamental rights, aspects such as human dignity and the principle of equality, as well as the resulting prohibitions of discrimination (Art. 3 (3) GG), are covered. Through the course on judicial management, students acquire knowledge of interdisciplinary key psychological skills. This includes, in particular, the development of appropriate communication and rhetoric skills.

See the entries in Table 1 (p. 439).

The Ministry of Justice does not provide its own learning materials for training for the first and second entry-level positions (police officer and judicial officer) or for training in the bailiff service and public prosecutor's office. Responsibility for teaching content lies with the Higher Regional Courts of Koblenz and Zweibrücken, the North Rhine-Westphalia Judicial Training Centre and the North Rhine-Westphalia University of Applied Sciences for Judicial Administration.

The respective theoretical courses include learning units on the Protection Against Violence Act. In the context of fundamental rights, aspects such as human dignity and the principle of equality, as well as the resulting prohibitions of discrimination (Art. 3 (3) GG), are addressed.

In practical training, trainees acquire knowledge of interdisciplinary key psychological skills. From the 1st to the 3rd entry level, practical insights provide candidates with the basic skills to act appropriately and professionally in sensitive situations through appropriate communication and rhetoric skills.

See the entries in Table 1 (p. 439).

With regard to further training opportunities for members of the judiciary, please refer to the entries in Table 2 (p. 469).

Explanation:

As part of the Rhineland-Palatinate state project "Effectively combating female genital mutilation: supporting those affected, training professionals and creating sustainable networks" (see the answer to question 1), training courses and lectures have been and continue to be held for professionals, including doctors, medical professionals, educators, staff at women's support centres, school social workers and pregnancy counsellors. In addition, training courses for employees at the six reception centres for asylum seekers were held for the first time in 2024.

The training courses are not compulsory and are held as required.

As shown in Table I, there is no initial training in the RP that specifically addresses violence against women. Rather, the training of all teachers focuses on violence prevention, which targets all forms of violence and takes into account all those affected by violence.

In the opinion of Department 9422C, the violence prevention courses offered in teacher training do not correspond to Table 2. The headteachers coordinate the specific attendance of further training courses by their staff on site. They ensure that a further training concept is drawn up at their school that addresses the general and individual needs of the respective school and links school and staff development. Support is provided by the State Institute of Education.

Since the 2012/2013 school year, the **training course "Sexualised violence – a topic for Schools?!"** has been offered in cooperation with the LAG der Frauennotrufe Rheinland-Pfalz (Working Group of Women's Emergency Hotlines in Rhineland-Palatinate) for teachers at secondary schools from the 6th grade onwards.

For secondary schools, the **webinar "Legal tools for teachers in the digital space: cyberbullying, sexting, cybergrooming – how can I help?"** is offered. Knowledge of the legal basics enables teachers to help young people without breaking the law themselves or to obtain legal certainty in cases where pupils violate their own boundaries.

In addition, school psychology offers extensive training opportunities for teachers,
educational professionals and school social workers in the areas of violence prevention and the prevention of sexualised violence.

7. North Rhine-Westphalia

The following supplementary explanations from the respective departments are available for Table 1 "Initial training (school or vocational training)" and Table 2 "Further training" (pp. 442, 474) in the appendix:

Ministry of the Interior of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

The police training programme in North Rhine-Westphalia at the University of Applied Sciences for Police and Public Administration NRW provides prospective police officers with comprehensive skills in dealing with violence against women, domestic violence and victim protection. Although these topics are not explicitly listed under the heading "Violence against women" in the module handbook for the degree programme, they are covered in various modules, particularly in the areas of domestic and sexual violence, victim protection, communication with victims, victimology and the psychological consequences of experiences of violence. The training prepares students both professionally and empathetically to deal appropriately with victims of different forms of violence.

As part of the psychology programme, the sub-module "Causes and forms of deviant behaviour; communication with victims and witnesses" covers psychological theories explaining violence in the immediate social environment. This includes addressing power and dependency relationships and conducting conversations with particularly vulnerable groups of people. Another sub-module teaches students how to respond to domestic violence, with a focus on de-escalation and culturally appropriate approaches. It also covers communication with perpetrators and victims, options such as eviction and restraining orders, and victim care, taking cultural aspects into account.

In addition to the training, specialists from aid organisations such as women's counselling centres, victim support services, youth welfare services and forensic medicine are regularly involved in the further training of the North Rhine-Westphalia police force. The aim is to communicate the tasks, responsibilities and limits of police action and to lay the foundations for successful interdisciplinary cooperation. The training thus ensures that police forces in North Rhine-Westphalia are prepared both theoretically and practically to deal with violence against women and protect victims.

Ministry of Justice of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

The requirements and content of the Istanbul Convention and the issues of secondary victimisation and re-traumatisation of victims of gender-based violence are addressed and systematically taught in training courses at both the Justice Academy of North Rhine-Westphalia (JAK) and the German Judicial Academy (DRA) in Trier and Wustrau, which is jointly supported by the federal and state governments. The annual programme of central training for the judiciary of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia is determined in consultation between the Ministry of Justice of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Judicial Academy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (JAK) and the higher courts and
intermediate authorities and staff representative bodies. The JAK's aim is to promote the implementation of the provisions of the Istanbul Convention in

Germany.

The Commissioner for Victim Protection of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

As part of its work on the further development of judicial victim protection, the office participated in two training events for young public prosecutors in 2020 and in five training events for young public prosecutors in 2021 and 2023, giving presentations on the topics of "victim protection and audiovisual questioning". 2022 and 2023, and gave presentations on the topics of "Victim Protection and Audiovisual Interrogation". The importance of the Istanbul Convention is the subject of this training series, which includes a three-hour lecture and discussion. The specifics of the procedure for victims of domestic violence when filing complaints, in preliminary investigations and at the main hearing are also discussed. In 2024, five training sessions were held, with the number of participants increasing from twenty to twenty-five. Six training sessions are planned for 2025. Young prosecutors, some of whom have only been in office for a few weeks, are made aware at an early stage of the need to design investigations and criminal proceedings in a manner that is appropriate for victims.

In addition, since 2024, the team has been participating at irregular intervals in training events for junior prosecutors organised by the Hamm Public Prosecutor's Office.

Furthermore, the training programme for psychosocial support workers was designed by the local office and carried out by two team members. In 2023, 24 specialists from the outpatient social services of the judiciary were certified as psychosocial support workers after successfully completing the training. Currently, 25 additional specialists are undergoing further training as part of the training programme, which consists of eight two- to three-day modules. The significance of the Istanbul Convention is the subject of this training programme.

In addition to the above-mentioned training courses, the team regularly participates in further training events on the topics of "Family law and criminal law – stalking and protection against violence" and "Family law and criminal law – domestic violence". These are held several times a year as two-day training courses for judges, public prosecutors, district attorneys and judicial officers by the Justice Academy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. Here, too, the findings of specialist counselling centres and the contents of the Istanbul Convention are already being incorporated into the design of the training courses. Furthermore, experts give lectures specifically on the areas of domestic violence and the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

Back in 2022, our office designed and organised a three-day training course for specialists from the outpatient social services of the judiciary on the topic of "Focus on victim protection". At this event, specialist advisors from a violence protection centre gave presentations on the special needs of victims of domestic violence, among other topics.

Findings from the exchange between the office and women's counselling centres and specialist agencies are incorporated into all training and further education courses. Experts from women's counselling centres and specialist agencies also give presentations in the training courses for psychosocial process companions and "Family law and criminal law – stalking and protection against violence".

Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

For training and continuing education in nursing and healthcare professions, North Rhine-Westphalia has promoted the development of a module handbook for culturally sensitive care, which was published in March 2018. It covers seven therapeutic and nursing health professions: geriatric care, occupational therapy, health and nursing care, health and paediatric nursing, midwifery, speech therapy and physiotherapy. The module handbook explicitly includes the topic of violence in asymmetrical relationships as an issue of culturally sensitive relationship building. In principle, cultural sensitivity requires that nursing and therapeutic
relationship management is geared towards the individual life world and life history of the person being

person being cared for or treated. The module handbook
"Cultural Sensitivity in Healthcare" [129] is available as a working aid for competence-oriented, science-based and multi-professional training, further education and continuing professional development in the therapeutic and nursing health professions. Since 1 January 2024, responsibility for specialist further training in nursing (after completion of training as a nursing professional) has lain with the North Rhine-Westphalia Nursing Chamber. The latter has issued its own further training regulations.[130]

Professional staff working in disability services are required to undergo regular training and further education in the context of violence protection in order to recognise signs of violence and respond appropriately. These awareness-raising measures can help to develop a better understanding of the specific needs of, for example, women affected by violence in disability care facilities.

Ministry for Children, Youth, Family, Equality, Refugees and Integration of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

The State of North Rhine-Westphalia annually funds training measures for employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence for the professional development of employees and the work of the aforementioned counselling centres, as well as for quality assurance. The State of North Rhine-Westphalia also provides annual funding for training measures aimed at preparing professionals who work with traumatised refugee women affected by violence for the specific challenges of working with this group of people and increasing their capacity to act.

In the funding programme monitoring of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence, it is also recorded for each permanently employed specialist whether they have participated in at least 20 hours of further training and supervision. According to the information provided by the aforementioned institutions, an average of around 80% of all professionals were able to meet the requirement in the area of further training and supervision in 2020, around 75% in 2020 and around 80% in 2022. Data for 2023 and 2024 are not yet available.

The state of North Rhine-Westphalia also funds annual topic-specific training measures for employees of state-funded women's shelters for the professional development of staff and specialist work in women's shelters. According to the information provided by state-funded women's shelters in the funding programme controlling for the relevant period, the permanent staff employed in the facilities attended
the above-mentioned measures, 643 in 2020, 800 in 2021 and 1252 in 2022. Data for 2023 and 2024 are not yet available.

The state-funded local round tables against violence against women also offer a wide range of training courses, specialist conferences and workshops for professionals from various fields, e.g. on forms of violence, particularly affected target groups, etc. The number of professionals who have received such training cannot be quantified.

The Centre for Advice and Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM/C) in Cologne offers open webinars, workshops and various specialist lectures, among other things. The webinar
"Introduction to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM/C)" is offered once a month free of charge to interested parties and professionals (individuals). The services are generally aimed at professionals from various fields of work in North Rhine-Westphalia. Participants came from the fields of migration (staff at counselling centres,
refugee accommodation centres, municipal integration centres, residential groups), medicine (staff at in pregnancy counselling centres, midwives, medical professionals), education

[129] https://katho-nrw.de/forschung-und-transfer/forschungsprojekte/abgeschlossen/kultursensibilitaet-im-gesundheitswesen
[130] https://www.pflegekammer-nrw.de/weiterbildungsordnung/

(teachers or school social workers and kindergarten staff), child protection specialists (staff at youth welfare offices and counselling centres) or staff at girls' and women's shelters, women's counselling centres and interpreters. No further data is collected as part of the funding provided by Department 415, which means that the number of people who have received further training cannot be quantified and it is not possible to assign them to the specialist areas from which they originate.

Ministry of Schools and Education of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

With regard to teacher training, the Teacher Training Act (LABG, Section 2 (2)[131]) and, more specifically, the Teacher Training Access Ordinance (LZV, Section 10[132]) stipulate that graduates of all teaching professions and all subjects must demonstrate, among other things, basic skills in the area of gender-sensitive education and in dealing with diversity. To support universities in this endeavour, the Quality and Support Agency – State Institute for Schools (QUA-LiS NRW) held a workshop conference in November 2022 on the topic of "Gender-sensitive education in teacher training in North Rhine-Westphalia. Knowledge transfer – discussion – networking".

In the second phase of teacher training in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (preparatory service), the topics of violence and gender sensitivity are addressed in the framework core curriculum (see Appendix 5). Within this framework, prospective teachers are sensitised to gender-specific violence and shown options for action in the school context. In addition, QUA-LiS NRW held a symposium in 2021 on the topic of "Gender-sensitive education in schools and ZfsL in North Rhine-Westphalia".

Teachers at schools in North Rhine-Westphalia have access to a wide range of training courses in the areas of gender-sensitive education and violence prevention. These courses focus on various issues and content dimensions that also take the Istanbul Convention into account. In 2023, a training decree on gender-sensitive education came into force [133] , which, among other things, provides for an examination of aspects of gender-based discrimination and violence in relevant school and extracurricular areas, possible causes and effects, and possible courses of action in schools. The training programme is aimed at teaching staff, subgroups of teaching staff or, in the case of external training, individual members of school staff from all types of schools. In addition to teachers, this also includes, for example, social education staff.

In addition, supplementary aspects such as social and intercultural skills are covered in both subject-specific and interdisciplinary training and qualification programmes. The range of state-funded teacher training programmes is continuously developed in line with demand. In addition to the state training programmes, schools have access to financial resources within the framework of a training budget, which enables them to make use of measures offered by external providers.

For details on the training and further education of members of certain professional groups, please refer to Tables 1 and 2.

8. Bavaria

For the Bavarian police force, we have refrained from using Tables 1 and 2, as some of the field headings are not compatible with the
training and further education structures and content of the Bavarian police.

[131] https://recht.nrw.de/lmi/owa/br_bes_text?sg=1&menu=1&bes_id=12764&aufgehoben=N&anw_nr=2

[132] https://recht.nrw.de/lmi/owa/br_bes_detail?sg=0&menu=0&bes_id=34604&anw_nr=2&aufgehoben=N&det_id=510116

[133] https://bass.schule.nrw/19747.htm

Nevertheless, the questions asked are largely answered. We would also like to point out that there have been no significant changes to the content of training and further education since 2020.

Training and further education at the Bavarian Police in the area of domestic violence is based on the applicable regulations and concepts, including the "Framework guidelines for police action against domestic violence and related stalking cases". Training and further education at the Bavarian Police is financed by the Free State of Bavaria.

Training for the 2nd qualification level (QE) in the police force:

The topic of domestic violence is firmly integrated into the training plan. This means that all police officers are required to undergo training on this subject as part of their training.

As part of the main topic "Attacks against persons", comprehensive instruction on the subject is provided and examined from the perspective of the relevant subjects. A total of 43 teaching units are allocated to the topic of "attacks against persons". The teaching also draws on various sources, such as the federal situation report and supplementary external media and resources, in particular those provided by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

Study programme for the 3rd qualification level (QE) in the police force:

The topic of violence against women touches on a wide range of subject areas and individual teaching content. It is therefore not possible to provide a complete, detailed account of all content here. The topic is reflected in various areas of study. Domestic violence is a compulsory and exam-relevant topic in the following subjects, in accordance with the curriculum:

- Criminology (victimology, victim protection) – 4 teaching units (TU) Field of study: protective policing
- Domestic violence – 3 TE
- First assault Sexual offences – 5 TE
- Strategic analysis Rape, sexual coercion, sexual abuse of children – 8 TE
- Strategic analysis and first attack Domestic violence/stalking – 4 teaching units

  Field of study: Criminal investigation
- First attack Sexual offences – 5 teaching units
- Strategic analysis of rape, sexual coercion, sexual abuse of children – 9 teaching units
- Domestic violence, restraining orders – 3 teaching units
- Strategic analysis of domestic violence/stalking – 4 teaching units
- Strategic analysis of human trafficking/smuggling – 6 teaching units

These teaching units cover a wide range of crimes involving violence against women. The focus is on violence against women in the domestic context and in relationships, as well as stalking. In addition, specific forms such as human trafficking and child abuse are addressed. Manifestations, causes and approaches to combating these crimes are also discussed. Particular attention is paid to intervention measures and legal powers. Findings from victimology are also covered.

Police officers responsible for crime victims (BPfK) contribute to 4 teaching units. This ensures that the latest findings from practice, research and cooperation with external partners, such as women's rights organisations, are incorporated into the teaching.

Further training

At the Bavarian Police Training Institute in Ainring (BPFI), the following topics are covered as part of the central training programme ( ): (violence against women and domestic violence in

addressed in the following seminars:

- Domestic violence and victim protection, approx. 11 seminars per year, each lasting 35 teaching units, with a total of approx. 140 participants. The aim of the seminar is to deepen participants' knowledge of legal, criminological, psychological and police tactics. They are also trained in dealing with victims of violent and sexual crimes. The seminar is primarily aimed at police officers who deal with domestic violence cases and/or are the first point of contact for victims of violent /sexual offences.
- Addressing perpetrators Stalking, approx. 2 seminars per year, 35 teaching units each, with a total of approx. 30 participants
- Basic crime seminar, approx. 4 seminars per year, 145 teaching units each, with a total of approx. 70 participants
- Sexual offences/abuse of children/young people, approx. 3 seminars per year with 70 teaching units each and a total of approx. 50 participants
- HEADS, 1 seminar per year with 35 teaching units and a total of 20 participants
- Intercultural competence, approx. 4 seminars per year, each comprising 17 teaching units, with a total of 60 participants

The topics taught in these seminars can be summarised as follows:

- Victim protection and needs / tasks of a victim protection unit
- Case studies (sexual assault and rape) by criminal investigation officers
- Violence and sexual violence on the internet (including child pornography)
- Tasks of the youth welfare office in cases of violence against children and young people
- Evidence of sexual and abuse offences and how to secure it
- Interviewing victims of sexual assault
- Experiences of violence / effects
- Video questioning (judicial and police)
- Operational case analysis for sexual offences
- Mental illnesses/disorders in sex offenders
- Electronic monitoring / preventive detention
- Approaching individuals who pose a threat
- Approaching dangerous individuals
- Prognosis reports for sex offenders
- Forensic commitment and the Act on the Treatment and Accommodation of Mentally Disturbed Violent Offenders (ThUG)
- Legal studies with a focus on relevant offences under the German Criminal Code (StGB) and topic-related powers under the Police Tasks Act
- Victim Protection Act with reference to the police and basic principles of the Victim Compensation Act
- Criminalistics (securing evidence – initial investigative measures)
- Psychology with relevant topics
- Specialist lectures, e.g. by police representatives for crime victims, Weißer Ring, women's shelters, etc.
- Understanding of the concepts of intercultural competence and diversity
- Background knowledge of selected cultures
- Cultural behaviour patterns
- Intercultural communication and conflict management
- Expansion of intercultural competence
- Behaviour on social networks

9. Bremen

Related to the group of teacher training students as future specialists in

the field of education: Gender-based violence and/or domestic violence is not explicitly addressed at the module level in teacher training programmes, but is integrated into courses in various forms. The topic is focused primarily on dealing with heterogeneity or in the context of developmental psychology issues.

The issue of children being affected by domestic violence in the family environment regularly gains importance in the context of internships and related reflection, and is regularly addressed in accompanying courses and in counselling for teacher training students.

Note on the tables in the appendix (pp. 443, 516): There is no database for specific quantity structures that can be evaluated with a reasonable amount of work.

For training, curricular specification means: all trainee teachers in the respective seminars, 100% implementation/inclusion of the target group.

For further training, the training courses mentioned in question 10 have been offered regularly for many years and are always well attended. Due to demand, the courses often take place several times per school year.
demand.

10. Berlin

The need for further training is a common thread that runs through all areas of action in the State Action Plan for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention. The LAP provides for the targeted expansion and adaptation of further training content to specific topics and target groups. To this end, a position for a further training coordinator has been created at BIG e.V. in 2024.

The following sections describe measures already underway in the various departments:

The Joint Legal Examination Office of the States of Berlin and Brandenburg (GJPA) offers a wide range of further training events for judges and public prosecutors in Brandenburg and Berlin on topics relevant to the Convention. An overview can be found in Table II (p. 569).

- Information on the training and further education of Berlin police officers is attached as a separate appendix, as Tables I and II provided in the annex are only of limited use for presenting the content and duration of the individual training courses.
- Training courses on topics such as de-escalation, violence prevention, equality and gender diversity are part of teacher training, which aims to raise awareness of these issues among teachers and educational staff in schools and to train them in dealing with conflict situations. Teachers and educational staff should be enabled to develop a trained eye for pupils who are (possibly) affected by domestic and/or gender-based violence in order to be able to respond in accordance with the specified internal school reporting chain.
- The Social Pedagogical Training Institute Berlin-Brandenburg (SFBB) offers social pedagogical professionals numerous training courses that deal with this complex of topics, such as a symposium on the Istanbul Convention, professional handling of suspected abuse, and sexualised violence among young people. Knowledge about gender-reflective work with boys, sexualised violence in the digital space, and the empowerment of girls and young women to protect them from sexualised violence. Since June 2022, the Social Pedagogical Training Institute Berlin-Brandenburg has been offering a two-day training course for child and youth welfare professionals that focuses on the trafficking and exploitation of minors.
- Universities of applied sciences offer subject-specific certificate courses and seminars as part of their (vocational) continuing education programmes. One example is the certificate course "Professional Victim Support: Victim Counselling and

psychosocial support during legal proceedings", which is offered by the continuing education centre at Alice Salomon University in Berlin.

Employees of anti-violence projects are sometimes involved in the design and implementation of training events. For example, the expertise of external institutions is regularly drawn upon in training courses organised by the GJPA, as well as in seminars at the police academy and in training measures offered by the Berlin police authorities on the topics of violence against women, domestic violence, victim protection and stalking.

In some cases, anti-violence projects also offer training courses, such as the training courses for employees in refugee accommodation facilities, which BIG e.V. conducts on the basis of the guide "What to do in cases of violence against women and LGBTI people" (see also supplement to the basic report).

11. Baden-Württemberg

The training programme of the state of Baden-Württemberg for senior civil servants in the judiciary is multi-level, partly in order to be able to offer as wide a range of courses as possible and thus enable post-related training within the meaning of Section 8a (2) and Section 87 LRiStAG. Initially, training courses are offered by the state and financed by the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Justice and Migration. In addition, cross-state conferences are planned through the German Judicial Academy (DRA), and members of the Baden-Württemberg judiciary are given the opportunity to participate in DRA events in other federal states. The events, which are held at the DRA's conference centres, are financed by the federal and state governments.

Some of these events are aimed (only) at public prosecutors or criminal judges or civil judges, while others are aimed at several of these groups or all groups.

The events offered at both the state level and the DRA level can be (roughly) divided into the following categories:

- Family law conferences, in particular on domestic violence, sexual violence, child welfare, child hearings and psychological and social science fundamentals
- Conferences on statement psychology and interrogation techniques, in particular with regard to the interrogation of victim witnesses
- Conferences on hate crime and its effects,
- Conferences on crimes and specific types of crime that are committed primarily to the detriment of women (and children)
- Conferences on victim protection and victim protection considerations.

Many training formats are offered regularly, often annually. Participation in certain training measures is not mandatory, with the exception of introductory events for newcomers to the judiciary in Baden-Württemberg, which cover statement psychology, interrogation techniques and victim protection aspects. However, there is an abstract training obligation for public prosecutors and judges to undergo training related to their position.

Since the beginning of 2023, more than 70 formats have been offered, including introductory conferences, which fall into the above-mentioned categories.

The training content is anchored in the respective curricula for the police force and is therefore taught on a compulsory basis (see Table 1, p. 446). The topic of violence against women is not explicitly identified as a separate module, but is taught as part of the
module "Violence in the social environment".

12. Please indicate whether the expertise of women's rights organisations or specialised support services is incorporated into the design and/or implementation of the training.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (reference question 11, p. 128), Bavaria (reference question 11, p. 136), Saarland (reference appendix)

1. Hamburg

During the training of police officers in career stage I (LA I), middle-level police service, the General Social Service (ASD) provides support in the form of teaching units (UE) for the training courses listed in Table I (Appendix, p. 435). As part of a module in LA II, higher police service, the "Frauennotruf Hamburg" (women's emergency hotline, specialist counselling centre for victims of sexual violence) is integrated into the training.

Opferhilfe Hamburg e.V. trains criminal investigators as part of the advanced training courses for criminal police officers dealing with relationship violence and uniformed police officers as part of the "courses for competence enhancement", "intervening in relationship violence" and "Spartenwechsel[134] "(change of sector) on, among other things, the phenomenon of relationship violence (domestic violence and stalking), the so-called "spiral of violence", victim ambivalence and the consequences of violence.

Intervento ("Intervention Centre for Domestic Violence and Stalking" and cooperation partner of the police[135]) trains criminal investigators as part of the "Advanced Training Courses for Criminal Police Officers Dealing with Domestic Violence" and police officers as part of the advanced training courses
"Intervening in relationship violence" on their counselling activities after police operations and the associated proactive approach.

The Hamburg Violence Protection Centre (HGZ) Advice Centre for Perpetrators (BeTA[136]) presents its work with violent individuals as part of the training courses for criminal investigators dealing with domestic violence ("Basic Training Course BGSB") and as part of the training courses for uniformed police officers ("Intervening in Domestic Violence").

Employees of Hamburg women's shelters train police officers as part of the "Intervening in Domestic Violence" training courses by providing information about their work in women's shelters and the concerns of those affected.

Staff from the Police Victim Protection Unit at the State Criminal Police Office present the services offered by various victim support organisations (women's shelters, Zuflucht, Hilfetelefon, Patchwork, Lâle, i.bera, Sâvia, Weisser Ring, Child Protection Centre) as part of the training courses for criminal police officers dealing with domestic violence ("Basic Training Course BGSB") and as part of the training courses for police officers ("Intervening in Domestic Violence").

The BJV answers this question in the affirmative. As part of the Hamburg criminal law module series (see Table II, p. 454), employees of the witness support centre at the Hamburg Regional Court give presentations on the topic of "victim protection".

Children's hospitals, and in particular child and adolescent psychiatric wards, work closely with public youth welfare services to provide training on physical, sexual and/or psychological violence against girls and boys.

The State Institute for Teacher Training and School Development (LI) and the Violence Prevention Advice Centre of the Authority for Schools and Vocational Training (BSB) work closely with the

[134] The course qualifies trained police officers to change departments (from the uniformed police to the criminal investigation department).
[135] https://www.verikom.de/gewaltschutz/intervento/
[136] https://www.hamburgergewaltschutzzentrum.de/

specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence (Nexus Hamburg[137]), and some training courses are run in cooperation. The Sex Education and Gender department at the LI is an active member of the Round Table against Domestic Violence, which brings together all relevant Hamburg institutions for the prevention and intervention of
gender-based violence and promotes a lively professional exchange.

2. Hesse

The interdisciplinary training events in the judiciary listed in Table II (p. 524) feature lecturers from women's shelters, among others. In addition, interested employees of women's shelters are invited to facilitate an exchange of ideas.

The topic of
"violence against women" is not explicitly addressed. However, employees of the social services of the judiciary (probation and court assistance) have access to the aforementioned training courses.

In the police force, the rights of victims, victim protection aspects and specific victim support services are discussed, in some cases with visits to support services or speakers from the services being included in courses. This depends on the respective subject area and focus of the teaching staff. Their personal contacts with organisations and support services are also decisive for their involvement in the courses. In the aforementioned training seminars, speakers include family court judges, the youth welfare office, perpetrator counselling (in matters of victim protection), an Islamic scholar, the helpline and network partners of the women's shelter (intervention centre)
and are involved in the design of the seminars.

3. Saxony

The State Youth Welfare Office reports that the expertise of women's rights organisations or specialised support services is being incorporated. The Ministry of Justice points out that victim protection associations and associations working with perpetrators were also involved in the state's own conference in 2023.

No statistical data is available for the police sector in relation to this question (see 11, p. 129). Expert knowledge is incorporated into the training and further education of police victim protection officers in particular.

For the school sector, the following is stated: When schools request support, assistance is provided by LaSuB advisors for school health promotion and prevention as well as school advisors. This also incorporates the expertise of women's rights organisations that exist at federal, state and regional level.

In the context of universities, the cooperation between TU Dresden and various organisations such as Opferhilfe e. V., LAG Gewaltfreies Zuhause, Hate Aid, LAG Queeres Sachsen, Women in Exile, Gerede e. V. and sowieso e. V. can be cited as examples. These associations cover various groups that may be affected by violence and discrimination
.

4. Saxony-Anhalt

With reference to the answer to question 11 (p. 130), it should be noted that specialised services not only accompany further training, but often design and implement it themselves. For example, the VERA specialist counselling centre has trained the employees of the authorities responsible for implementing the Prostitute Protection Act on the topic of "Recognising trafficking in women and possible courses of action".

[137] https://nexus-hamburg.de/

Expertise from the support network (e.g. Vera specialist counselling centre, domestic violence and stalking intervention centres, Weisser Ring
e. V., etc.) is regularly integrated into police training and further education.

The training programme for specialist victim support counsellors draws on the expertise of the aforementioned groups of people.

5. Schleswig-Holstein

Statewide "Cooperation and Intervention Alliance against Domestic Violence" (KIK-Schleswig-Holstein)

When the training programme is designed and organised by women's specialist organisations or KIK coordinators, their expertise is fully incorporated.

If women's organisations or KIK coordinators are involved in training courses offered by other specialist areas, their expertise is also incorporated.

MYRIAM – Mobile (legal) advice for refugee women

Myriam, together with cooperation partners, offered and conducted a digital training course for employees in migration social counselling centres. The topic was "Protection against violence under residence law regulations". The state guidelines, which have the effect of an administrative regulation and which Myriam had worked on in 2020/2021, were presented to the participants and accompanied by case studies for practical implementation. Myriam provided training on the relevant aspects of asylum law. In addition, Myriam and others offered and conducted an online training course for specialists in women's counselling centres on the asylum procedure.

State Office for Immigration and Refugees

The specialist knowledge must be imparted by suitable speakers. Attention must be paid to the speakers' professional and methodological-didactic suitability, as well as their networking or affiliation with existing local and regional civil society and welfare networks in the field of violence protection. Networking takes place not only with women's rights organisations, but also with interest groups representing other vulnerable groups, as women may be subject to multiple vulnerabilities.

Training for judges and prosecutors

To the best of our knowledge, women's rights organisations or specialised support services are not specifically involved in the provision of further training for judges and public prosecutors. The content of the courses is geared more towards the requirements of judicial practice in the application of legal provisions.

State Police SH

The expertise of women's rights organisations or specialised support services is incorporated into the design and/or implementation of training within the education and training of the Schleswig-Holstein State Police.

As part of the training, the topic of "stalking" is taught by speakers from the women's counselling centres/women's emergency hotline in Bad Segeberg and Ostholstein.

These speakers also teach on the topics of stalking and sexual offences as part of the continuing education programme of the Schleswig-Holstein State Police. In these interactive lessons, the specialised support services mentioned above provide information, advice and an opportunity for exchange.

6. Thuringia

In principle , female employees at women's shelters by the

cooperation in the committees for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention for Thuringia in the planning and design of all areas involved. The same applies to implementation.

Intervention centres independently take on decentralised in-house training in local police stations.

After the pilot phase, the e-learning course "Protection against domestic violence" will continue to be funded by the federal states and will also be available free of charge to all professional groups in Thuringia.
free of charge.

7. Lower Saxony

Training on high-risk management, see question 49 (p. 369).

Training of prospective judges and public prosecutors

University law programmes cover police measures to prevent domestic violence. Law programmes leading to the second state examination also cover the procedural rights of victims, including victims of violence. There is no specific provision for the duration of training on these specific topics. The other areas of training falling within the remit of the Ministry of Justice (judicial administration studies, bailiff training and judicial specialist training) provide for initial training on the subject of "domestic violence" or
"violence against women". It cannot be ruled out that the topic will be addressed in connection with other fundamental and professionally relevant topics, but detailed information is not available in this regard. Training for the specialised field of public prosecution does not involve traditional initial training; rather, it requires applicants to have already completed a degree in judicial administration. The training centre for the specialist degree programme is the University of Applied Sciences for Judicial Administration in North Rhine-Westphalia. In the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2024, a total of eight participants from Lower Saxony took part in the specialist studies programme (2020: 0, 2021: 5, 2022: 0, 2023: 3, EJ 2024: 0). If this area of training is covered by the evaluation, a response from North Rhine-Westphalia is to be expected. The specific content of the specialist studies is not known here. Whether specialist knowledge from women's rights organisations or specialised support services is included in the design and/or implementation of the training courses depends on the respective speakers who design them. However, it is assumed that this is (at least predominantly) the case.

The Domestic Violence Coordination Office regularly designs and organises training courses for professionals dealing with the issue of domestic violence. The following training courses have been held:

- Risk assessment and case management in high-risk cases of domestic violence
- Legal basis for counselling practice
- Digital violence against women
- Discrimination-sensitive action in counselling practice
- Digital training "High-risk management Domestic violence of the Lower Saxony Police" for police network partners
- Exchange of experiences between special officers for domestic violence

All employees working for the Lower Saxony Victim Support Foundation
complete additional training as specialist advisors for victim support and psychosocial support during trials in their first year of employment. They also take part in

various one-day and/or multi-day training events on the above-mentioned topics. The Lower Saxony Victim Support Foundation is itself a recognised training centre for the qualification of psychosocial support workers. Every two years, in cooperation with the coordinating office for psychosocial support in Lower Saxony, it offers its own modularised in-service training programme based on Lower Saxony's quality standards.

Some of the speakers at the topic-related seminars (last page of the questionnaire) were from the LKA NI (Department 3 and Prevention). As part of decentralised training courses, women's support organisations (especially counselling and intervention centres) and organisations working with perpetrators (and the
offender support services) are involved at the local level.

8. Rhineland-Palatinate

The expertise of non-police organisations is the subject of the guidelines underlying police action in cases of domestic violence, entitled "Violence in close social relationships – stalking". These guidelines are currently being revised.

Depending on the structure of the respective training event, the expertise of women's rights organisations or specialised support services is also incorporated into the design and implementation of the training. One example is the annual interministerial symposium on "Violence in close social relationships/domestic violence" in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior and Sport, the Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration, the Ministry of Justice and the Koblenz Bar Association.

The expertise of women's support organisations was incorporated into the design and/or implementation of the training and conferences.

The state project "Effectively combating female genital mutilation: supporting those affected, training professionals and creating sustainable networks" is run by the Psychosocial Centre for Refugees and Trauma (PSZ) at Caritasverband Mainz e.V. The PSZ's expertise is therefore incorporated into the state project and thus into the training courses.

In the training course "Sexualised violence – a topic for schools?!" (see the answer to question 11, p. 131), the expertise of women's rights organisations or specialised support services is incorporated into the design and/or implementation of the training.

The Ministry of Science and Health has scheduled meetings with all five of the state's medical associations (State Chamber of Pharmacists, State Medical Association, State Nursing Association, State Chamber of Psychotherapists and State Dental Association) to analyse the status and need for targeted training courses on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and, depending on the outcome of the analysis, to discuss the need for further and (also) interprofessional offerings in a further step.

The Ministry of Science and Health is currently in further dialogue with the State Medical Association to examine whether there is a need for further action (adjustment of the further training regulations) beyond the professional obligations and the acquisition/teaching of explicitly listed methodological and practical skills within the framework of specialist medical further training.

All speakers at the various events are experts in the field of "violence against women". Where possible, experts from the support services working with us are also involved.

In order to answer the question comprehensively and address the requested interdisciplinary knowledge transfer in the development of police training and further education,
the curriculum was consulted and the relevant modules and their contents were examined in the

explained for the reporting period from 2020 to 2024. The relevant explanations provided by the responsible University of Public Administration (HfÖV) can be found in Appendix 5.

In developing the teaching module for nursing training listed in the appendix, legal sources were used alongside relevant content from the Istanbul Convention itself and information from local actors such as the violence protection clinic and the counselling centres of the Bremen police.

The networking of the violence protection officer with external counselling centres, the police, clinics, aftercare facilities and interest groups is expressly required in the "Requirements for a violence prevention concept in residential and support services". Training and awareness-raising for employees in the legal, ethical and educational aspects of violence prevention is also planned.

Profamilia, Schattenriss and other specialist services are regularly involved in training and further education at the LIS.

9. Berlin

The project "Men Against Violence" (Volkssolidarität e.V.), which is funded by the Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection and offers training programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence, has expanded its group services by opening a branch office. This will enable it to better meet the regional needs of the individual districts of Berlin.

In addition, the model project "Counselling Centre for Protection against Violence in Families and the Social Environment" is funded by the Berlin State Commission against Violence in the context of perpetrator work with the Berlin Centre for Violence Prevention. Here, a systemic approach is being tested that aims to encourage perpetrators to interact socially and respectfully with each other and at the same time break through the transgenerational problem.

A large number of projects are funded as part of the overall strategy for the prevention and intervention of juvenile delinquency. These are predominantly programmes for offenders, which, among other things, counteract and address the consolidation of toxic images of masculinity and the perpetrators' own structures of violence, which manifest themselves both in public spaces and in domestic violence. In addition, there are group and individual counselling sessions, which deal with social control, traditional family constellations and experiences of violence

10. Baden-Württemberg

The professional support system for protection against violence is supported by training courses for specialists and multipliers provided by organisations in specific areas of protection against violence. The organisations are responsible for the implementation and content of the training courses. These include:

- The State Coordination Office for Digital Violence in Heidelberg provides specialised training and expert advice for professionals in women's shelters and specialist counselling services on domestic violence in order to educate them on the topic of digital violence and safety.
- The specialist counselling service for organised sexualised and/or ritualised violence advises and supports specialists from the fields of counselling, therapy, law enforcement, justice and research, as well as those affected, throughout the state.
- The central contact point for FGM/C offers support to experts in the prevention, education and protection of female genital mutilation.
- The learning platform enables further training and education for medical professionals

in medical counselling, care and treatment for women affected by FGM/C.

- The RESA project for training (medical) professionals in the field of sexual harassment/dealing with victims of sexual violence
- The Nachtsam campaign includes training courses for professionals in the field of sexual harassment in nightlife
- YASEMIN provides advice on forced marriage and honour-based violence. The information events are held at the request of various institutions, whose expertise can be incorporated into the presentation. Presentations are always updated to reflect the latest information, changes in legislation or new recommendations for action. AJS develops its training courses in collaboration with various experts on the subject and in cooperation with the Evangelische Gesellschaft Stuttgart (Protestant Society of Stuttgart, area of assistance for young female migrants). AJS bases its data on the incidence of forced marriage on Terre des Femmes, among others, and otherwise obtains information about the assistance offered by Papatya.

11. Brandenburg

Interdisciplinary consultations are held annually within the framework of the LAP monitoring committee with the aim of making the training and further training of the police and judiciary more victim-sensitive and gearing it more towards the needs of IC. Accordingly, an action plan with recommendations was drawn up for the training providers.

In the training courses organised by the GJPA, expertise from women's rights organisations or specialised support services is included in the design and/or implementation of the training. In some cases, experts from women's rights organisations or specialised support services are invited as speakers.

Article 16: Preventive intervention and treatment programmes

13. Please provide information on the measures taken to increase the number of preventive intervention and treatment programmes available for perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence, both for voluntary and compulsory participation.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

1. Hamburg

In recent years, Hamburg has successfully further differentiated and reorganised its work with perpetrators of domestic violence and stalking.

In January 2025, the "Law on Data Processing by the Police (PolDVG)" was amended. The newly created Section 47a (1) PolDVG now provides the legal basis for the transfer of personal data from the Hamburg police to a "perpetrator counselling centre" and thus provides the legal basis for a proactive approach to working with perpetrators.

2. Hesse

In Hesse, the **Marburg model** was developed to optimise the ability of the police and judiciary to take action in domestic violence cases. Cooperation between the police/public prosecutor's office and the courts was improved with the involvement of an independent organisation offering a programme for working with perpetrators and a counselling centre for women. Through the rapid and regular involvement of court assistance as part of the social services of the judiciary, already shortly

After an incident of domestic violence involving police intervention, victim protection can be significantly strengthened and the possibilities for influencing the perpetrator improved. Experience shows that both the victim and the perpetrator are receptive to counselling services shortly after the incident. The victim is willing to testify and the perpetrator is more willing to participate in a training programme. This window of opportunity closes very quickly. The court assistance service's prompt contact with the victim and the perpetrator signals to the victim that the state is taking action and to the perpetrator that this behaviour will not be tolerated.

Within the framework of the Marburg model, court assistance also contacts the accused. They are also given the opportunity to present the incident from their perspective. An important goal here is for the accused to confront and reflect on the offence and their own actions. Court assistance begins by working with the accused to develop strategies for how to react in acute situations in the future, which can then be further developed in training programmes.

The court assistance then reports the content of the discussions with the parties involved to the public prosecutor's office and gives its opinion on what it considers to be an appropriate sanction for the accused. In particular, they inform the public prosecutor's office whether the accused are willing to participate in a training programme for perpetrators of domestic violence in accordance with the standards for perpetrator work of the Federal Working Group on Perpetrator Work in Domestic Violence, or whether other approaches such as couples counselling, addiction and drug therapy, or psychotherapeutic counselling are appropriate as a court order/instruction.

A total of twelve new positions were created in the social services department of the justice system to implement the Marburg model throughout Hesse. The Marburg model was introduced in the Marburg district court district in 2011 and has been extended to all other district court districts in Hesse since 2020.

Since 2008, all persons in Hesse who are under probation supervision and/or administrative supervision and who have been convicted of offences against sexual self-determination (Section 13 of the Special Part of the Criminal Code, with the exception of Sections 184f and 184g) and offences against life (Section 16 of the Special Part of the Criminal Code) for which a sexual motive has been established, have been supervised by the Security Management I department of the probation service at the Social Services of the Judiciary. In addition to the basic tasks of probation services, the support provided by Security Management I includes assessing the risk of reoffending using the STATIC-99 diagnostic manual, providing close supervision based on the results, processing offences, drawing up a reoffending prevention plan and referring offenders to therapeutic measures. This is because the suspension of a sentence on probation and the imposition of supervision include the issuance of instructions to offer the offender help in order to prevent them from committing further offences. These include, among other things, instructions to undergo psychotherapeutic treatment. Since health insurance companies refuse to cover therapy costs on the basis of court orders because in the majority of cases NO diagnosis according to F65.4 of the ICD-10 has been made, the Hessian state government has been supporting the association Förderung der Bewährungshilfe in Hessen e.V. (Promotion of Probation Assistance in Hesse) since 2009, which implements the "Hessian Specialist Outpatient Clinic" project. Two forms of therapeutic care for the offenders described above are made possible:

On the one hand, the provision of comprehensive outpatient therapeutic treatment for sex offenders in Hesse in close cooperation with probation services, and the treatment of subjects at particular risk of reoffending. The project has established statewide coverage of therapeutic services in order to promote the implementation of court orders throughout Hesse and to prevent them from failing due to the question of cost coverage or the trivial aspect that convicted persons cannot afford the travel costs to therapy. Furthermore, the sponsor ensures that
Only persons with appropriate professional training, psychologists and medical specialists qualified to provide therapeutic support may be called upon.

The prerequisite for receiving care from the Hessian Specialist Outpatient Clinic is either a therapy order as part of supervisory control or an order to undergo medical treatment as part of probation supervision.

On the other hand, since 2017, the range of services offered by the Hessian Specialist Outpatient Clinic has been expanded to include "aftercare for prisoners released in special cases". The target group comprises persons who are released from prison or preventive detention after long prison sentences. Treatment that has already begun in prison should also be continued after release. This also includes medication, e.g. with impulse-control drugs, especially if this was already started during imprisonment or preventive detention and must be continued after release. Psychiatric treatment for individuals from the aforementioned target group is provided by the Vitos Forensic Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic in Hesse.
accompanying therapeutic aftercare by the Hessian specialist outpatient clinic begins at the earliest from the time of release.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, there are three violence counselling centres that provide support to perpetrators of domestic and (in some cases) sexual violence, both reported and unreported. Working with perpetrators of violence was the focus of the Interdisciplinary Victim Protection Conference and Anti-Violence Week event in November 2024. In addition, the State Office for Outpatient Offender Work in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania maintains a forensic outpatient clinic that ensures that potentially dangerous offenders who continue to require psychological treatment even after their release from prison are regularly monitored by
can be assessed and treated by specialists.

4. Saxony

During the current reporting period, counselling capacities in existing offender counselling facilities were increased, resulting in a higher number of clients
. Further expansion of counselling capacities is planned in the LAP IK.

5. Saxony

The specialist centre for perpetrator work in cases of domestic violence (ProMann), run by the German Family Association of Saxony-Anhalt e.V., has been funded by the state of Saxony-Anhalt since 1999
.

6. Schleswig-Holstein

Outpatient counselling services

The Ministry of Justice in Schleswig-Holstein promotes outpatient counselling services in the form of social training for perpetrators of domestic violence. These have been steadily expanded since 2021, so that Schleswig-Holstein now has a comprehensive range of ten specialised counselling services that work with both assigned participants and self-referrals.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice in Schleswig-Holstein promotes therapeutic services primarily aimed at sex offenders. These have also been continuously expanded since 2021, so that Schleswig-Holstein now has so-called "forensic outpatient clinics" at five locations, which are aimed at probationers who are under supervision or on probation, but are also open to self-referrals.

Law on outpatient rehabilitation and victim protection in Schleswig-Holstein (ResOG-SH)

With the entry into force of the Act on Outpatient Resocialisation and

Victim protection in Schleswig-Holstein (ResOG-SH) as of 1 July 2022, these were previously standardised by law as
"voluntary services", and the possibility of participation by self-reporters was also stipulated here.

Violence prevention outpatient clinics

In addition, a pilot project was implemented in 2023 to set up multi-professional violence prevention outpatient clinics, which were linked to the existing forensic outpatient clinics. In the course of this, the target group of these facilities was expanded to include people with mental health issues who have not yet come to the attention of the criminal justice system but who are at increased risk of committing crimes. This was based on similar services in Bavaria, but the services in Schleswig-Holstein are significantly more accessible. Specifically, there are violence prevention outpatient clinics at four locations, which are also supplemented by a crisis hotline that is available in the evenings, at night and on weekends.

Action plan for probation service clients

In addition, Schleswig-Holstein is currently developing an action plan for probationers who find themselves in particularly complex and highly problematic life situations without sufficient resources to cope. The programme is aimed in particular at probationers who are transitioning from imprisonment to aftercare, if they face significant barriers to participating in standard care and are at high risk of committing serious violent crimes. This group may also include individuals released from forensic hospitals. The aim of the preventive programme is to reduce the risk of future serious violent crimes, such as sexual offences and homicides, by means of case management tailored to the individual case.

Prison system

In the prison system in Schleswig-Holstein, the offence-oriented therapeutic treatment of violent and sex offenders in prisons is enshrined in law (Sections 26 ff. in conjunction with Sections 2, 95 LStVollzG SH and Sections 28 ff. in conjunction with Sections 2, 3 JStVollzG) and is an integral part of intramural treatment programmes. Therapy is provided either as an individual measure or as part of a comprehensive treatment programme in a social therapy department.

The therapeutic treatment of violent and sex offenders is based on scientifically sound therapeutic methods in forensic psychological individual and group therapy. It is primarily cognitive-behavioural in nature and addresses the
The fundamental content of the therapy always includes developing a willingness to undergo treatment.

7. Thuringia

In Thuringia, violence conflict counselling for perpetrators of domestic violence continues to be provided at all four regional court locations as part of the ORANGE project. For further information, please refer to the details in the First Grevio State Report Germany 2020 (III.E. p. 24).

The 95th Autumn Conference of Ministers of Justice on 28 November 2024 addressed the prevention project "Kein Täter werden" (Don't become an offender) and concluded that this project is of great importance for the prevention of sexual offences against children and thus for child protection. The nationwide prevention network, which is already the subject of the First Grevio State Report Germany 2020 (there III.F., p. 24), offers treatment for people who are sexually attracted to children and therefore want to seek therapeutic help. In view of the fact that the
previous funding of the project by the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Funds

in accordance with Section 65d bs. 1 sentence 1 SGB V ends on 31 December 2025, Jumiko submitted a request to the BMJ to urge the Federal Minister of Health to extend or continue funding for model projects by service providers who treat patients with paedophilic sexual disorders. The corresponding resolution proposed by the LJV BY was unanimously adopted, including with the vote of the LJV TH.

During interrogations of suspects, the Thuringian police obtain the consent of the suspect to transfer their personal data to the counselling centre, if they are willing to do so, and then transfer the data so that
the counselling centre can proactively approach the accused. The aim is to provide low-threshold access to counselling.

8. Bavaria

Specialist centres for perpetrator work make an important contribution to preventing domestic violence and stopping cycles of violence. Currently, every Bavarian administrative district has a specialist centre for perpetrator work in the field of domestic violence – in Upper Bavaria, two specialist centres are funded due to the population density. This means that there are eight state-funded specialist centres for perpetrator work in the field of domestic violence in Bavaria.

Psychotherapeutic outpatient clinics for violent and sex offenders have been and continue to be expanded in Bavaria.

On the one hand, the opening of further branches (in Regensburg at the end of 2020 and in Landshut in April 2023) has further improved comprehensive care.

The same applies to the inclusion of registered therapists in the therapy concept. In addition, treatment capacities at the individual locations have been continuously expanded through the steady increase in therapeutic staff. While 300 people were still undergoing treatment on 31 December 2019, this figure had risen to 736 by 31 December 2024. The specialist outpatient clinics work in a highly professional manner based on recognised standards. Advisory board meetings are held twice a year to ensure that the high quality of the work carried out by the specialist outpatient clinics is maintained. The overall aim of the treatment is to prevent reoffending and thus, first and foremost, to protect victims. Another important aspect of the therapy is to develop empathy for the victims in the perpetrators. The evaluation of the sexual offender outpatient clinic has already been completed with positive results. The evaluation of the violent offender outpatient clinic, on the other hand, is still ongoing.

The "Don't Become a Perpetrator" project is also being continuously expanded and developed. In 2020, the Munich location was added, followed by Regensburg at the end of 2021. Since January 2022, as part of a project expansion, so-called "known offenders", i.e. offenders who are currently under investigation or facing criminal proceedings, have also been treated in Bamberg; since January 2024, this service has also been available at the Munich and Regensburg locations. In Bamberg, the project
"I can change" project, treatment is also offered to individuals with violent fantasies towards adults (e.g. rape fantasies towards women). A total of approximately 155 therapy places are now offered at the three locations. The "Don't become an offender" project also has a scientific advisory board that meets once a year and, among other things, ensures compliance with recognised standards.

Victim protection is achieved by preventing further crimes. An evaluation of the project is planned. The treatment offered by the Bavarian prison system includes regular anti-aggression and social skills training in various settings in prisons, as well as individual psychological counselling. In addition, the range of social therapy services for violent and sex offenders in particular is being continuously expanded. There are currently 385 places available, comprising 152 places for sex offenders in seven prisons and 153 places for violent offenders in seven prisons. There are plans to add a further 24 treatment places. In addition, one prison has 16 treatment places for female sex and
violent offenders.

Preventive outpatient clinics are available for people with mental illness.

9. Lower Saxony

The state of Lower Saxony currently funds 11 perpetrator work facilities (TAE) [138] with the aim of teaching violent men to refrain from violence against their partners and to act non-violently in conflict and crisis situations. In the medium term, the aim is to expand from 11 to 20 TAE. The expansion is planned in stages; funding of EUR 50,000 per TAE is calculated. This requires the prior creation of a funding guideline, which is currently being worked on. An expansion is only possible after the guideline comes into force. As part of the budget preparation process, EUR 750,000 (EUR 50,000 per FTE) has been registered for the 2026 financial year, as well as a continuous increase to EUR 1 million for 20 FTEs in 2028.

There are no special programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence in the prison system in Lower Saxony. Numerous offence-oriented groups are offered for violent offenders and sex offenders. The measures are not recorded separately according to offence groups. The measures offered for violent offenders and sex offenders primarily aim to prevent recidivism and reduce dangerousness, but implicitly include the topics covered in the survey where necessary. The programmes are carried out in prisons. The measures are optional. Participation is voluntary. Prisoners' participation in the measures offered is based on need. The offer is adapted to existing needs.

Crime (and traffic accident) prevention are tasks for society as a whole. They comprise all state and private programmes and measures designed to prevent, reduce or minimise the consequences of crime (or traffic accidents) as a social phenomenon. Police measures are generally aimed at general preventive aspects (strengthening protection and minimising risk factors), particularly in the context of violence prevention. The type of measures surveyed here are not within the remit of the police. See also 14a (p. 163) below.

10. Rhineland-Palatinate

A total of nine perpetrator work facilities (TAE) in the "Contra Häusliche Gewalt!" (Against Domestic Violence!) project in Rhineland-Palatinate are financially supported by the Ministry of the Interior.

The case numbers shown below were recorded in the years from 2021 onwards. These are cases involving personal counselling contact. The total number of cases includes ongoing cases from the previous year.

Cases with personal counselling contact in den neun offender work facilities	***2024***	***2023***	***2022***	***2021***
***Total**, of which*	***412***	***468***	***450***	***431***
newly recorded in the statistical year	***312***	***349***	***331***	***321***

The majority of participants in TAE measures are self-referrals, i.e. perpetrators who seek out a facility on their own initiative. These clients were made aware of the "Contra Häusliche Gewalt!" advice centres through information material, the press, the internet and recommendations from their private sphere, among other things.
the "Contra Häusliche Gewalt!" counselling centres. Further referrals are mainly made by the youth welfare office, the police and the public prosecutor's office within the framework of

[138] Section 138 of the German Criminal Code (www.taeterarbeit-niedersachsen.de)

conditions/instructions.

Group work is at the heart of the TAE's work. In addition, staff also conduct individual interviews with perpetrators and victims. The majority of participants are men.

The prison system is solely responsible for convicted perpetrators. It offers various treatment programmes and interventions for the target group in question, including group programmes for sex or violent offenders, individual offence processing, psychological and social work counselling, interventions to increase motivation, defined treatment programmes, e.g. to improve social skills or impulse control and to deal with emotions, and comprehensive social therapy treatment in three facilities nationwide, including a youth prison. Assignment to treatment programmes within the prison system is based on a scientifically sound, comprehensive diagnostic procedure (Section 13 LJVollzG). The implementation of the necessary measures is regularly reviewed and updated on the basis of an enforcement and integration plan (Section 15 LJVollzG).

In addition, a total of six forensic outpatient clinics are available throughout the state, some of which are run by the state, to enable released persons or persons whose prison sentences have already been suspended on probation to comply with the therapy and reporting requirements imposed by the court as part of their supervision or probation. The number of persons in prison or persons subject to therapy or reporting requirements as part of probation or parole depends on the sentencing practices of the courts and is therefore not voluntary. In this respect, efforts to increase the number of treatment programmes available for the group of offenders described are neither possible nor effective.

11. North Rhine-Westphalia

The support programme "Working with perpetrators in cases of domestic violence" was supplemented with the transfer from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of Equality in such a way that, in addition to referrals in the context of the discontinuation of proceedings under the Code of Criminal Procedure or probation conditions under the Criminal Code, self-referrals are also eligible for participation.

The state has set itself the task of establishing a comprehensive network of qualified perpetrator work programmes in North Rhine-Westphalia, with at least one state-funded counselling centre in each of the 19 regional court districts. At the relevant point in time, perpetrator work programmes were already being funded in 17 of the 19 regional court districts.

In 2023 and 2024, 20 offender work projects in 17 regional court districts were funded, each with up to three-quarters of a staff position, and – with a view to creating a comprehensive and networked range of measures for working with offenders – a statewide networking and coordination centre for working with offenders in cases of domestic violence was funded with a quarter of a staff position.

The state budget allocated funds for the area of "Working with perpetrators within the framework of institutional cooperation alliances against domestic violence (work with perpetrators)". 1,000,000 euros in 2023 and 939,500 euros in 2024.

12. Bremen

Funding for services offering perpetrator work has been significantly increased since 2022. The services are being adapted to the nationally recognised standards of the Federal Working Group on Perpetrator Work. A new service has been launched in Bremerhaven.

In detail:

To ensure that services for working with offenders are available, two certified anti-violence trainers were trained in 2022. These services are used both for working with offenders as part of the statutory mandate of the social services of the judiciary in the state of Bremen and for working with offenders to implement the Istanbul Convention.

In addition, funds have been made available to finance mandatory requirements for perpetrators in criminal proceedings.

In Bremerhaven, counselling for perpetrators has been funded since 2024, which works according to the standards of the BAG Täterarbeit (Federal Working Group on Work with Perpetrators). The financial resources for the counselling centre Männer gegen
Men's Violence has been increased to €35,000 to enable free counselling.

13. Saarland

(1) Support for offender programmes

The State Police Headquarters keeps information material on "Perspective: Specialist centre for perpetrator work in cases of violent behaviour in the domestic sphere" from the Workers' Welfare Association. If, in the course of police investigations, circumstances indicate that the suspect fits the target group (adult men who commit violence) of the offender programme and could meet the relevant admission criteria, the information materials are passed on to the suspects. State funding was increased by 160% in 2024 and maintained at the 2024 level in 2025. This enabled the "Perspective" project was expanded and consolidated in 2024.

(2) Offence and offender work during criminal proceedings, imprisonment and probation

By order of the public prosecutor and the court, offenders can be required to participate in specialised offender programmes, including "Neue Wege" and "Perspektive".

The counselling centre "Neue Wege" (New Paths) deals with relapse prevention for underage girls, boys, children and adolescents who have committed sexual assault. It provides free therapy and counselling services for sexual boundary violations, assaults and sexual abuse by adolescents and young adults aged 14 to 21. In special cases, children aged 12 and above may also be accepted. The "Perspektive" centre specialises in working with perpetrators of domestic violence. The programme is aimed at adult men from across Saarland who have been violent towards their (former) partners.

In the prison system and in probation services, offence and offender work takes place in a multi-professional context. Psychologists, social workers and other professionals are involved in drawing up enforcement and integration plans in order to analyse the offence, the circumstances under which it was committed and how to deal with it on an individual basis. This approach applies in principle to all cases – including those in which women have been victims of (domestic) violence.

Exchange between the Ministry of Justice and civil society organisations in the field of offender work (see explanation under 14. d., p. 165)

14. Berlin

The project "Men Against Violence" (Volkssolidarität e.V.), which is funded by the Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection and offers training programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence, has expanded its group services by opening a branch office. This will enable it to better meet the regional needs of the individual districts of Berlin
.

In addition, the model project "Counselling Centre for Protection against Violence in Families and the Social Environment" is being funded by the Berlin State Commission against Violence in the context of perpetrator work with the Berlin Centre for Violence Prevention. Here, a systemic approach is being tested that aims to encourage perpetrators to interact socially and respectfully with each other and at the same time break through the transgenerational problem.

A large number of projects are funded as part of the overall strategy for the prevention and intervention of juvenile delinquency. These are predominantly programmes for offenders, which, among other things, counteract and address the consolidation of toxic images of masculinity and the perpetrators' own structures of violence, which manifest themselves both in public spaces and in domestic violence. In addition, there are group and individual counselling sessions, which social control, traditional family constellations and experiences of violence.

15. Baden-Württemberg

Since 1 November 2024, the Ministry of Social Affairs has been promoting an inventory and needs analysis of perpetrator work in Baden-Württemberg through the state working group "Perpetrator Work Domestic Violence Baden-Württemberg". Based on the surveys, a concept is to be developed that identifies, publicises and helps to further develop the necessary structures, quality standards and services in the field of perpetrator work for Baden-Württemberg. The state working group is an association of nine supporting organisations that offer various services to teach violent individuals to change violent behaviour patterns and adopt non-violent behaviour.

16. Brandenburg

The Violence Prevention Centre BB has been working with perpetrators since 2020. A third location was successfully opened in Cottbus in 2024. Further expansion of locations as well as outreach and mobile counselling are planned.

In accordance with the new local legislation, Section 16c (2) BbgPolG, the court can, at the request of the police, oblige the person concerned to participate in violence prevention counselling designated by the police for a period of three months for a total of 12 hours. The conditions for this are currently being created at police headquarters. There are no statistics on this at police headquarters.

14. Please provide information on the measures taken to:

a. increase the number of men and boys participating in perpetrator programmes for domestic and sexual violence;

b. ensure that programmes for perpetrators of violence apply best practice standards;

c. ensure the safety of victims and cooperation with specialist victim support services;

d. ensure that the results of the programmes are monitored and evaluated.

Contributions: Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Hamburg (reference question 13, p. 147)

1. Hesse on

a)

The expansion of the Marburg model to all regional court districts throughout Hesse will inevitably lead to an increase in demand for the already funded projects for working with perpetrators in cases

domestic violence.

In 2013, funding for perpetrator work was made available in Hesse for the first time, laying the foundation for further expansion of this work. The subsidised perpetrator counselling centres, which have a conceptually defined field of work in domestic violence/perpetrator work, are listed in the "Guide to Counselling Men with Violence Problems" updated in July 2021. In the 2023 financial year, funding for perpetrator work in cases of domestic violence was increased from €250,000 to €350,000.

Since 2023, projects targeting female perpetrators have also been financially supported for the first time in order to be able to offer services to this group of people as well.

Persons who are resident in Hesse and have served a prison sentence for a sexual offence or a violent crime, whose remaining sentence has been suspended on probation or who have been placed under supervision, are supervised by the Social Services of the Justice System (probation and court assistance) in the Security Management I (sexual offences) or Security Management II (violent offences) as part of their probation or supervision. This ensures that all probationers who have been ordered to undergo therapy are referred to the Hessian Specialist Outpatient Clinic for therapeutic treatment.

The "Hessian Specialist Outpatient Clinic" project is now established in all Hessian regional court districts and has become an integral part of rehabilitation and prevention.

Re b)

In June 2020, the Hessian Ministry of Justice and the Rule of Law sent preliminary minimum standards for the Marburg model to the regional court districts for initial orientation, based on the previous concepts from Marburg and Kassel. These serve as a working basis. Supplementary, more detailed concepts can be adapted to regional circumstances.

The funded projects for working with perpetrators are based on the current standards of the Federal Working Group on Working with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (BAG).

Re c)

Within the framework of the Marburg model, court assistance works empathetically and trauma-sensitively in counselling sessions to identify the individual needs and problems of victims who are still reeling from the impact of the crime. It develops support options together with the victims and clarifies the necessary support measures. In the best case scenario, victims are informed about specialised counselling centres and referred to them.

In Hesse, all participants in Security Management I and Security Management II who have been referred for therapy are referred to the Hessian specialist outpatient clinic for therapeutic treatment.

Re d)

Since the 2015 financial year, it has been possible to carry out a uniform statistical evaluation of offender work in Hesse. This is done using a statistics form developed by the specialist department, which is used to record offender work projects in a standardised manner. The statistics form was updated in 2023 and, for the first time, the Marburg model is being used to assess referrals.

The psychotherapeutic care of participants in Security Management I in Hesse
was scientifically evaluated by the Central Office of Criminology (KrimZ) in its final report in 2016.

The effectiveness of Security Management II was scientifically evaluated by the KrimZ in its final report in 2021.

2. Mecklenburg-Western

Pomerania on a)

According to Section 7 of the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Prison Act (StVollzG M-V)[139], the requirement to participate in treatment programmes for sex and violent offenders is assessed as part of the diagnostic procedure. Based on the needs identified there, specific treatment measures are determined and included in the enforcement plan (cf. Section 8 StVollzG M-V). Similar provisions can be found in the laws on the enforcement of juvenile sentences and preventive detention. From our point of view, it is not possible or necessary to adjust/increase the number, as the assessment is based on the individual needs of the respective prisoners and it is ensured that everyone in need is recorded and treated.

Regarding b)

Treatment measures within the prison system and in outpatient offender support are generally state of the art. This is ensured through the use of evaluated programmes and regular training for staff. The programmes carried out by commissioned external providers, which account for a significant proportion of the total, are subject to regular quality controls by the supervisory authority.

Regarding c)

In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the safety of victims in the prison system is already ensured by preventing offenders from contacting them. To this end, measures such as mail checks on prisoners are ordered. When granting prison privileges, appropriate instructions are issued prohibiting contact with the victims. In individual cases, there is close cooperation with specialised support services.

In the event of future probation supervision (FA), the protection of victims by the prison authorities is closely coordinated with the State Office for Outpatient Offender Work (LaStar) and other institutions involved, such as specialised support services, and, if necessary, appropriate proposals for instructions will be submitted to the criminal enforcement chamber deciding on the FA. The actual ordering of the instructions is subject to judicial independence. Monitoring compliance with the instructions during FA is then the responsibility of the probation service, with the involvement of the social services of the judiciary and the forensic outpatient clinic. If an injured person is supported by a specialised support service, the departments of LaStar cooperate with the respective institutions.

Re d)

The results of the programmes are monitored and controlled within the framework of the general professional supervision of the supervisory authority for the prison system and outpatient offender work.

3. Saxony

Targeted public relations and networking measures were carried out in the form of state-wide and regional campaigns and specialist conferences. State-wide further training for judges and public prosecutors also addressed judicial referral to programmes for perpetrators of violence and promoted the

[139] Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania – Section 7 StVollzG M-V | State standard for Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania | Diagnostic procedure | Section 7 – Diagnostic procedure | Valid from: 01/06/2013

exchange of promising practical approaches.

Further steps are planned in the LAP IK. In particular, this includes proactive engagement with perpetrators of violence by the police and a possible expansion of services for under-18s, for whom there are currently no specific counselling structures in the existing counselling centres for perpetrators of violence.

The counselling centres for perpetrators of violence in Saxony are members of the Federal Working Group on Domestic Violence Perpetrators and work according to its recognised professional standards. In addition, the Saxony State Working Group on Domestic Violence Perpetrators acts as a specialist policy committee at state level, discussing professional standards, responding to current developments and providing impetus for the further development of work with perpetrators of violence in Saxony. Since July 2022, uniform quality standards have been in place for work with perpetrators, ensuring a professionally sound and uniform practice.

In all regions of Saxony where perpetrator work is offered, there is close cooperation between the counselling centres for perpetrators and the victim support services – both at the case-specific and cross-case levels. This cooperation is part of the professional standards for perpetrator work in Saxony.

The framework concept allows counselling centres for perpetrators of violence to participate in high-risk conferences in cases of high risk, and this option is also used in some cases.

The counselling centres also comply with the standards of the Federal Working Group on Domestic Violence Offenders. This includes, in particular, informing those affected about the start, end or termination of counselling, unless there are reasons not to do so. They also receive advice on protection options and information on suitable contact points and support services.

Under the equal opportunities funding guidelines, counselling centres for perpetrators of violence are required to submit digital statistics every six months, which provide a detailed picture of case developments in the regions. Once a year, a qualified factual report on specific issues is prepared by all three perpetrator counselling centres and evaluated by both the approving authority and the responsible state ministry . In addition to these statistics participate all offender counselling centres in Saxony participate in the annual surveys conducted by the BAG Täterarbeit (Federal Association for Offender Work).

4. Saxony-Anhalt on

a)

The specialist centre for perpetrator work in cases of domestic violence is drawing up a cooperation agreement in accordance with the standards of the Federal Working Group on Perpetrator Work in Domestic Violence (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Täterarbeit Häusliche Gewalt e.V.) with the institutions of the protection and support system in Saxony-Anhalt in order to specifically address individuals who commit violence against clients of the support system and integrate them into the work of the specialist centre for perpetrator work.

Regarding b)

The specialist unit for perpetrator work in cases of domestic violence (ProMann) made important conceptual progress during the reporting period. The focus was on implementing a perpetrator programme in accordance with the standards of the Federal Working Group on Perpetrator Work in Domestic Violence (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Täterarbeit häusliche Gewalt e.V.) and carrying out comprehensive individual and group work.

Re c)

In the interests of professional police victim protection, when reports are taken and, if necessary, during further criminal investigation in cases of domestic violence , the male suspects are offered assistance by the
ProMann counselling centre in order to prevent further violence.

The state's protection and support system for women affected by violence is particularly notable for the fact that perpetrator counselling is consistently integrated into the support network for women affected by violence ("Statewide Network for a Life without Violence").

Cooperation with specialised support services (state coordination office for civil society actors for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, intervention centres, VERA specialist centre against human trafficking and forced marriage, high-risk management by the police) takes place regularly on the basis of the good and constantly expanding network between the social services of the judiciary and these services.

Re d)

The state-funded specialist centre for working with perpetrators of violence (ProMann) is required to submit an annual report.

5. Schleswig-Holstein

on a)

Repeated increases in funding have enabled the counselling centres funded by the Ministry of Justice to increase their staffing levels in the long term, thereby increasing the number of specialist hours available for the professional implementation of the programmes.

This means that more people can be accepted in an outpatient setting who

1) have been convicted of sexual or general violence, are under investigation for such offences, or have been identified as posing a risk of committing such offences or

2) have been convicted of domestic violence.

In addition, additional group training courses on domestic violence were held at individual locations as needed. This reduced waiting times caused by the high number of enquiries.

In addition, since 2023, violence prevention outpatient clinics have provided another low-threshold service aimed at people with mental health issues who have not yet been convicted of a criminal offence but who are at increased risk of committing crimes (see Art. 16, question 13).

During the reporting period, the offender counselling centres themselves also implemented various measures to increase the number and scope of available intervention and treatment programmes:

- Networking/information events with/at probation services, public prosecutors' offices, court assistance services, police (including participation in staff meetings), youth welfare offices, job centres and participation in so-called KIK rounds. The latter are regional cooperation alliances against domestic violence that are part of the state-wide "Cooperation and Intervention Alliance against Domestic Violence" (KIK-Schleswig-Holstein).
- Case-related cooperation with women's counselling centres and victim support services.
- Regular collegial exchange between specialist perpetrator counselling centres for quality assurance and dissemination of best practices.
- Close cooperation with the Federal Working Group on Domestic Violence Offender Support (BAG-TäHG).
- Regular participation in further training.
- Regular participation in the meetings of the structural high-risk management system rolled out nationwide in 2024 and the high-risk case conferences.
- Public relations work through press articles and other regional advertising measures to raise awareness of the services offered; participation in nationwide campaigns, e.g. "Gewalt kommt nicht in die Tüte" (Violence doesn't come in a bag) by the MSJFSIG on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence

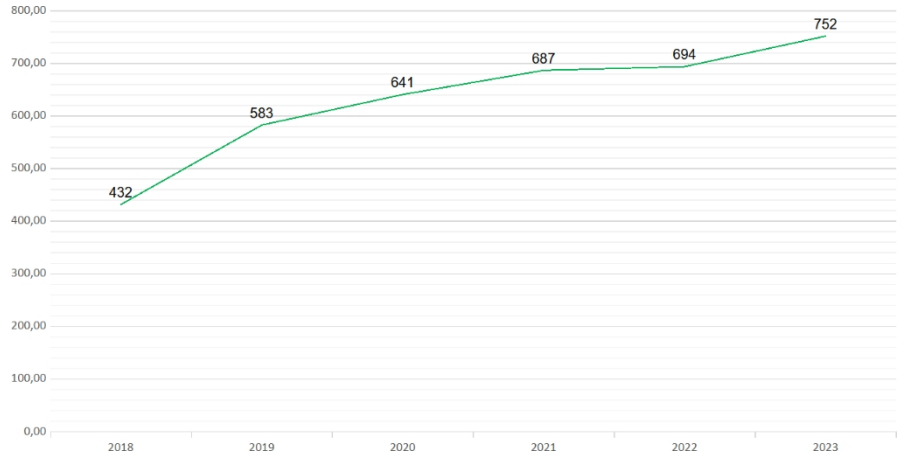
against women in November 2024, in which, among other things, 400,000 bakery bags were provided with the helpline number for victims of domestic violence in bakeries.

Low-threshold access to the measures, combined with the offer of up to five so-called clearing discussions, facilitates access to the measures, in particular by means of

- Clear and target group-oriented presentation of the methods and programmes as part of the aforementioned clearing,
- conducting structured initial interviews,
- Training volunteers with a migration background who can be called upon as language and cultural mediators for discussions, provided that these would otherwise fail due to linguistic or cultural barriers.

The success of these measures is impressively demonstrated by the development of case numbers:

- Case number development in the "Violence in Couple Relationships" projects (68% increase in total case numbers within 6 years)
- Case numbers in the "Forensic Outpatient Clinics" projects (74% increase in total case numbers within 6 years)



In July 2022, the Act on Outpatient Rehabilitation and Victim Protection in Schleswig-Holstein (ResOG-SH) came into force. This also standardised design requirements – in particular victim orientation in Section 8 ResOG-SH – for the provision of services. In addition, Sections 23 and 24 ResOG-SH standardised the scope of services provided by "forensic outpatient clinics" and created additional positions, in particular for the therapeutic and social work treatment of sex offenders, violent offenders and sex offenders.

In the course of the introduction of the ResOG-SH, the Ministry of Justice issued "service provision standards" for all service areas, the implementation of which is an essential component of the promotion of measures.

This means that work with offenders is also carried out on the basis of established professional standards that apply throughout the state.

Suitable instruments are currently being developed to illustrate the implementation of professional standards and the alignment of services with the design specifications of the ResOG-SH.

Re c)

The specialists working in outpatient social services and in perpetrator work and counselling facilities are made aware of the aspects of victim protection. All service providers cooperate with the other
services or authorities involved in case management. This also serves to protect victims.

In cases of domestic violence, specialists participate in inter-agency and inter-departmental high-risk conferences.

In the care of sex offenders and violent offenders, the outpatient social services of the judiciary participate in or initiate inter-agency and inter-departmental case conferences within the framework of the Kiel Security Concept (KSKS).

Re d)

The following measures are currently being implemented to ensure quality assurance and further develop the services offered:

- Preparation of annual reports for the Ministry of Justice and internal controlling.
- Systematic documentation of process flows.
- Use of the ODARA prognostic risk assessment tool.
- Regular supervision and collegial exchange of expertise within the team.
- Implementation internal evaluations and feedback procedures for continuous improvement of practice.

6. Thuringia

on a)

The ORANGE project continues to be offered at all four regional court locations in Thuringia – Erfurt, Gera, Meiningen and Mühlhausen – in order to ensure the widest possible coverage. In addition, the following measures have been taken since 2020 to increase the number of participants:

Following interdepartmental coordination between TMJMV and TMIKL, the police obtain the consent of the accused to transfer their personal data to the counselling centre during interrogations, provided they are willing to do so, and then transfer the data so that the counselling centre can proactively approach the accused. The aim is to provide low-threshold access to counselling.

The department responsible for youth welfare at the TMBJS has succeeded in achieving greater involvement of youth welfare offices, which stipulate the use of violence conflict counselling in connection with assistance plans and contact arrangements.

Measures have been taken to raise awareness of violence conflict counselling among family courts. Violence conflict counselling can also be considered a court order within the meaning of Section 1666 of the German Civil Code (BGB) – court measures in cases where the welfare of children is at risk. In this respect, the BSH Thüringen e.V. took the initiative. In addition, the Thuringian Higher Regional Court presented the project as part of the annual exchange of experiences between Thuringian family court judges.

Since autumn 2022, violence conflict counselling has also been available in the Thuringian prison system.

Re b)

The TMJMV has revised and supplemented its guidelines for the promotion of violence conflict counselling for perpetrators of domestic violence, according to which the Free State of Thuringia grants subsidies for the ORANGE project, with effect from 1 January 2025. This clarified the professional requirements for persons working for the subsidy recipient. According to these guidelines, professionals working with perpetrators must have qualifications that meet the standards of the BAG Häusliche Gewalt e.V. (Federal Association Against Domestic Violence). In this context, the funding guidelines also raised the maximum limit for grants for the training and further education of project staff in order to enable new employees in perpetrator counselling to participate in the basic training offered by the BAG Häusliche Gewalt to become specialist in working with perpetrators of domestic violence.

c)

In accordance with Sections 23 and 44 of the ThürLHO (Thuringian State Budget Act) and the administrative regulations issued in this regard, the Free State of Thuringia grants subsidies to violence conflict counselling centres and supports the ORANGE project within this framework. The approving authority and thus the funding body is the Thuringian Higher Regional Court. The funding body monitors the use of the funds by the recipient. This is initially done on the basis of a proof of use procedure, for which the recipient of the grant must submit a detailed factual report and a detailed list of all project-related income and expenditure on an annual basis. In addition, the funding provider subjects the funding programme to an annual target achievement review (controlling), which is intended to support the economic achievement of the programme objectives. The programme objectives are derived from key figures set out in the funding guidelines. The results of the controlling process are used to determine which control measures are to be taken by the approving authority. The activities of the Thuringian Higher Regional Court as a funding body is in turn subject to the technical supervision of the TMJMV.

7. Bavaria

In the interests of sustainable victim protection, the implementation of a proactive approach to working with perpetrators of domestic violence is expressly welcomed by the Bavarian State Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Affairs and by the Bavarian police, and the Bavarian police associations advocate the conclusion of appropriate cooperation agreements with suitable perpetrator counselling centres. The Mittelfranken Police Headquarters has already concluded a corresponding cooperation agreement with a perpetrator counselling centre.

For psychotherapeutic outpatient clinics in Bavaria, please refer to the comments on question 13.

The following applies to the Bavarian prison system:

Re a)

The psychological and educational services of Bavarian prisons carry out intensive motivational work to encourage prisoners who are eligible for a measure to participate.

Re b)

An annual conference lasting several days is held for the heads of social therapy facilities in the Bavarian prison system to ensure the exchange of knowledge. So-called concept partnerships have been introduced to ensure high standards of treatment. In this context, two social therapy institutions are assigned to each other. This framework provides for mutual visits and exchanges. External agencies – such as the Middle Franconia Specialist Unit for Working with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence – are involved in the treatment measures by the social therapy institutions.

Re c)

The safety of victims is guaranteed by the Bavarian prison system, which detects and prevents any attempts by perpetrators in custody to make contact with their victims. In such cases, the institutions also encourage the courts to impose a restraining order for the period after release.

Re d)

The various treatment options, and social therapy in particular, are repeatedly the subject of research projects conducted by the Criminological Service of the Bavarian Prison Service. The findings obtained are made available to the Bavarian State Ministry of Justice and the correctional facilities.

8. Lower Saxony

on a)

Standardised regulations for proactively referring perpetrators to counselling centres are currently under review, particularly in the context of the planned revision of the guidelines (see above). In principle, information about opportunities to participate in a programme for perpetrators is already provided during the on-site intervention.

Prisoners participate in the measures offered on a needs-based basis. After the prisoner has been admitted, the causes and consequences of his or her offence are examined as part of the so-called diagnostic procedure. This forms the basis for planning further rehabilitation measures (including transfer to a social therapy unit or participation in treatment programmes) as part of the preparation of the prison plan. The prisoners' willingness to cooperate, their understanding of the wrongfulness of the crimes they have committed and their willingness to take responsibility for the consequences are awakened and encouraged during the execution of their prison sentence. This is achieved through the measures recommended in the prison sentence plan, through direct communication or through special group measures that encourage openness to participating in further treatment measures. Motivational work to encourage participation in programmes in the prison system therefore starts with the prisoner personally and directly. Further measures to increase the number of prisoners participating in offender programmes are not necessary in the prison system.

Regarding b)

The offices for offender work are offices for offender work funded by the state of NI (MS). The office for female offender work is currently a project that has been implemented in the Hanover region since November 2023 in cooperation with the Hanover Police Department.

In 2019, the so-called tiered model was introduced in the Lower Saxony prison system for the purpose of quality assurance. The aim of this introduction was to implement effective measures for changing attitudes and behaviour, the quality of which can be assessed on the basis of objective characteristics and which are based on empirically proven risk factors for recidivism. The model comprises four levels. It is assumed that the quality of the measures increases with the level. The expected impact in terms of legal probation and other indicators of success in the prison system is therefore greater for higher-level measures than for lower-level measures. This allows the expected effectiveness of measures to be assessed on the basis of structural and procedural characteristics. Before a group measure is introduced in a Lower Saxony prison, the underlying concept is examined on the basis of the criteria of the level model and, if appropriate, approved for one of the four levels. Furthermore, social therapy is being evaluated as part of an ongoing research project in the Lower Saxony prison system.

Re c)

Since 2005, counselling and intervention centres (BISS) have been set up within the jurisdiction of police stations in Lower Saxony. The BISS work on behalf of victims of domestic violence. Their main task is to protect victims and increase their safety. The BISS actively offer victims help and support, especially after police intervention. The BISS provide information about protection options, initiate safety planning and support victims of violence in applying for protection under the Protection Against Violence Act (GewSchG). In some cases, the BISS also advise men who are victims of domestic violence or refer them to another support organisation if necessary.

In the area of law enforcement, the principle of "working with perpetrators is victim protection" applies. In addition, further measures are taken to ensure the safety of victims. Granting

relaxing restrictions, unwanted encounters between perpetrators and victims are prevented. In addition, there is a set of regulations on how to deal with requests for information from victims of crime, which takes into account the special protection of victims' data. Prison facilities enable offender-victim mediation at the victim's request in cooperation with recognised TOA agencies and mediators in order to clarify possibilities for redress or compensation.

Prisons have been able to establish a large number of partnerships with external agencies. For example, there are contacts and partnerships with victim support organisations, external conflict resolution agencies, universities of applied sciences, youth welfare offices and non-profit associations, among others.

Re d)

At the end of each behavioural and attitudinal change measure from level 2 onwards, an individual assessment of the participant's success is carried out, i.e. the changes in relation to the objectives of the measure. From level 3 onwards, participant-related session documentation supplements the group-related follow-up. In addition, a structured and documented follow-up of each session takes place, which, among other things
suitable for enabling the conceptual further development of the measure.

9. Rhineland-Palatinate

Re a)

See answer to question 13 (p. 152): The number of persons in prison or persons subject to therapy or reporting requirements as part of probation or parole supervision depends on the sentencing practices of the courts and is therefore not voluntary. In this respect, efforts to increase the number of participants in general are not possible. In individual cases where the willingness of prisoners or persons who have been referred to a forensic outpatient clinic on the basis of a court order to cooperate needs to be increased, individual measures are taken to increase their willingness to participate and their motivation to change.

Re b)

In the prison system, quality assurance is ensured by employing qualified staff (psychologists with a diploma or master's degree, psychological psychotherapists, state-recognised social workers/social pedagogues). The intervention programmes used are established procedures that are used throughout Germany, such as the treatment programme for sex offenders, or the procedures and interventions used are based on the content of common treatment programmes. During their training, general prison staff are instructed on the treatment mandate of the prison system and are taught basic psychology. In addition, topic-specific training courses for staff are held regularly at the prison training school. Supervision is also offered.

Re d)

According to Section 103 of the Rhineland-Palatinate State Prison Act, treatment programmes for prisoners and juvenile prisoners must be designed and standardised on the basis of scientific findings and reviewed for effectiveness. The results must be reported to the state parliament every five years. This enables
monitoring and evaluation of the programmes.

10. North Rhine-Westphalia

The offender work programmes funded by the state were based on the quality standards and recommendations of the Federal Working Group on Domestic Violence Offender Work (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Täterarbeit Häusliche Gewalt e.V.) and the funding guidelines in accordance with the circular issued by the Ministry, which also refer to compliance

federal standards. These standards explicitly refer to the need for close local cooperation with regional women's support organisations, the judiciary, the police and other authorities, particularly with a view to ensuring victim protection.

Funding was provided for violence-focused and confrontational support and counselling services aimed at changing the behaviour of violent men (perpetrator programmes), the core objective of which is to prevent further violence. The services were aimed at adult male perpetrators living in Germany who had been violent towards their (former) partners.

Since 1 January 2020, funding for the programme has been continued by the Ministry for Equality of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. The reason for the transfer from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of Equality is the fact that work with offenders is essentially a preventive measure that is not (only) linked to the initiation and conduct of criminal proceedings and is also accessible to offenders who have not been referred by the courts.

The achievement of objectives and compliance with the guidelines in the state-funded measures are checked by means of an annual statement of use together with a factual and controlling report.

11. Bremen

The Bremen Police Act stipulates that after incidents of domestic violence, both the victim and the perpetrator must be offered counselling.

Networking via specialist conferences and round tables with reference to training opportunities and the requirements of the Istanbul Convention on working with perpetrators.

Information about links to psychosocial support during legal proceedings and information about other support and assistance services (e.g. "Weißer Ring").

From 2026 onwards, funds for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention will only be used to finance services that work in accordance with the nationally recognised standards of the Federal Working Group on Perpetrator Work.
work with perpetrators.

12. Saarland

on a)

The State Police Headquarters has information material available on the "Perspektive" centre for perpetrators of domestic violence, which is run by the Workers' Welfare Association (AWO). If, in the course of police investigations, circumstances indicate that the perpetrator fits the target group (adult men who commit violence) of the perpetrator programme and could meet the relevant admission criteria, the information materials are passed on to the perpetrators.

Re b) and c): The existing measures have been continued; see the first state report.

Re d)

Exchange between the Ministry of Justice and civil society organisations in the field of perpetrator work: Within the framework of the round table against domestic violence and the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, the Ministry of Justice is in dialogue with civil society organisations working with perpetrators
civil society organisations working with perpetrators.

13. Berlin

on a), b), c)

The model project "Counselling Centre for Protection against Violence in Families and the Social Environment" of the Berlin State Commission against Violence with the Berlin Centre for Violence

Prevention in the context of perpetrator work is being intensively promoted. Thanks to the website and personal presentations of the programme to authorities, civil society partners and at specialist conferences, there is lively demand, including from individuals who have come forward themselves. The project works conceptually in accordance with the standards of the Federal Working Group on Perpetrator Work in Domestic Violence (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Täterarbeit Häusliche Gewalt e. V.), so that the necessary safety of those affected is guaranteed.

In cases where relationships still exist, it is essential to involve the partners in the work with perpetrators. For information on the cooperation between Volkssolidarität and the specialist counselling and intervention centre Frauentreffpunkt (SkF e.V.), please refer to the supplement to the basic report. In addition, the specialist counselling and intervention centre TA-RA and Frauenraum have been cooperating since 2021 with the counselling centre for protection against violence in families and in the social environment of the BZfG and offer counselling and support for women whose (ex-)partners are participating in a perpetrator work programme.

Re c), d)

The project "proak-tiv – Service Centre for Victims of Crime", funded by the Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection, proactively provides victims of crime (including women affected by sexual violence, sexual harassment or violence against women outside of domestic violence – hG is covered by the BIG project) with appropriate support services, subject to their consent. During their initial contact with the police, victims are asked whether they would like to receive psychosocial support, which also includes information about their rights. The completed consent form is sent digitally, or by post if necessary, to the service centre, which selects the appropriate counselling centre for the victim from its network of 25 counselling centres. The counselling centre receives the contact details and contacts the person concerned within three days to discuss and address their support needs. The cooperation network set up by the proaktiv service centre includes various specialist counselling centres with different areas of focus in terms of offences or target groups. They exchange information on a regular basis in order to improve referral structures and define common quality standards, which initially include the standards required by Article 9 of EU Directive 2012/29 (Victims' Rights Directive) and also set out further working principles. This networking promotes the quality of the support structure in the state of Berlin and the individual counselling centres, thereby also benefiting the
benefit those affected.

14. Baden-Württemberg

The Baden-Württemberg police provide follow-up counselling and support for victims of physical or domestic violence within the framework of the Ministry of the Interior's victim protection guidelines and operational orders (FEA Opferschutz dated 19 December 2024, ref.: IM3-1212-58). The aim is not only to inform victims about their rights, but also to ensure that they are referred to support and counselling services at an early stage and in line with their needs. Where possible, individual elements of police victim protection are also applied to perpetrators – in particular, referral to appropriate support services. All police officers are trained by experienced victim protection coordinators.

15. Brandenburg

on a), b)

There is close cooperation with the regionally established Violence Prevention Unit working with perpetrators. The services are publicised as part of the police's task management and as
part of the police's public relations work. The increasing public relations and local networking work of the Violence Prevention Unit is taking effect.

[140] https://bzfg.de/haeusliche-gewalt/

Article 18: General obligations

15. Please provide information on any inter-agency cooperation mechanisms, structures or measures to protect and support victims of any of the forms of gender-based violence against women referred to in the Istanbul Convention (e.g. interdisciplinary working groups, case management systems, cross-sectoral protocols/guidelines, etc.). Please describe this:

a) which government agencies contribute to their work (law enforcement agencies, judiciary, public prosecution service, local authorities, health services, social services, educational institutions, etc.);

b) whether they involve specialised support services provided by civil society organisations, in particular women's rights organisations;

c) how they pursue a gender-sensitive approach to combating violence against women, including giving priority to the safety of women and girls as victims, their empowerment and a victim-centred approach;

d) what financial and human resources are available to implement the relevant measures; and

e) all available information on the evaluation of results and the impact of these measures.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Bavaria (reference question 16, p. 191)

1. Hamburg

In implementation of the Istanbul Convention and to identify (further) areas where action is needed, the social services authority is conducting a broad participatory process from 2020 to 2022, the expert dialogue
"Violence against women" with experts from Hamburg's violence protection support network.

Representatives from over 100 Hamburg institutions took part in the discussions, including women's shelters, specialist counselling centres, integration assistance institutions, specialist authorities and districts, the Chamber of Physicians and Psychotherapists, the German Women Lawyers Association, the State Women's Council, the White Ring and universities.

The findings and recommendations of the expert dialogues on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention were documented by the social welfare authority.

Re a)

In Hamburg, there are numerous networks, some of which have been in existence for a long time, of actors from the police, the judiciary, various administrative bodies, specialist counselling centres and shelters who are involved in the protection against violence. The existing networking structures in the form of round tables, working groups and
round tables of experts will be continued.

2. Hesse

For the Hessian Ministry of Justice and the Rule of Law, it can be stated that the combating of domestic domestic violence above all through the

https://www.hamburg.de/politik-und-verwaltung/behoerden/sozialbehoerde/themen/soziales/opferschutz/uebersicht-48526

State Coordination Office for Combating Domestic Violence and the State Prevention Council. Combating domestic violence is a complex task, as it is influenced by social, legal, economic, cultural and psychological factors. Affected women often suffer from stigmatisation and shame, fear retaliation and are emotionally attached to their partners and families. In addition, they often suffer from trauma and mental health problems triggered by their experiences of violence, which weaken them and impair their ability to seek help or defend themselves. Victims of domestic violence therefore need a strong support system that consists not only of the police and the judiciary, but also of social services, health services, educational institutions and the community itself. A whole-of-society approach is necessary to address the many facets of domestic violence and create a culture in which violence is not tolerated. All parts of society must contribute to solving this problem and ensuring that victims are protected and perpetrators are held accountable. In combating domestic violence, the Hessian Ministry of Justice and the Rule of Law, together with the State Coordination Office for Combating Domestic Violence and the State Prevention Council, therefore places a strong focus on networking all actors and on awareness campaigns to draw attention to this problem.

This is supplemented by round tables organised across the board, where the professions concerned can also meet regularly at local level. The round tables are organised decentrally and not by the judiciary, so no further details are available.

The State Prevention Council mentioned above includes a working group on domestic violence. It consists of 14 representatives from academia, the departments of justice, social affairs and the interior, local authority associations, local women's offices, the League of Independent Welfare Services and independent providers of protection and counselling services for women, children and men, such as counselling/intervention centres, autonomous women's shelters and the German Child Protection Association. The working group has continued to meet several times a year from 2020 to the present. Among other things, it has produced the 3rd Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence.

In 2022, the Coordination Office for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention was established within the Hessian Ministry of Labour, Integration, Youth and Social Affairs. Its task is to analyse and further develop existing measures in cooperation with the relevant state authorities at municipal, state and federal level and non-governmental institutions. The coordination office is closely networked with governmental and non-governmental actors in the state and is invited to municipal round tables, for example. On the initiative of the coordination office, the Interministerial Working Group (IMAG) "Protection of Women from Violence – Implementation of the Istanbul Convention" was set up, in which the social, interior and justice departments deal in a coordinated manner with further measures for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

The Hesse police force carries out an initial assessment using the "Assessment Aid for Relationship Violence" forms stored in the case management system, both for the first responders (reporting by the patrol service) and for the department handling the case. If factors indicating a high-risk case are identified, in addition to criminal investigations, the risk situation is dealt with on a case-by-case basis by specialised police officers from the risk situation management (GLM)/threat management (BM) department.

A standardised risk assessment must be prepared using a template for the implementation of the GLM/BM. The police measures derived from the risk assessment are monitored by a coordinating body within the police headquarters as part of quality assurance and are subject to ongoing reassessment. Within the Hesse Police, inter-agency exchange takes place in form from workshops and is by the at the Hessian
State Criminal Police Office (HLKA) established Central Office for the BM is ensured.

Cooperation with authorities from other departments takes place on a case-by-case basis within the framework of case conferences.

In the area of criminal investigation and prevention work, each police headquarters has a contact person for domestic violence. These specialists are often also responsible for victim protection. At the HLKA, the area of violence is currently coordinated statewide by a person responsible for this topic. In the area of criminal prosecution in the field of domestic violence, there are "domestic violence" case workers throughout the state who are specially trained in this area.

In the area of criminal investigation prevention, a Hesse-wide working group on domestic violence has been set up, comprising the above-mentioned contact persons for prevention and repression, which meets regularly to exchange experiences and optimise the fight against domestic violence.

The police authorities work closely and trustingly with other responsible parties at the local and state levels within the framework of regular exchanges. This also includes regular involvement in training programmes and the organisation of joint prevention events. There is also close cooperation in the area of victim protection with victim support associations and WEISSER RING e.V. at local level. In addition to the information obligations prescribed by law, for example with regard to reports to the respective youth welfare offices, cooperation is carried out on a needs-oriented basis. Selective participation in joint training events or mutual support in the context of speaker activities also takes place.

The Hessian police's "Domestic Violence" guidelines are regularly updated and provide a framework for police case handling. They raise awareness of how to deal professionally with victims and witnesses and offer targeted
assistance as a basis for effective action.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

on a)

The current state strategy for implementing the IK (see above), which is currently being developed, is being accompanied by a state council. This involves all relevant areas of the state administration (Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Sport, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science, Culture, Federal and European Affairs, Ministry of Finance) with representatives of the municipal equal opportunities officers, the State Women's Council, the welfare associations (LIGA der Spitzenverbände der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege) and the focus group "Counselling and Assistance".

The Childhood House in Schwerin works successfully as an interdisciplinary contact point for conducting investigations, interviews and hearings with children and young people who have been victims of violent or sexual crimes. In addition, the Victim Support Officer of the State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania offers assistance in finding a victim support organisation and provides psychosocial support to witnesses during investigations and criminal proceedings.

The "MV Emergency Plan" sets out uniform standards for dealing with emergencies throughout the state by means of binding instructions and coordinated measures by those responsible, in particular schools, the police and youth welfare offices. In accordance with the administrative regulation for dealing with emergencies in public schools in the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania , , , , ,
unpublished document that is available exclusively to schools and school supervisory authorities. The specific school supervisory and school psychological procedures are designed

according to the individual case. In this context, further support services are included as needed, e.g. specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence or victim counselling centres.

In the area of prevention, the Ministry of the Interior has an interdisciplinary working group on victim protection, which is supported by the State Council for Crime Prevention with the involvement of the University of Applied Sciences for Public Administration, Police and Administration of Justice of the State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in Güstrow, the Institute of Legal Medicine at the University of Greifswald, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Sport (Ministry of Social Affairs), the Municipal Prevention Council, the State Criminal Police Office, the Ministry of Education and the Commissioner for Victim Assistance.

Regarding b)

In addition to the aforementioned state actors, the interdisciplinary working group on victim protection (see above) also includes the White Ring, LOBBI e.V., LSVD Queer and the Rostock Victim Counselling Centre as civil society organisations.

Re c)

Durchführung der interdisziplinären Opferschutztagungen werden finanzielle resources are used, which are based on the needs of the respective symposium. The costs are shared by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior.

4. Saxony

Reference is made once again to the Steering Committee for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (see 1., p. 4), which is the central coordinating body for all governmental and non-governmental structures in the field of gender-based and domestic violence. The work of the committee is coordinated by the State Prevention Council (LPR). According to the rules of procedure, the committee currently has 25 members from state ministries, non-governmental organisations, local authorities and academic institutions.

The state action plan for implementing the Istanbul Convention forms the basis for the steering committee's work. Specialist sub-working groups have been set up to implement the measures for which the LPR is jointly responsible. These groups are self-governing and interdisciplinary.

The following best practice examples are also worth mentioning: In Leipzig, an approach was developed with relevant actors, including victim protection officers from the Leipzig police department, the local counselling centre for perpetrators of violence (TRIADE e. V.) and the intervention and coordination centre (K.I.S.), which aims to impose penalty orders with probationary conditions for perpetrator-oriented violence work. This measure is intended to enable swift legally binding judgements and prevent the loss of evidence. Networking structures also exist in Dresden, such as the "Prostitution Working Group", in which representatives of the public prosecutor's office, the police and specialist counselling centres participate. In the district of Meissen, the "Network against Domestic and Sexual Violence" organises regular networking meetings, in which the Dresden public prosecutor's office participates as required.

In the area of policing, it is also worth mentioning the cooperation agreements between police departments and intervention and coordination centres for combating gender-based violence against women and domestic violence, which enable cross-agency cooperation within the police force. No statements can be made regarding personnel and financial resources or the evaluated impact of the measures.

In the context of formal education, schools have access to funds for violence prevention work from the so-called " " (school budget) at . These are allocated according to school size and
budgetary situation. If civil society organisations and women's rights organisations wish to submit school programmes, these are accepted via the

portals www.unterstuetzung-sachsen.de, www.pit.sachsen.de (under "Add offer") [142] and announced after review. Project contracts are not concluded with organisations and associations. Remuneration for these (if the offer is not free of charge) can be provided by the respective school from the available budget funds. Reference is also made to the so-called "Green List of Prevention"[143], which is taken into account when advising Saxon schools and in which relevant state-wide offers should be posted.

Re b)

It should be noted that the specialised support services are involved in the work of the steering committee and sub-working groups through the representation of the respective state working groups.

The LAP IK represents a strategy for working in accordance with a gender-sensitive approach, including giving priority to the safety of women and girls as victims and their empowerment. In addition, quality standards have been or are being developed in the steering committee, which form the basis for the work of the specialised support services. A gender-sensitive and victim-centred approach is central to this.

Together with the relevant state ministries, one of the tasks for the coming years will be to create a robust data structure in order to be able to evaluate not only prevalence but also the implementation and effectiveness of the state action plan in implementing the Istanbul Convention. Consequently, a monitoring system will be gradually established and expanded.
expanded.

5. Saxony-Anhalt

Since responsibility for implementing the Istanbul Convention in Saxony-Anhalt lies with various departments, it was decided to establish interministerial coordination and the most efficient possible communication structure with AP PROGRESS. The integration of the expertise of the actors in the protection and support system, as provided for in the Istanbul Convention, is ensured by the participatory approach of the interministerial coordination groups (iKK). (See also the answers to questions 1 and 3 and the
comments there on the LAG High Risk Management).

6. Schleswig-Holstein

<u>High-risk management</u>

As part of high-risk management, in high-risk cases the state police involve all authorities that have relevant information on the individual case or can take appropriate official measures in case conferences.

To further develop risk management in cases of domestic violence, an interdisciplinary expert exchange on high-risk management has been established at state level.

<u>Kiel Security Concept for Sex Offenders (KSKS)</u>

As a cross-agency cooperation mechanism for the protection of victims, the so-called Kiel Security Concept for Sex Offenders (KSKS) has been in place since 2017 on the basis of a corresponding decree by the Ministry of Justice of the State of Schleswig-Holstein. (KSKS) has been in place since 2017. This is a cross-agency cooperation mechanism for the protection of victims, based on a corresponding decree issued by the Ministry of Justice of the State of Schleswig-Holstein. The KSKS aims to reduce the risk of recidivism among sex offenders through better information gathering and optimisation of measures in cooperation with the following agencies of the judiciary, of the forensic commitment and of the police . The
Kiel Public Prosecutor's Office's schedule of responsibilities provides for a special department for this purpose, which

[142] www.unterstuetzung-sachsen.de, www.pit.sachsen.de

[143] https://www.gruene-liste-praevention.de/nano.cms/datenbank/information

currently staffed by two department heads.

Round table of the Victim Protection Unit with victim support organisations (round table)

The Victim Protection Unit organises the round table, which is usually convened every six months. Topics such as gender-based violence against women are also discussed here. Institutions from the state of Schleswig-Holstein that deal with victim protection measures in criminal cases participate in the round table. The round table is informative and serves as a forum for exchange, with the aim of pooling expertise. It is dedicated to

- the exchange of experiences, particularly with regard to practical experiences in the field of victim support, and the identification of needs
- regional and nationwide networking
- information on legislative changes and legislative processes with regard to victim protection issues
- the avoidance of duplicate structures.

Childhood House

Since 2022, funds have been made available from the state budget to support the Childhood House in Flensburg. The aim is to create a child-friendly, safe environment for children and young people affected by physical violence and/or sexual abuse in the context of court and police proceedings (e.g. when giving witness statements) and to bring together all important services related to proceedings under one roof.

Help for children of test subjects and their relatives who have experienced domestic violence

Since 2022, the state budget has been funding outpatient assistance for children affected by domestic violence and their relatives in the form of counselling services provided by independent organisations.

Grants for victims of female genital mutilation

Since 2022, subsidies for victims of female genital mutilation have been granted from the state budget. Under this measure, costs for treatments that are not covered by statutory health insurance or other social security providers can be reimbursed upon application.

Psychosocial support during legal proceedings

Funds from the state budget are made available to promote psychosocial support during legal proceedings beyond the cases required by law. The aim of the grants is to ensure psychosocial support during legal proceedings, particularly in cases of domestic violence, stalking and hardship cases where no court appointment has been made.

Victim orientation

Sections 8 and 11 of the ResOG-SH standardise victim orientation and cooperation with other services and institutions for all service providers, provided that they serve the purpose of rehabilitation.

Contact person for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention

The specialist department for outpatient social services of the justice system, voluntary offender support and therapeutic accommodation has appointed a contact person for the development and implementation of the state strategy for implementing the Istanbul Convention. This contact person
participates in the relevant cooperation meetings and manages the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the field of outpatient social services.

Cooperation/networking

The specialists from the outpatient social services of the justice system and from independent organisations regularly take part in case conferences and cooperation or networking meetings. In particular, inter-agency and inter-service case conferences within the framework of

- transition management from detention or forensic commitment to outpatient aftercare,
- high-risk management in cases of domestic violence,
- working groups on perpetrator work in the context of domestic violence, forensic outpatient clinics and violence prevention outpatient clinics,
- participation in regional cooperation alliances within the framework of the "Cooperation and Intervention Project against Domestic Violence" (KIK-Schleswig-Holstein).

Re a)

High-risk management

The authorities involved in the case conferences may include, in particular, hazard prevention authorities of the districts and independent cities, such as youth welfare offices, health authorities or weapons authorities.

In addition, structural case conferences are held in which no specific individual cases are discussed. The competent courts (e.g. family courts) are also invited to this type of case conference.

As in other areas of crime, communication with the public prosecutor's offices takes place through the investigating authorities.

Representatives of the ministries of the interior, justice, equality, health, integration, children and youth, as well as the Attorney General's Office and local youth welfare services, participate in the interdisciplinary expert exchange on high-risk management. Since the beginning of 2024, the jointly developed guidelines have formed the basis for action in high-risk cases, including joint case conferences on site. At regional level, there are separate networks for high-risk management and via the KIK cooperation and intervention network.

KIK cooperation and intervention network

Interdisciplinary cooperation is ensured through regular round tables/cooperation meetings in each district and independent city, organised by the KIK coordinators. The following government agencies regularly participate in these meetings: public prosecutor's office, family courts, police, social psychiatric service, youth welfare office, child protection coordination, school representatives, court assistance, job centre, migration coordination and, where applicable, other regional agencies.

Round table on victim protection:

Participants include, in particular, the victim protection officer of the state of Schleswig-Holstein, representatives of the relevant ministries and subordinate departments, umbrella organisations and independent agencies.

Childhood House

The steering group of the Childhoodhaus includes representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Victim Protection Officer of the State of Schleswig-Holstein, the Ministry of the Interior, Municipal Affairs, Housing and Sport, the Attorney General's Office of the State of Schleswig-Holstein and the Regional Court of Flensburg.

Help for children of test subjects and their relatives who have experienced domestic violence

The counselling services offered by independent organisations are embedded in a multi-professional network that includes the police, public prosecutors, schools and school social work, child protection agencies and women's counselling services.

Grants for victims of female genital mutilation

The measure aims to provide grants to those affected and does not involve other agencies.

Psychosocial support during legal proceedings

The services offered by independent organisations are embedded in a multi-professional network, including the police, public prosecutors and other victim support

organisations. Perpetrator training

Perpetrator training (Kiel intervention concept against domestic violence) and treatment offered by forensic outpatient clinics can be ordered by the courts. In 2023, 91 of 192 new cases were referred by the courts to perpetrator training as part of the domestic violence intervention concept.

Re b)

High-risk management

Depending on the individual case, representatives from women's counselling centres, women's shelters and perpetrator counselling centres take part in the case conferences.

Representatives of women's specialist institutions are closely involved in the interdisciplinary exchange of expertise.

KIK cooperation and intervention network

The involvement of non-governmental organisations and institutions is ensured. They are part of the regular cooperation meetings:

women's shelters, women's counselling centres, child protection agencies, perpetrator counselling services, medical representatives, school social workers, lawyers, family counselling centres, forensic medicine (confidential evidence collection), equal opportunities officers and other regional agencies.

Round table of the Victim Protection Unit

Civil society organisations are also involved in the exchange.

Childhoodhaus/Support for children of test subjects and their relatives who have experienced domestic violence/Psychosocial support during legal proceedings

The services themselves are classified as qualified support services. Grants for victims of

female genital mutilation

The service does not require such involvement. Perpetrator

work/prevention programmes

On the basis of Sections 23 and 24 of the ResOG-SH, the Ministry of Justice continuously promotes measures implemented by civil society organisations:

- Training programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence (KIK – perpetrator training)
- Forensic outpatient clinics for the provision of outpatient therapeutic services for violent and sexual offenders
- Violence prevention outpatient clinics for individuals who have not yet committed a crime but who exhibit a high potential for violence.

Re c)

High-risk management

High-risk management and the case conferences described above improve the safety of women and girls in cases of domestic violence and intimate partner violence in particular, as the case conferences enable all authorities and agencies to take appropriate coordinated measures to avert danger.

The implementation of high-risk management in Schleswig-Holstein is guided by the goal of preventing serious gender-based violence and homicides while respecting the right of self-determination of the person concerned.

KIK cooperation and intervention network

The aim is to improve structures and safety for affected women and children, to further develop protection and appropriate measures, to hold perpetrators accountable, to raise awareness of each other's areas of work (tasks, boundaries, etc.), and to improve and coordinate cooperation. The participants act as multipliers for their working environment in their respective areas of work.

Law on outpatient rehabilitation and victim protection in Schleswig-Holstein (Re-sOG-SH)

The mandatory consideration of the concerns of victims in the design of any offender assistance service is stipulated in Section 8 of the Act on Outpatient Rehabilitation and Victim Protection in Schleswig-Holstein (ResOG SH), insofar as this does not conflict with the objectives of the Act. The continuous consideration of the victim's perspective is therefore also a central component of offender counselling.

Round table of the Victim Protection Unit

A victim-centred approach is an essential element of the exchange. This approach, which is also gender-sensitive, is pursued through the broad involvement of the various actors.

Childhood House/Assistance for children of test subjects and their relatives who have experienced domestic violence/Grants for victims of female genital mutilation/Assistance for children of test subjects and their relatives who have experienced domestic violence

As a victim protection measure, the services take a victim-centred and gender-sensitive approach.

d) High-risk management **by**

the state police

It is not possible to quantify the resources precisely, as human resources in particular are usually also available for other tasks.

However, the Schleswig-Holstein state police force is adequately equipped with the necessary resources, and personnel numbers are currently being increased in the area of high-risk management.

Women's facilities

Financial resources are available for the facilities within the overall budget. For women's facilities, these were recently increased by a total of around €3 million in the 2025 budget with reference to the implementation of high-risk management.

KIK cooperation and intervention network

Financial resources per regional KIK office

	2022	2023	2024	2025

Euro	33,750.00	34,518.75	39,260.50	Planned 48,939.78

Financial resources KIK co-position

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Euro	15,375.00	15,759.36	49,380.26	Planned 66,905.00

Round table of the victim protection unit

The round table is organised by the Ministry of Justice. The Victim Protection Unit and its staff are available to provide personnel and organisational support. The unit has a management position, two part-time advisory positions, one educational specialist position and one administrative office, each of which also has additional responsibilities. No significant financial resources are required beyond the personnel and organisational resources.

Childhoodhaus

Since 2022, €100,000 in funding has been allocated from the state budget. Half of this amount is allocated to the individual budgets of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior, Local Government, Housing and Sport.

Support for children of test subjects and their relatives who have experienced domestic violence

Since 2022, funds have been allocated from the state budget to independent organisations for support. In the 2025 financial year, €465,000 has been earmarked from the Ministry of Justice's individual plan 09, which will also be allocated for the purposes described above.

Grants for victims of female genital mutilation

Since 2023, funds amounting to €5,000 have been made available from the state budget to grant subsidies.

Psychosocial support during legal proceedings

Funds amounting to €95,000 will be made available from the state budget in 2025.

Work with perpetrators

Since 2021, the funds earmarked for perpetrator work and violence prevention measures have been continuously increased from approximately €1 million to €1.9 million. This also means an increase in staff positions, which became necessary as a result of the rising number of cases.

A higher staffing requirement arose in particular as a result of the amendment to Section 201a(6) of the State Administration Act in April 2025, according to which, in future, the contact details of the accused in cases of domestic violence must be forwarded by the law enforcement authorities to perpetrator counselling centres. These centres must then proactively contact the accused and offer them counselling services. In response to this, funding for independent agencies has been increased by €40,000. This will allow for an increase of 4 to 6 hours per week in each regional court district.

Re e)

High-risk management

Only the pilot phase has been evaluated so far (internal documents).

High-risk management was established in its current form in February 2024. It is therefore not yet possible to comment on its effectiveness and results. An evaluation is planned for the end of 2025.

In addition, the number of domestic violence cases and selected measures are being monitored.

Work with perpetrators

The Ministry of Justice promotes various measures to prevent violence, thereby also implementing the Istanbul Convention. In particular, it promotes work with sex offenders and violent offenders. No information is available on the effectiveness of the measures, particularly with regard to the objectives of the Istanbul Convention. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures promoted here, scientific studies and research would be required that go beyond the current capabilities of the Ministry of Justice.

The results of the measures are presented by the implementing services and agencies by means of key figures sheets and factual reports. The key figures sheets form the basis for funding the measure and provide information on the number of cases in the reporting period and their completion.

Furthermore, the factual report presents the quality of the structure, process and results over the annual period and explains the key figures sheet.

In the service areas of forensic outpatient clinics, violence prevention outpatient clinics, anti-violence training and offender-victim mediation/reparation services, the number of cases for each measure is recorded without reference to the objectives of the Istanbul Convention.

For KIK – perpetrator training for violent men in the domestic sphere – concrete case numbers are available for the 2023 reporting period (the case numbers for 2024 are not yet complete). According to these figures, a total of 238 individuals
at ten locations took part in a total of 339 group and 408 individual sessions during the 2023 reporting period. 91 cases were referred by the judiciary. In 57 cases, the training was successfully completed.

7. Thuringia

Supporting bodies for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention at state level: Advisory board consisting of approximately 30 stakeholders from public authorities and NGOs.

The sub-working group "Psychiatric Care and the Istanbul Convention" has been working on an interdisciplinary basis since 2023 with the aim of identifying gaps in care and cooperation and making recommendations for their elimination.

Interdepartmental working group of all departments of the Thuringian state government in the process of developing and implementing a state action plan.

Regional networks against domestic violence in most municipalities.

8. Lower Saxony

IMAK Child Protection has been in existence since 2023 and provides information on topics such as "Witnessing Domestic Violence". IMAK includes MI, MJ, MWK, MK, MS and NLJA.

There are further cooperation structures at regional level, such as the Early Intervention Networks. MS does not have an overview of the topics dealt with there.

As local government authorities, youth welfare offices perform the tasks of the districts, independent cities and the Hanover region as local providers of public youth welfare services on the basis of SGB VIII – Child and Youth Welfare. They carry out these tasks within the framework of the constitutionally guaranteed local self-government
within their own sphere of activity. The providers of public youth welfare services have

to cooperate with other agencies and public institutions whose activities affect the living conditions of young people and their families within the scope of their powers (Section 81 SGB VIII). These include, in particular

- family and youth courts, public prosecutors' offices and law enforcement authorities
- Pursuant to Section 5 KKG, law enforcement agencies and criminal courts are obliged to inform the youth welfare office or state youth welfare office of any significant indications of child endangerment that come to their attention in the course of criminal proceedings or criminal investigations.
- Section 35 of the Order on Notifications in Criminal Matters (MiStra), Notifications for the Protection of Children and Young People
- Public health institutions and agencies
- Pursuant to Section 4 (3) sentence 3 KKG, professionals in the health care sector who are bound by professional secrecy (including doctors, midwives, obstetric nurses and all other professional groups listed in Section 4 (1) No.
  1 KKG) must immediately inform the youth welfare office in the event of an urgent danger to the welfare of a child, provided that they consider its intervention to be necessary to avert the danger.
- Facilities and services for protection against violence in close social relationships
- Police and public order authorities

Example: The guidelines for the police on dealing with domestic violence regulate, among other things, the police's duty to inform the youth welfare offices.

Excerpt: "When a suspected case becomes known, preventing further sexual violence is an absolute priority. The initial response and patrol services can already gather helpful information for assessing the danger before the case is taken over by the investigation department:

- Are there any indications of continued or imminent repeated abuse?
- Is there a risk of other further danger associated with the abuse, e.g. through other forms of neglect or in the context of domestic violence?
- Is there contact with other abusive persons in the immediate environment of the affected child or young person?
- Is there a risk of self-harm, e.g. through suicide, alcohol or drugs?

The results of the initial risk assessment will determine the immediate measures necessary to protect the person. This may include, for example, contacting the responsible youth welfare office immediately to consider taking the person into care. Further measures can then be developed in a case conference between the police and youth welfare office based on the risk assessment.

On the subject of forced marriage, regular meetings are held in the state of Lower Saxony by the "AG Handlungskonzept 'Zwangsheirat ächten – Zwangsehen verhindern'" (Working Group on Action Plans to Outlaw Forced Marriage and Prevent Forced Marriages) with various departments in Lower Saxony dealing with the issue of forced marriage, including the State Chancellery, the Ministry of the Interior
, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Social Affairs, to discuss current issues and measures for prevention and public awareness.

The Ministry has been working with various institutions for years in a "Round Table on FGM/C". Participants include doctors, midwives, hospitals, counselling centres and associations. The aim is to establish and promote interdisciplinary professional exchange between participants beyond the round table and to encourage networking among the actors. The intention is to feed findings and needs into existing organisational contexts in order to
further expand counselling and training structures.

Re a), b)

In Lower Saxony, the implementation of cooperation mechanisms is only homogeneous in principle. Close cooperation between the police and local counselling and intervention centres with various cooperation partners is described at the local level.

In particular, in order to identify high-risk cases and prevent the most serious escalations of violence, a screening is carried out during every police operation in the context of domestic violence so that factors can be used as orientation criteria as early as the initial information gathering stage. Various factors are checked in a standardised manner.

Every high-risk case must be brought before a case conference.

The members of the case conferences, which meet on an ad hoc and regular basis, are generally composed of representatives from the police, the public prosecutor's office, victim support organisations (in particular BISS), agencies for perpetrator work and youth welfare services (if children are involved), as well as gender-specific violence counselling centres for women.

Depending on regional circumstances and case constellations, other network representatives (job centres, immigration authorities, outpatient social services for offenders, migration officers, etc.) may be added on a case-by-case basis. For this reason, regional police headquarters ensure that all authorities and counselling services are aware of how to deal with high-risk cases at the local level and have agreed on common procedures.

Re c)

The procedure described above is implemented taking into account the interests of all persons at risk that are worthy of protection.

It should be added that the GfZ app described above is a victim-centred app for women affected by domestic violence, which comprises an essential, digital and complementary support service for the holistic combating of domestic violence. Project goals such as self-empowerment and awareness-raising have been successfully achieved. See also Art. 7: 1 (p. 11).

Re d)

The guidelines for the Lower Saxony police on dealing with cases of domestic violence are being revised this year.

9. Rhineland-Palatinate

On 1 September 2019, the framework service instruction
"High risk – Management of high-risk cases of violence in close social relationships" came into force on 1 September 2019 and is regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains up to date.

The police hold regular case conferences on high-risk management with regard to high-risk cases. These can take place in cooperation with the public prosecutor's office, the youth welfare office, intervention agencies, other women's support organisations, perpetrator intervention agencies and the victim protection officer of the respective police headquarters. The composition of the personnel is based on the needs of the individual case.

An interdisciplinary working group (AG FOKUS: Victim Protection) based at the Ministry of Justice deals with issues such as how victim protection – including for victims of gender-based violence against women – can be improved. This working group includes representatives from various departments of the state government as well as representatives from the
public prosecutor's office, the courts, the police, victim support organisations, the legal profession and youth welfare services.

One of the objectives of the "Pact against Sexual Violence" (see answer to question 1) is to promote networked cooperation between NGOs and government agencies. The state government was given the following recommendations for action as key starting points for a package of measures to combat sexual violence in the digital space and further improve the situation of children and young people:

- Improving cooperation between the relevant authorities at state and federal level and identifying specific options for action for/in Rhineland-Palatinate.
- Supporting victims in removing sexualised images and preventing their further dissemination. Designing an appropriate support service for Rhineland-Palatinate and establishing it in a suitable location (e.g. Independent State Commissioner for Issues of Child Sexual Abuse).
- Raising awareness among children and young people (risks of sexting, criminal liability for certain acts, sensitive handling of their own images) in state-wide campaigns and media education measures.

Developing a media education initiative for Rhineland-Palatinate to strengthen the right of children and young people to sexual self-determination in the digital world. A corresponding prevention campaign against cybergrooming in primary schools is currently being developed by the Child Protection Association of Rhineland-Palatinate.

See the comments on the Rhineland-Palatinate intervention project against violence in close social relationships (RIGG) in the first State Report of the Federal Republic of Germany 2020 (Appendix, p. 40 f.). As part of this intervention project, interdisciplinary committees with interprofessional members ("Working Group on Separation and Divorce", state-wide and regional round tables, etc.) take preventive action against acts of violence that fall under the Istanbul Convention. RIGG now has 24 regional round tables.

The action plan of the state government of Rhineland-Palatinate for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention (see the answer to question 1) was developed on an interdepartmental basis. A total of six ministries have defined specific measures for implementing the Istanbul Convention: the Ministry of the Interior and Sport, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Transformation and Digitalisation, the Ministry of Family, Women, Culture and Integration, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science and Health. All relevant non-governmental organisations were also involved in the development of the action plan.

Cooperation concept "Protection and assistance for victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and labour exploitation"

In summary, the cooperation concept aims to contribute to

- improve the protection and support provided to victims of (imminent) forced marriage and related violent crimes,
- avert dangers to victims,
- enable the effective combating and prevention of criminal offences,
- ensure rapid and effective assistance in covering preliminary costs until the final cost bearer has been determined, and
- strengthen networks between the parties involved.

Cooperation concept "Protection and assistance for victims of (imminent) forced marriage and related violent crimes" (cooperation partners: Ministry of Integration, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of the Interior, non-governmental organisations)

In summary, the cooperation concept aims to contribute to

- improve protection and assistance for victims of (threatened) forced marriage and related violent crimes,
- Averting danger to victims,
- enabling effective combating and prevention of crime,
- ensuring rapid and effective assistance in covering preliminary costs until the final cost bearer has been determined, and
- strengthen networks between those involved.

Since 2018, a **"state-wide round table for coordinating measures to prevent sexualised violence in schools"** has been meeting under the leadership of the Ministry of Education with representatives from local authorities, the supervisory and service directorate, specialist counselling centres, the police, churches and the RLP Council of Victims, among others.

Re a)

Police, EG Migration, youth welfare offices, women's emergency hotline, all specialist departments in reception facilities (security services, social services, infirmaries, administration), public prosecutors' offices, local authorities: immigration authorities and, where applicable, others, e.g. public youth welfare agencies or public order offices, locally responsible social security agencies, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Transformation and Digitalisation, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of the Interior and Sport, Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Transport, Agriculture and Viticulture, Federal Employment Agency, Financial Control of Illegal Employment.

Re b)

Support services such as the nationwide helpline for violence against women and the women's emergency hotline are included. Counselling and specialist counselling centres for human trafficking: SOLWODI, FEMMA e.V. (Association for the Promotion of Feminist Girls' Work) and UTAMARA e.V..

Re c)

There are options for accommodation in women's areas, group activities exclusively for women, a tea room open at certain times exclusively for women, and measures in accordance with the state violence protection concept.

Re d)

Social fund "Protection and assistance for victims of human trafficking": This fund provides victims of human trafficking with assistance and, where necessary, anonymous and
safe accommodation until the social welfare authorities have clarified their ultimate responsibility.

10. North Rhine-Westphalia

In the area of domestic violence, there are so-called "round tables" in many cities and districts, at which the police, public prosecutors, courts and local authorities are represented, as well as child, youth and women's protection agencies. In addition, at the local level, the courts are also involved in working groups such as the "Round Table against Domestic Violence", which organises cooperation between the judiciary, police, counselling centres and women's shelters in cases of domestic violence.

The Ministry for Children, Youth, Family, Equality, Refugees and Integration (MKJFGFI) annually funds projects run by round tables, working groups and cooperation initiatives against violence against women and supports them in their professionalisation and in establishing networking structures. In 2023 and 2024, 40 local cooperation initiatives against
Violence against women will be funded with €500,000 in 2023 and €750,000 in 2024. The range of funding measures is diverse. Among other things, funds can be made available

for training, public relations work and events on various topics related to violence, as well as for measures within the framework of the state-wide action week on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. In addition to improving cooperation and providing general information, the promotion of networking also serves to raise awareness of specific victim groups.

In 2006, an interministerial steering group was set up within the Ministry of Justice to develop state-specific proposals for the coordinated implementation of victim protection law and to advise the state government on victim protection issues. It pursues an interdepartmental approach involving, among others, the victim commissioner, the judiciary, the bar, the police, the outpatient social services of the judiciary, the churches, social associations, WEISSER RING e. V., the Landesverband autonomer Frauennotrufe NRW e. V. (State Association of Autonomous Women's Emergency Hotlines of North Rhine-Westphalia) and the Dachverband der autonomen Frauenberatungsstellen NRW (Umbrella Organisation of Autonomous Women's Counselling Centres of North Rhine-Westphalia).
e. V. and the state coordination of anti-violence work for lesbians, gays and transgender people in North Rhine-Westphalia. In its seventh advisory cycle since 2023, the expert group on victim protection has dealt in depth with issues of gender-based violence and developed proposals on, among other things, violence protection law, dealing with high-risk cases after domestic violence, access rights and improved access to justice for people with disabilities.

For example, in cooperation with the North Rhine-Westphalia University of Applied Sciences for Judicial Administration, the umbrella organisation of autonomous women's counselling centres in North Rhine-Westphalia and the State Office for Queer Anti-Violence Work in North Rhine-Westphalia, a help sheet was developed for judicial officers who deal with the registration of applications for protection against violence. In addition to legal information on protection against violence, it also contains recommendations for gender- and victim-sensitive communication and references to help and support options, including barrier-free services for victims with hearing impairments.

With the decree of the Ministry of Justice of 13 February 2023, coordinators for victim protection in criminal proceedings have been appointed at all public prosecutor's offices and presiding courts on the basis of a concept agreed with them. These coordinators are in contact with the Victims' Commissioner of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and with the various victim protection and support services (police, women's counselling centres, youth welfare offices, women's shelters, schools, school social workers, family courts, etc.). The coordinators meet regularly at network meetings and interdisciplinary working groups. These meetings take into account the particular problems faced by women and girls affected by violence who are intersectionally disadvantaged due to other characteristics.

The 216 state-funded pregnancy and pregnancy conflict counselling centres provide advice and support on a wide range of topics. In addition to counselling on pregnancy, pregnancy conflict and childbirth, they also provide assistance in asserting claims, finding housing, work and training, or dealing with experiences of violence. The counselling centres have numerous cooperation partners, including
women's counselling centres, women's shelters, counselling centres for refugees and counselling centres for foreigners.

The State Government Commissioner for People with Disabilities and for Patients in North Rhine-Westphalia is in regular contact with the women's representatives in the workshops. They represent the interests of female employees with disabilities in the facilities. Since February 2024, 11 elected delegates have also been bringing women's concerns to the attention of the State Working Group of Women's Representatives in North Rhine-Westphalia. The State Working Group represents more than 30,000 female workshop employees throughout North Rhine-Westphalia.

Every two years, the State Commissioner for Disabled Persons and Patients invites women's representatives
to a state-wide networking meeting and maintains close contact with the LAG. This networking meeting, in which all women's representatives from North Rhine-Westphalia can participate, takes place

alternates with the workshop council meeting – women's representatives are also invited to these meetings.

The interdisciplinary team of the Commissioner for Victim Protection of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia currently consists of the Victim Protection Commissioner (lawyer), a public prosecutor, two social workers and a government employee in an assistant role. Another social worker is expected to join the team on 1 June 2025. The office acts as a pilot and supports those affected in contacting suitable network partners, such as the police victim protection service, the White Ring, specialist counselling centres or regional associations. Maintaining the network, participating in round tables and regularly exchanging information with the aforementioned and other network partners is essential for the effective
advice to those affected.

11. Bremen

on a), b)

The Senate formulated specific objectives in the state action plan to implement the measures and ensure close networking and cooperation between the various authorities. A round table has been set up to regularly review progress in implementing these goals and measures, identify potential obstacles and jointly develop the necessary steps to overcome them. In addition, there are specialised working groups on the various forms of violence, bringing together actors from governmental and non-governmental organisations (including women's organisations). The relevant specialist departments of the Bremen police and the local police authority in Bremerhaven are also represented in these cooperation groups. These groups discuss structural measures, act jointly and define specific forms of cooperation. At the same time, an interdepartmental working group accompanies the entire implementation process and responds flexibly to current developments in the field of action.

Targeted measures are also initiated, taking individual cases into account. For example, whenever the police in the state of Bremen become aware of domestic violence, they forward the data of the persons concerned to a counselling centre designated by the SGFV in accordance with § 55 BremPolG. The counselling centre offers both the victim and the perpetrator prompt counselling to prevent further acts of domestic violence. As soon as minors are involved, the data is transferred and the youth welfare office is consulted. If a need for action and support is identified during operations, the data is forwarded as standard to the social services office or the regional counselling centre. From there, the facts of the case are examined and appropriate help and support services are initiated.

It should be noted that the police are implementing a wide range of measures to combat gender-based violence against women and children in the long term. The strategies include both preventive and repressive approaches and are accompanied by close inter-agency cooperation between the various institutions. There is also close cooperation with external aid organisations.

Victims of gender-based violence are informed about counselling and support services as soon as they first contact the police. With the help of the recently updated victim protection leaflet, victims are directed to the Bremen Police website via a QR code. There they find a detailed description of the criminal proceedings and information about their rights as witnesses or victims both within and outside the criminal proceedings. They will also find the "Bremen Victim Support System" guide, which provides a comprehensive overview of the support and counselling services available in Bremen. This is divided into different
forms of violence, so that victims can find the support services that are relevant to them

. The services offered by the Bremen Police Central Victim Protection Office are also described there. The website is continuously updated and thus represents a central information platform and link to the Bremen support system for victims.

Supplementary information material on gender-based violence and the associated support services is available at the locations where reports are taken and, in some cases, in patrol cars. These flyers are freely available or are handed out specifically depending on the situation. They include, for example, materials from the violence protection clinic, the "Violence against Women" helpline and other relevant agencies. The police emergency services are regularly informed about the information material available in Bremen. If necessary, additional copies can be ordered using an order form provided by the Central Office for the Realisation of Equal Rights (ZGF), for example. Most of the documents are available in different languages.

It should be noted that the Bremen police and the Bremerhaven local police authority are very well integrated into the specialised support services offered by civil society organisations and women's rights organisations thanks to the close-knit network of the Bremen support system and close cooperation in the context of implementing the Istanbul Convention in Bremen. These services are routinely referred to victims of gender-based violence. Referrals to support services, awareness-raising and individual information are provided on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the identifiable stress experienced by the persons concerned.

Re c)

Partial answers a) and b) have already outlined the measures and referrals to further agencies that are effective in cases of gender-based violence. In principle, the police in the state of Bremen take a special approach when dealing with this group of people in order to provide the best possible support to victims of crime and to avoid secondary victimisation. In the area of sexual offences, for example, it is mandatory to provide female victims with offers of assistance and to explain the work and procedures involved in psychosocial support during legal proceedings. Female victims receive close support throughout the entire investigation process. In addition to the measures mentioned above, this also includes organising placements in external accommodation where necessary. Furthermore, the questioning of victims and suspects must be conducted separately.

In summary, it should be noted that the Bremen police and the Bremerhaven local police authority aim to provide empathetic, respectful and victim-centred support to female victims. This includes, in particular, providing comprehensive information to the victims. In addition, they are encouraged to make statements in a supportive and safe environment. The protection and consideration of individual needs are at the centre of the investigation activities. At the same time, the individual stress caused by the experience of violence is recognised and the appropriate services are provided on a case-by-case basis.

Re d)

The Bremen Police Force employs case officers and senior case officers within its specialist investigation departments who deal with cases falling under the basic obligations of the Istanbul Convention. These employees generally draw on in-depth specialist expertise. As soon as new employees are assigned to these areas, they receive special training as part of their additional training as police investigators in dealing with sensitivity and taking into account the special protection needs of abused women and children. The central victim protection unit is staffed by 1.5 FTEs. The designated units are shown in the
regular police budget. For further information on finances, please refer to the SIS.

As part of the implementation of the measures from the State Action Plan for the Istanbul Convention, a full-time position was also created in the area of networking and coordination in connection with risk management. €75,000 is made available annually for this measure (No. 71).

Re e)

Various external evaluations have been initiated in Bremen, e.g. a study of those affected and a study on the counselling situation in the municipality of Bremerhaven. A study is currently being conducted to evaluate key topics of the State Action Plan.
and a needs assessment. The results are expected in early 2026.

12. Saarland

The existing measures (e.g. round table on domestic violence (now known as the round table on violence against women and domestic violence – implementation of the Istanbul Convention or the round table on human trafficking) were continued (see first state report).

New

(1) Interministerial working group on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention to develop a state action plan IK
- Saarland State Police Headquarters,
- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Women and Health
- Ministry of the Interior, Building and Sport,
- Ministry of Justice.

(2) Fictitious case study
- Ministry of the Interior, Building and Sport,
- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Women and Health (coordination office for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention)
- Counselling and Intervention Centre for Victims of Domestic Violence,
- Saarlouis district, Social Affairs and Youth Department,
- Women's Emergency Hotline Saarland e.V.,
- ALDONA e.V.,
- State Police Headquarters,
- Saarbrücken City Police Station
- Saarbrücken Public Prosecutor's Office Domestic Violence Department,
- Perspektive,
- University of Applied Sciences for Administration, Enforcement Police Department,
- Saarbrücken Regional Association, Social Services, Child Protection Team,
- Saarbrücken Regional Association, Social Services Child Protection Team Management,
- Saarland Women's Shelters.

(3) Sub-working group Form for risk assessment for the police
- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Women and Health, Coordination Office for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention
- State Police Headquarters with technical supervision

(4) GFMK working group on the design of the Violence Assistance Act with three sub-working groups involving all 16 federal states
- Sub-working group on the state office pursuant to Section 4 (3) GewHG
- Sub-working group on implementing legislation for the GewHG
- Sub-working group on needs analysis of the GewHG

(5) Working group on updating the guidelines for police work in cases of domestic violence
- MIBS, MASFG and State Police Headquarters

Regarding b)

Working group on fictitious case studies
a. Counselling and intervention centre for victims of domestic violence,
b. Frauennotruf Saarland e.V.,
c. ALDONA e.V.,
d. Perspektive,
e. Saarland Women's Shelters

Re c)

Conversion of the coordination centre in 2023 from the topic of "domestic violence" to the coordination centre to Implementation of the Istanbul Convention and thus thematic expansion.

13. Berlin

Reference is made to the supplement to the basic report (in the context of Article 7), in which the interdepartmental committees have already been presented.

In the context of developing the Berlin State Action Plan, further interdepartmental working committees have been established in Berlin (five specialist groups involving civil society on the LAP's areas of action and a working group at administrative level; for details, see Chapter 3.4 of the LAP). The specialist groups have been made permanent or meet on an ad hoc basis. For example, the specialist group "Police, Law Enforcement and Justice" facilitates an exchange between the various senate administrations, the criminal courts, the public prosecutor's office, the police, the family courts, legal representatives and women's counselling centres and women's shelters. In another working group
"Strengthening cooperation between family courts, youth welfare offices, the police, law enforcement agencies and criminal courts", the professions mentioned above are to work together to develop ways of improving the exchange of information in family court proceedings.

The political management of the implementation of the LAP is carried out by the interdepartmental round table "Implementing the Istanbul Convention in Berlin" at the level of state secretaries.

A concept for an advisory committee to oversee the implementation of the LAP is currently being developed, which will also take into account the perspectives of those affected.

In August 2022, the Berlin Senate adopted a jointly agreed package of measures to prevent femicide (Senate bill "Acting together – preventing femicide!"), which includes the expansion of support structures and effective protection for so-called high-risk cases. As an interdepartmental cooperation mechanism, the interdisciplinary working group "High-risk conferences and risk management" was established in March 2023, see the answer to question 49 (p. 370).

The Child Protection and Early Intervention Network, already mentioned in question 5 (p. 50), aims to promote interdepartmental cooperation and collaboration in child protection and to increase sensitivity and professionalism, including in areas outside youth welfare. This includes, in particular, cooperation between youth welfare services and health professionals (including clinics and registered doctors), cooperation between youth welfare services and schools in child protection, cooperation in cases of human trafficking to the detriment of minors (e.g. forced marriage) with the criminal investigation authorities, and city-wide counselling and therapy services for minors who have been victims of sexual violence. The structure of the Child Protection and Early Intervention Network consists of a steering group, chaired by the State Secretary for Youth, and a
Project group chaired by the head of Department III Youth and Child Protection/State Youth Welfare Office. As explained in question 5, the network is based on a political decision.

decision. [144]

The concerns of girls and young women affected by violence are taken into account on a regular basis and on an ad hoc basis (in particular with regard to the implementation of the State Action Plan on the Istanbul Convention in relation to minors) within the framework of the steering and project group.

More than 10 years ago, before the introduction of the FamFG, the Berlin youth welfare offices and family courts, as well as various parties involved in proceedings, introduced procedural rules for accelerated family proceedings based on the Cochem model: The Berlin procedure implements close cooperation between the professionals involved in family conflicts. This special form of interdisciplinary cooperation was initiated back in 2007. In this context, nine local working groups were set up to promote the Berlin procedure. All 12 Berlin districts are represented in the working groups.

In cases of domestic violence where children live in the household, the Berlin police officers on duty report the incident to the responsible youth welfare office. In addition, reports of violent acts are made to the immigration office or the driving licence authority, if necessary.

There are also inter-agency cooperation committees at district level, such as the round tables on domestic violence in the districts of Tempelhof-Schöneberg and Treptow-Köpenick and working groups against domestic violence in Lichtenberg and Hellersdorf-Marzahn. An essential part of the work of these committees is close cooperation with specialist counselling centres in the district, in particular women's counselling centres and other organisations that provide specialised support services for women affected by violence.

Re b)

With the exception of the working group at the administrative level mentioned under 15.a. (p. 186) and the politically appointed round table, non-governmental organisations are involved in all committees.

The Berlin Police works closely with psychosocial process facilitators on a case-by-case basis, but also with specialist counselling centres such as LARA e. V. and BIG e. V. The Berlin Police takes a proactive approach to cases of domestic violence and ensures that data on affected women is passed on to the BIG hotline when necessary.

In 2021/2022, the Berlin Police Force participated in the project "CHAIN Intervention in Female Genital Mutilation and Early/Forced Marriage (FGM_C and EFM)" run by the women's rights organisation Terre des Femmes- Menschenrechte für die Frau e. V. (Terre des Femmes- Human Rights for Women). As part of the project, an interdisciplinary recommendation for action was developed in collaboration with representatives from other senate administrations, the medical sector and specialist counselling centres for professional work with girls and women in Berlin who are at risk of or affected by FGM_C/EFM.

Central emergency rooms and six Berlin specialist counselling and intervention centres for domestic violence are cooperating to offer proactive counselling to women affected by domestic violence. All counselling centres and seven emergency rooms are currently participating. In 2024, 70 victims received an offer to call, and almost every
three people took advantage of the counselling. The service is evaluated and coordinated by the S.I.G.N.A.L. coordination centre, and the concept is being continuously developed and will next be tested in obstetrics departments. Healthcare workers report that they find the service a relief.
Staff at specialist counselling centres report that the service is reaching victims who would not (yet) have sought help on their own initiative. Funding is provided by SenGleichstellung.

[144] https://www.berlin.de/sen/jugend/familie-und-kinder/kinderschutz/netzwerk-kinderschutz/plakat-netzwerk-kinderschutz.pdf?ts=1728998741

(advice centres) and SenGesundheit (S.I.G.N.A.L. coordination centre).

Re c)

The aspects mentioned in the question are taken into account as part of the LAP's human rights-based and non-discriminatory approach and are reinforced not least by the close involvement of women's organisations.

If requested by those affected, they will be interviewed by police officers and, if necessary, with the assistance of interpreters of the same
gender.

14. Baden-Württemberg

In 2024/2025, the Ministry of Justice and Migration, together with the Ministry of the Interior, Digitalisation and Municipalities, will develop recommendations for action for the police and judiciary on the application of Section 68 (2) sentence 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. According to this, witnesses in criminal proceedings may, under certain conditions, be permitted to provide a different address for service instead of their home address. In cases of domestic violence in particular, this can serve to prevent the violent partner from finding out the new address of the woman affected by violence, thus counteracting reprisals or further criminal offences. The recommendations for action are currently in the final stages of coordination.

One of the tasks of the public prosecutors' victim representatives mentioned in question 4 (p. 46) will be to achieve closer cooperation between the prosecution authorities and victim support and protection agencies and institutions through the formation of local networks
.

15. Brandenburg

on a)

The MGS employs a specialist to manage the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. She coordinates a monitoring committee with three interdisciplinary working groups on the topics of prevention, education and training, and high risk.

The following representatives of state agencies were involved in the development of the LAP: Brandenburg State Commissioner for Children and Youth (LKJB), Brandenburg State Commissioner for Gender Equality (LGBA), Brandenburg State Prevention Council (LPR), Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MBJS), Ministry of Justice (MdJD), Ministry of the Interior and Municipal Affairs (MIK), Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Integration and Consumer Protection (MGS), Brandenburg State Police Headquarters, Brandenburg State Institute of Forensic Medicine (BLR), Cottbus Public Prosecutor's Office, Frankfurt/Oder Public Prosecutor's Office, Neuruppin Public Prosecutor's Office and Potsdam Public Prosecutor's Office.

Regarding b)

In 2023, the coordination office for civil society actors was set up to implement the IC in the state of BB (KIKO). The following civil society organisations are also represented on the monitoring committee: Autonomous Women's Centre Potsdam e.V., Brandenburg Violence Prevention Centre, Women's Policy Council of the State of Brandenburg e.V. (FPR), Contact and Coordination Centre for Girls' Work in the State of Brandenburg (KuKMA), State Working Group of Municipal Integration Officers (LAGAIB), State Working Group of Municipal Equal Opportunities Officers (LAG kGBA), State Working Group of Officers for People with Disabilities, Brandenburg State Advisory Council for People with Disabilities, Brandenburg State Youth Council, LIGA der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege – Spitzenverbände im Land Brandenburg (League of Independent Welfare Services – Umbrella Organisations in the State of Brandenburg), Migrants' Advisory Council Potsdam, Network of Brandenburg W o m e n 's Shelters (NbF), Victim Counselling Neuruppin,
Victim Support Brandenburg e.V. and Paritätischer Landesverband e.V.

Re c)

The LAP pursues a victim-centred approach to combating violence against women. The safety and rights of women and girls as victims are given priority throughout the entire catalogue of measures.

Re d)

In the MGS, two specialists and one administrator work in the field of preventing and combating violence against women to implement the IC in the state of Brandenburg, including the promotion of the Brandenburg women's shelters.

The (KIKO) was established in 2023 to support the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the state. KIKO informs and supports civil society networks and state actors at local/regional level. One focus is the establishment of regional networks on domestic violence/Istanbul Convention. In this sense, KIKO prepares an analysis of the current needs for round tables and supports municipal actors by providing expertise on strategies, professionalisation and best practice examples of networking in the field of domestic violence and victim protection in Brandenburg.

Regarding e)	€175,000	€175,000

The LAP published in 2024 and the measures contained therein have not yet been evaluated.

16. Please indicate whether the cooperation mechanisms or structures established to provide support services for a specific form of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention are based on a legal or political document that advocates or requires such approaches.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Rhineland-Palatinate, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Brandenburg

FA: Lower Saxony (reference question 1, p. 11), North Rhine-Westphalia, Baden-Württemberg

1. Hamburg

The basis for action in Hamburg, the Violence Protection Concept (Drs. 22/15828), focuses on the importance of cooperation and networking, as did the Victim Protection Concept in 2014. This is manifested in the violence protection concept, among other things, by the fact that "participation and networking" are central guidelines of the concept (see Appendix 2). Violence protection that is designed and developed in close cooperation and networking between experts from administration, science and practice in close dialogue is part of the self-image of the Hamburg support system.

2. Hesse

The 3rd Action Plan of the State of Hesse to Combat Domestic Violence serves to implement the Istanbul Convention, which is based on a cabinet bill of the Hesse state government. It is structured in accordance with the requirements of the Istanbul Convention and thus differs in its structure from the two previous state action plans. Since the 1st State Action Plan of 2004, the state of Hesse has strengthened the prevention of domestic violence as part of its governmental responsibility and, with the 2nd State Action Plan of 2011, has expanded the measures for the protection and assistance of victims as well as for the
Intervention against perpetrators further developed. The 3rd State Action Plan aims to further expand existing measures and close gaps, particularly with regard to

vulnerable groups, in accordance with the requirements of the Istanbul Convention. The state of Hesse is ensuring that these measures are maintained in the long term, that further recognisable needs are met and that planning principles are established in order to expand the desired comprehensive provision of care. Regional working groups and round tables on domestic violence/violence against women have established tried-and-tested, successful networks of public institutions and independent organisations. The state action plan promotes these existing structures in the districts and independent cities.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Both the Third State Action Plan to Combat Domestic and Sexual Violence in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (see above) and the "Evaluation of the Third State Action Plan to Combat Domestic and Sexual Violence in the Context of the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention (IK) with a Focus on the Counselling and Support Network" (see above) advocate cooperation and networking structures for the provision of support services. In addition, the planned State Strategy Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania for the implementation of the IC.

4. Saxony

The steering committee for combating domestic violence at state level was established in 2003 on the basis of a cabinet decision and integrated into the State Prevention Council at the Saxon State Ministry of the Interior in 2008. Cooperation is regulated by rules of procedure. The state action plan itself also represents a strategy that structures cooperation between the individual authorities and was adopted by the cabinet in 2024.

In addition, reference is made to the comments in the state contribution on Saxony in the country report on Germany regarding the Saxony State Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence.
Violence (Appendix 3 from p. 45).

5. Saxony-Anhalt

(1) The PROGRESS action plan was adopted by the state government in 2024.

(2) The current coalition agreement for the 8th legislative period of the Saxony-Anhalt state parliament stipulates the establishment of operational victim protection (lines 4131 to 4137):

"Operational victim protection primarily concerns high-risk cases in which the fastest possible coordination of all parties involved in the proceedings (e.g. police, women's shelter, specialist counselling centre, youth welfare office, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, immigration office) is important for averting an acute danger to life and limb in order to ensure safety and support for those affected as quickly as possible. We will extend the positive experiences of the high-risk management pilot project at the Halle police station to all police stations."

(3) In addition, the amendment of Section 36 SOG LSA in 2003 created a legal basis that enables the security authorities and the police to expel persons from their homes and obtain a restraining order against them (Section 36 (3) SOG LSA). The aim of this measure is to avert a danger to life, limb or
freedom of residents of the same home. (For the amendment to the SOG, see response to No. 1)

6. Schleswig-Holstein

<u>High-risk management</u>

The common framework for action in high-risk cases is the guideline on high-risk management (see answer to question 15 a, p. 171).

The mechanisms and structures are based on the interdepartmental guidelines on high-risk management in cases of domestic violence.

7. Thuringia

Cooperation between the police and intervention agencies for proactive counselling after police operations in cases of domestic violence.

8. Bavaria

The Bavarian police have concluded cooperation agreements with counselling centres throughout the state for the proactive counselling of victims of domestic violence. This means that counselling and support centres participating in the cooperation are informed by the police about victims of violence, provided that the victims have given their written consent. The respective counselling centre then contacts the victim immediately, usually within three days, offers further counselling and helps them plan the next steps.

The implementation of the proactive approach to working with perpetrators of domestic violence by the Bavarian police is also expressly welcomed.

In the past, the IMK has dealt extensively with the issue of "combating violence in the family environment" and, in December 2021, finally came out in favour of a uniform federal definition of the term "domestic violence" and a uniform federal evaluation of domestic violence crime statistics based on police crime statistics (PKS). According to this nationally applicable definition, domestic violence will in future include not only violence between (former) partners, but also violence within the family (intra-family violence). The nationally uniform situation report
"Domestic violence" was made available for the first time for the 2023 reporting year.

In addition, the IMK set up the federal-state working group "Combating gender-specific crimes against women" to improve protection against violence against women. The working group developed a police definition of gender-specific crimes against women. At its 220th meeting, the IMK already spoke out in favour of its uniform application throughout Germany under agenda item 41. The BLAG's report on the results (as of 6 September 2023) is published as an appendix to agenda item 41. [145] In order to highlight the extent of "gender-specific crimes against women", the Federal Criminal Police Office also compiled the situation report you referred to, which was presented on 19 November 2024 by Federal Minister of the Interior Nancy Faeser and Federal Minister for Family Affairs Lisa Paus.

Bavaria actively participated in both working groups.

In addition, the Bavarian police force participates in regional (interdisciplinary) round tables on the subject of domestic and sexual violence throughout Bavaria.

In the district of the Bamberg Public Prosecutor's Office, regular discussions are held between the trauma outpatient clinic of the Centre for Mental Health at Würzburg University Hospital, the public prosecutor's offices and the police to establish the so-called "Würzburg Model". The aim of the model is to ensure early therapeutic care for victims of crime while at the same time ensuring that victims' memories are not distorted and that witness statements for criminal proceedings are not influenced. The victims to be treated should therefore be interviewed by the investigating judge before the start of therapy and this interview should be recorded in accordance with Section 58a of the Code of Criminal Procedure. At the same time, care should be taken to ensure that the victims sign a (limited) waiver of confidentiality for the therapist so that any
any influence of the therapy on the victim's memory can be clarified in the criminal court hearing. Currently, permanent contact persons at

[145] https://www.innenministerkonferenz.de/IMK/DE/termine/to-beschluesse/20231208_06.html

to set up public prosecutor's offices in the district of the Bamberg Public Prosecutor General's Office, which could mediate between the trauma clinic on the one hand and the responsible department head of the public prosecutor's office or the court on the other, if necessary, in order to speed up audiovisual questioning of witnesses and the initiation of therapeutic measures.

In addition, so-called "Childhood Houses" with different concepts have been created in Bavaria.[146] In Bavaria, the Childhood House in Munich will start operating at the end of 2024, followed by the Childhood House in Fürth began operations at the end of 2024. Another facility based on a slightly different concept is being planned in Würzburg. The Childhood House in Munich is partly funded by the justice budget.

Information on the evaluation of results and the impact of the above measures is not yet available.

In order to create interdisciplinary certainty of action in child protection, the Bavarian Child Protection Outpatient Clinic, funded by the StMAS, has been established since 2011 as a state-wide competence centre at the interface between youth welfare and medicine. One of its main focuses is to support children's hospitals in establishing child protection groups in the hospitals.

Bavaria has a comprehensive, broad network of state and non-state support services for victims of abuse and sexualised violence. These include, for example, youth welfare offices, the Bavarian Child Protection Outpatient Clinic as a state-wide centre of excellence in child protection, counselling centres run by independent organisations for sexual abuse of children and young people or sexual abuse in childhood and adolescence, contact points in churches, contact points in the field of sport and in schools, and the contact point for former children in care at the Bavarian Centre for Family and Social Affairs – Bavarian State Youth Welfare Office (ZBFS-BLJA), various contact points for sexualised violence, therapeutic services, services offered by the White Ring, services offered by the police and judiciary, and contact points for social benefits and financial compensation. For many of those affected, however, these structures, which have often grown up along the lines of respective responsibilities, are complex and not easy to understand, especially in a situation of psychological and physical stress.

For this reason, since 1 August 2023, all victims of abuse and sexual violence, regardless of their gender and age, have been able to contact the Bavarian Contact Point for Victims of Abuse and Sexual Violence at the Bavarian Centre for Families and Social Affairs (ZBFS).

The centre is designed as a first point of contact that takes note of the concerns of those affected, classifies them and then refers them to the appropriate agency in the existing support system, including both government and non-governmental support services.

The Bavarian Contact Point for Victims of Abuse and Sexual Violence at the Bavarian Centre for Families and Social Affairs (ZBFS) is available to and supports all victims equally.

The contact point incurs costs of around €500,000 per year. The staff currently consists of 6.28 full-time equivalents (FTEs), divided among 9 employees.

To date, a total of 471 people have contacted the helpline. Of these, 152 were relatives, 148 were affected themselves, 67 calls came from specialist counselling centres, aid organisations or similar, and 104 calls fell into the category of "other" (e.g. victims of other crimes). 330 callers were referred to other sources of help
. 45 callers were able to be helped directly.

9. Rhineland-Palatinate

The state has a violence protection concept ("Concept for violence protection and

[146] https://www.childhood-de.org/childhood-haus/konzept

Identification of persons in need of protection in initial reception facilities in Rhineland-Palatinate"), which focuses in particular on refugee women in the state's reception facilities for asylum seekers.

Cooperation concept "Protection and assistance for victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and labour exploitation".

Cooperation concept "Protection and assistance for victims of (imminent) forced marriage and related violent crimes"

Reference to question 15, p. 179.

10. Bremen

A key document that regulates the cooperation mechanisms for implementing the Istanbul Convention in Bremen and formulates measures for the various political departments is the Bremen State Action Plan on the Istanbul Convention. The measures implemented within the police forces and described in the previous answers are also based on this plan.

Furthermore, the Bremen Police Act stipulates that all those affected and perpetrators of domestic violence must be offered counselling during police operations.

Care facilities:

In the state of Bremen, the cooperation mechanisms and structures for violence prevention in the area of care and supported living are based on the Bremen Housing and Care Act (BremWoBeG), in particular Sections 1, 12 and 19. This law obliges service providers to draw up a violence protection concept, to appoint a responsible person and to report incidents of violence (Section 19 (5)). This provides a legal basis that complies with the Istanbul Convention by institutionalising preventive and reactive measures against violence.

The Bremen Home Supervisory Authority (Bremische Wohn- und Betreuungsaufsicht, WBA), as the supervisory authority for facilities for women in need of care and women with disabilities, operates on the basis of a law (Bremische Wohn- und Betreuungsgesetz). This stipulates that the supervisory authority must respect the rights of residents to preserve their dignity and their physical and mental integrity.

As part of its regular inspections, the WBA reviews the requirements for a violence prevention concept as set out in the Bremen Housing and Care Act (BremWoBeG). Three areas of violence are taken into account: personal (direct) violence, structural (indirect) violence and cultural violence, which can act as a precursor to direct and indirect violence. Service providers must describe preventive measures for all three levels in a conceptual manner.

These include, among other things:

- Structural violence prevention as part of the quality management system
- Integration and information for new employees about processes, duties and responsibilities
- Appointment of a permanent contact person at the institution to act as a violence prevention officer
- Promotion an open, transparent communication structure and a solution-oriented error culture
- Regular training courses on violence prevention, conflict management and dealing with challenging behaviour
- Supervision, case consultation and support programmes to counteract professional stress and the tabooing of feelings

- Offering de-escalation training at regular intervals
- Events for relatives, e.g. information evenings on violence prevention and strengthening relationships
- Target group-oriented measures, especially for people with mental, emotional or dementia-related illnesses

All these measures contribute to the early detection and prevention of violence in institutions and, if necessary, to an adequate response.

A state violence assistance law is in preparation and will be passed by the end of 2026 (based on the requirements of the federal violence assistance law).

11. Saarland

In order to facilitate access to victim support services and to ensure sustainable and mutually binding cooperation, the State Police Headquarters has in the past concluded various cooperation agreements with public and private victim support organisations, which were already in place before the first GREVIO report. These cooperation agreements are as follows:

- Cooperation agreement between the State Police Headquarters and the Counselling and Intervention Centre for Victims of Domestic Violence (since 2007)
- Cooperation agreement on cooperation between the Saarbrücken Public Prosecutor's Office and the Saarland State Police Headquarters with the specialist counselling centre ALDONA e. V. for the protection of victim witnesses in cases of human trafficking in Saarland from 2019 (since 2007)
- Cooperation agreement between the State Police Headquarters and WEISSER RING e.V. (since 2012).

12. Berlin

The "Berlin Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence" (2002–2006, continued until 2008) already provided for interdepartmental cooperation mechanisms involving non-governmental organisations. The State Action Plan for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention also explicitly follows the approach of a cross-agency approach involving civil society (see Chapter 4.3 and, in addition, 3.4 of the LAP).

13. Brandenburg

In Brandenburg, the LAP forms the central political basis. It is based on the 2021 report commissioned by the Brandenburg Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Integration and Consumer Protection on the further development of the state action plan, which identified needs and gaps in the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and formulated recommendations. It is an overall political strategy with interdisciplinary measures to combat gender-based violence against women and girls and domestic violence. The cabinet adopted the LAP in January 2024.

17. Please explain whether all or some of the protection and support services offered to victims of the various forms of violence against women are provided on the basis of a one-stop shop concept.

Contributions: Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Baden-Württemberg, North Rhine-Westphalia, Berlin, Brandenburg

FA: Hesse, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bremen, Saarland, Baden-Württemberg

1. Hamburg

Since the end of 2021, the Childhood House in Hamburg has been offering minors who are victims of violence and neglect support from a single source. Forensic medical examinations, psychological and socio-educational support, as well as interviews
by the police and judiciary are possible in a child-friendly environment. [147]

2. Mecklenburg

The concept of the Childhood House in Schwerin (see above) as an interdisciplinary contact point envisages the carrying out of investigations, interviews and interrogations necessary for investigations with children and young people who are victims of violent or sexual offences in
in the spirit of a one-stop shop concept.

3. Saxony

In Saxony, protection and support services include general support services (medical services, job centres, local authorities and general advice centres such as family counselling, migration counselling, addiction and debt counselling, etc.) and specialised support services (protection facilities and specialist advice centres) in accordance with the Istanbul Convention. These do not explicitly operate according to the one-stop-shop principle, but rely on networked and coordinated structures that are close to this approach. For example, women's and children's shelters work closely with other support infrastructures such as intervention and coordination centres and specialised counselling centres for sexual violence to ensure comprehensive assistance. Although there is no central contact point in the sense of a one-stop shop, the cooperation of various services enables coordinated support. Supraregional cooperation is ensured by the merger of the organisations in the umbrella organisation Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Gewaltfreies Zuhause e.V. (State Working Group for a Violence-Free Home) and the Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Sexualisierte Gewalt – Prävention, Intervention (State Working Group on Sexual Violence – Prevention, Intervention). The offices located there take on central networking and coordination tasks in the respective areas. The intervention and coordination centres for combating gender-based violence against women and domestic violence
provide counselling services and carry out regional networking and coordination activities in the districts.

4. Bavaria

By law, the conduct of preliminary investigations cannot and must not be coordinated with other agencies. Whether, when and for what purpose a victim witness is interviewed is decided exclusively by the public prosecutor's office and the investigating judge. A one-stop-shop concept cannot therefore be fully implemented in criminal proceedings in overarching cooperation structures, such as in the case of the Childhood House. Nevertheless, the concept of the Childhood House aims to bring together as many other necessary interdisciplinary professions as possible under one roof in order to provide the best possible care for children and young people with
Securing experiences of abuse.

5. Lower Saxony

All public prosecutor's offices in Lower Saxony have special investigators for domestic violence offences. In addition, each public prosecutor's office has appointed contact persons, most of whom also work as special investigators. In addition to the actual processing of the often complex investigation procedures and the associated need to acquire specific
expertise, the special investigators also perform a number of other tasks. One of these additional tasks is the area of domestic

https://www.uke.de/landingpage/childhood-haus-hamburg/index.html (https://www.uke.de/landingpage/childhood-haus-hamburg/index.html).

violence. A regular exchange of experiences is also offered for the special department heads. In addition to discussing current specialist topics, this format offers the opportunity for collegial, cross-agency exchange. Over the past two years, representatives from various police stations have also been invited to participate, enabling cross-agency exchange in this regard as well. The appointment of contact persons for domestic violence offences in Lower Saxony took place with the implementation of the first state action plan against domestic violence in intimate relationships in 2001. The structures have gradually grown, ultimately leading to the establishment of special departments for dealing with domestic violence offences in public prosecutor's offices throughout the state, in order to ensure the efficient prosecution of domestic violence by appropriately specialised forces.

The implementation of the state action plan to combat domestic violence in intimate relationships is supported and advised by an interdisciplinary advisory board, which meets twice a year at the invitation of the Domestic Violence Coordination Office. The advisory board is composed of representatives from the police, public prosecutor's office, family court, youth welfare office, municipal umbrella organisations, the Lower Saxony State Working Group of Equality Offices Equality Offices and the Lower Saxony State Working Group of Counselling and Intervention Centres, the Working Group of Women's and Girls' Shelters in Lower Saxony, SUANA Counselling Centre for Migrant Women Affected by Domestic Violence, Forced Marriage and Stalking / Kargah e.V., the State Working Group on Perpetrator Work in Domestic Violence and the Victim Support Foundation. In addition, the Domestic Violence Coordination Office supports effective cooperation between all relevant agencies dealing with the issue of domestic violence at state and municipal level by organising networking events such as the annual interdepartmental, statewide and interdisciplinary symposium "Subject: Domestic Violence" and by advising local committees and institutions on the formation and (further) development of local and regional cooperation structures and networks.

A 2019 nationwide survey conducted by the State Coordination Office for Domestic Violence on local network structures and their activities revealed that According to the information provided, a particularly large proportion of the activities involve the dissemination of information and exchange, the planning of joint activities for the public (e.g. "bread bag campaign"), as well as networking and reflection on case-related work and intervention chains.

In recent years, cooperation between and in relation to almost all institutions has been intensified.

Most police stations in Lower Saxony are not familiar with the "one-stop concept" mentioned above. Basically, the current circumstances do not allow for an approach based on this concept.

The "Childhood House" project is currently being set up in Göttingen. The project aims to serve as a contact point for children and young people who are affected by physical or sexual violence, especially in a domestic context. In accordance with the one-stop shop concept, this contact point will offer the possibility of conducting police and even judicial video interviews, receiving psychological care or counselling on available assistance, and also carrying out medical examinations.
In the future, the drop-in centre will also be extended to adults affected by violence.

6. Baden-Württemberg

The Central Office (ZGS), located at the LKA Baden-Württemberg, coordinates the

Federal-state cooperation on prevention. The ZGS is responsible for managing the "Police Crime Prevention Programme" (ProPK). Criminal investigators, police officers, criminologists, sociologists and other experts work together in a constant exchange of information. On this basis, the ProPK provides information about various crimes and gives advice on how citizens can protect themselves. The information is presented in a bundled form on various topic-related websites, and flyers, brochures and short films are also available.

In addition to its own offerings, the Rhineland-Palatinate police force regularly refers to the extensive content.

Women's support centres cover many of the needs of women affected by violence in their respective facilities and also work closely with other institutions and authorities.

Women's shelters: The staff at women's shelters offer women affected by violence help in processing their experiences of violence through conversations and assist them with visits to authorities and offices (police, court, job centre, social services and youth welfare office). If the women affected by violence wish, they can put them in touch with legal representation. Children are usually also affected by relationship violence and are often traumatised. Women's shelters therefore offer separate support services for them.

Specialist counselling centres for women affected by violence: They offer comprehensive advice. The staff at the specialist counselling centres provide women affected by violence with confidential, unbureaucratic and rapid assistance. They advise and support them with regard to their rights – including custody of their children – and options for protection. They establish contact with authorities and other support services and also accompany women affected by violence there.

Intervention centres: Intervention centres contact women affected by violence unsolicited after they have called the police because of domestic violence. They provide information about legal options (e.g. filing an application under the Protection Against Violence Act) and work with the woman concerned to draw up a protection and safety plan. In doing so, they work closely with other institutions such as the police, the judiciary and other victim protection organisations such as women's shelters, women's emergency hotlines and child protection organisations.

Women's emergency hotlines: These offer advice and support to women affected by sexual violence. They advise on therapy options, explain legal options and provide practical support, for example in finding financial assistance. Women's emergency hotlines offer both one-off counselling sessions and longer counselling sequences and support, e.g. for medical examinations. In longer counselling sessions, the counsellors work very closely with the therapeutic
boundary.

7. North Rhine-Westphalia

The low-threshold availability of a wide range of services in one place is intended to significantly reduce the burden and increase safety in the process of seeking help for women affected by violence. The state government of North Rhine-Westphalia therefore expressly welcomes such services. Even if the following contact points do not correspond to the one-stop-shop concept in the narrow sense, they do combine several support services under one roof:

- **Frauen helfen Frauen EN e.V. offers broad support with GESINE Intervention.** With its women's shelter, women's counselling service, GESINE health network and programme for violent men, the association has created a broad infrastructure for the individual support and protection of women and their children.
- Back in 2009, a new building was constructed in Unna, bringing together the women's shelter, the women's and girls' counselling centre, housing assistance for homeless women, administration and management under one roof.

The Frauenforum im Kreis Unna e.V. (Women's Forum in the District of Unna) thus received a shared location with a new address.

- In addition to the women's shelter and women's counselling service, the Hexenhaus Espelkamp offers many low-threshold services for families, men, couples and affected children. A qualified team of experienced professionals specialising in various fields offers those seeking advice information, support and concrete help when it comes to improving personal circumstances in emergency situations, crises and conflicts.

With regard to the counselling centres referred to in Article 7, Question 3 (p. 30), this is not the case. The
advice centres are in close contact with support structures such as women's shelters and police headquarters, but do not offer a one-stop-shop concept.

8. Berlin

Under the auspices of Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, the Childhood House Berlin was established in 2020, modelled on the Scandinavian "Barnahus". It is financed by grants from the Senate Administrations for Justice and Consumer Protection and Education, Youth and Family Affairs. The Childhood House Berlin is a central component of the Berlin Network for Child Protection and Early Intervention.

The Childhood House is an interdisciplinary and transprofessional centre of excellence for minors affected by sexual violence and/or abuse and sexual exploitation. In addition to providing the necessary medical care, the main focus is on securing the child's testimony in criminal investigations, taking into account the best interests of the victim as far as possible. The aim is to prevent avoidable delays in proceedings through well-coordinated cooperation between those involved, to avoid any (re)traumatisation and to make the proceedings as child-friendly, gentle and efficient as possible.

At Childhood House Berlin, all statements made in the context of criminal investigations, medical examinations, therapeutic care and, if necessary, social-educational support can therefore be provided in one place. Childhood House's implementation concept combines the guiding principles for child-friendly justice formulated by the Council of Europe, which are closely correlated with the implementation of the
Convention on the Rights of the Child.

9. Brandenburg

Individual protection and support services in Brandenburg offer services that correspond to the one-stop-shop approach. Some women's shelters, such as the Potsdam Women's Centre, combine shelter with counselling and additional services such as advice for family members and projects for girls and young women. However, there is no nationwide, fully integrated one-stop-shop system in Brandenburg.

Article 20: General support services

18. Please provide information on the programmes and measures aimed at ensuring the recovery of victims of violence through general services, including in the areas of health and social services, financial support, education and training, assistance in finding employment and finding affordable and permanent accommodation.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Rhineland-Palatinate

1. Hamburg

From 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024, the Hamburg Social Welfare Authority is funding the project "BIG! Professional integration of victims of violence", which is aimed at adults who have been victims of domestic, family or sexual violence and forced marriage. The aim is professional (re)integration into training and employment.

The Vivienda project seeks apartments for women in Hamburg – especially those with children – who have found refuge in women's shelters and safe houses in Hamburg. The project has been running since 2014. [149]

LSBTI* (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex) people who live in public accommodation in Hamburg and are exposed to danger there. The Abrigo project has been implemented on behalf of the social welfare authority since 2016. [150]

For health, see answer to 11, p. 128.

2. Hesse

In order to relieve the burden on women's shelters in Hesse and reduce the length of stay for women, the state of Hesse has been running the model project "Wohnen nach dem Frauenhaus" (Living after the women's shelter) since 2022. The project is a cooperation between the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Housing and the housing association Nassauische Heimstätte. The latter had committed itself to providing apartments for women and their children after their stay in the women's shelter.
The project was made permanent in 2023 so that other housing associations could also participate.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

For victims of violent crimes, the Fourteenth Book of the Social Code (SGB XIV), which came into full force on 1 January 2024, regulates social compensation nationwide. According to this, victims of violent crimes may also be entitled to social compensation benefits due to the recognised health and economic consequences of damage to their health that can be traced back to a harmful event. Social compensation benefits include:

- Medical treatment benefits,
- benefits for participation (including in working life and education),
- benefits for those in need of care,
- benefits for blindness,
- Compensation payments,
- Compensation for occupational injury,
- Special benefits in individual cases,
- Benefits to compensate for hardship cases and
- Case management benefits and Benefits in a trauma outpatient clinic

The trauma outpatient clinic provides rapid and unbureaucratic psychotherapeutic support. The aim of trauma outpatient clinics[151] is to prevent the onset and chronicity of mental health disorders as early as possible through therapeutic support. An application for this can be made after the second session at the trauma outpatient clinic
. Eligible adults are entitled to 15 sessions, eligible

[148] https://www.verikom.de/gewaltschutz/big-berufliche-integration-von-gewaltbetroffenen/
[149] https://www.lawaetz-ggmbh.de/projekte/vivienda/
[150] https://www.lawaetz-ggmbh.de/projekte/lsbti-gefluechtete/
[151] Rapid assistance – LAGuS

Children and young people are entitled to up to 18 sessions.

4. Schleswig-Holstein

"Frauen_Wohnen" project

The state government has been funding the "Frauen_Wohnen" project since November 2017. The aim of this project is to find women from women's shelters or women's counselling centres their own accommodation. Funding volume in 2025: around €893,000.

Guidelines for the protection of women affected by violence

The guidelines referred to in the response under Art. 7 No. 1 also stipulate that recovery processes should not be affected by circumstances relating to residence rights as far as possible. In particular, they refer to corresponding rights of residence. Conversely, the guidelines also contain provisions to ensure that the experience of violence does not jeopardise women's right of residence and that women are given adequate time for (medical, economic and social) "regeneration". The immigration authorities also provide advice in this regard.

Central contact point for victims of crime and their relatives

The central contact point for victims of crime and their relatives provides advice and mediation services, enabling quick and easy access to existing support options. It answers questions about victims' rights and the general course of investigations and criminal proceedings, regardless of the proceedings involved, and refers victims to victim support organisations, psychosocial support workers and
contact persons on the subject of victim compensation.

5. Thuringia

In the area of justice, efforts have been made to make it easier to access psychosocial support during legal proceedings. For information on psychosocial trial support in general, please refer to the First Grevio State Report of the Federal Republic of Germany 2020 (IV. B., p. 31). In Thuringia, the coordination office for psychosocial trial support at the social services in the judiciary at the Thuringian Higher Regional Court began operations on 1 December 2023. The coordination office is intended to provide assistance to victims who are eligible for psychosocial support during legal proceedings in as straightforward a manner as possible. It provides information on psychosocial support during legal proceedings, arranges for an accompanying person if necessary, and helps victims navigate the further proceedings. It also provides information on other services available in the Thuringian support system (e.g. counselling centres).

There are 10 trauma clinics in Thuringia that provide immediate psychosocial support.

6. Bavaria

The model funding of second-stage projects was converted into regular funding from 2023 onwards. The second-stage projects are intended to support women who no longer need the special protection of a women's shelter in finding suitable and affordable
apartment and establish an independent livelihood for themselves and their children in a new living environment.

7. Lower Saxony

Lower Saxony has a close-knit and well-functioning network of support services for women and children affected by violence. This includes 46 women's shelters, a well-established system of 47 violence counselling centres, 29 counselling and intervention centres and many important accompanying projects such as the procedure-independent preservation of evidence[153] and

[152] "Frauen_Wohnen" project: https://www.paritaet-sh.org/projekte/frauen_wohnen.html
[153] www.probeweis.de

the language mediation project for women.[154] These are all important building blocks for providing long-term support to women affected by violence.

In addition, the Lower Saxony Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Health and Equality maintains a network of counselling centres in the field of violence against children and young people, which advise and support children and young people.

Insofar as young people affected by violence or young adults receive educational assistance pursuant to Sections 27 ff and 41 of SGB VIII due to educational needs, the assistance covers the necessary maintenance outside the parental home, which includes the costs of material expenses, including accommodation, as well as the care and education of the young person and medical assistance. The provision of residential educational assistance ensures that the young people are provided with accommodation. Young adults are entitled to appropriate and necessary assistance under Section 41 of SGB VIII if and as long as their personal development does not guarantee a certain level of independent and self-reliant living. If the assistance is not to be continued or is to be terminated, the youth welfare office shall, one year before the date specified in the assistance plan, examine whether, in view of the young person's needs, a transfer of responsibility to other social service providers is to be considered. The youth welfare office must examine whether the termination of assistance will jeopardise the young person's further personal development, i.e. whether negative consequences for their development are to be expected. In doing so, it must take into account, among other things, the housing situation. If necessary, youth welfare agencies offer active support in the transition to secure and independent living arrangements. Under Section 41a of SGB VIII, young adults are also entitled to receive advice and support within a reasonable period of time after the termination of assistance in becoming independent, to the extent necessary and in a form that is understandable, comprehensible and perceptible to them.

In cases where violent living conditions are linked to social difficulties that women cannot overcome on their own, Sections 67 ff. of SGB XII provide for assistance from the social welfare agency to overcome this situation. In Lower Saxony, compliance with this legal entitlement is ensured by public law contracts between the social welfare agency and a suitable service provider, who must then provide appropriate professional support to women entitled to benefits in individual cases. The legal framework is determined by a state framework agreement. This agreement explicitly names women as a particularly vulnerable target group. Service providers must have appropriate violence protection concepts in place and implement them. Lower Saxony is endeavouring to further promote services specifically for women.

The Lower Saxony Victim Support Foundation offers special services for victims of crime and their relatives. The Lower Saxony Victim Support Foundation maintains 11 victim support offices throughout the federal state (plus a branch office in Lingen), where specially qualified social workers provide counselling services. The regional victim support offices offer psychosocial counselling and support by, among other things, accompanying victims to criminal court hearings, providing crisis intervention and, if necessary, arranging further assistance, such as trauma counselling. The consultations are confidential and can also be conducted anonymously if desired. Online counselling is also offered. Victim support offices can also be used to apply for financial assistance beyond the statutory benefits and the assistance provided by other victim support organisations. The prerequisite for the approval of financial assistance is that the underlying crime was committed in Lower Saxony or that the applicant had their habitual residence in Germany at the time of the crime and at the time of approval of the
Assistance is provided to persons who are habitually resident in Lower Saxony. There is no legal entitlement to such assistance. The Victim Assistance Foundation also offers psychosocial support during legal proceedings.

[154] www.worte-helfen-frauen.de.

Psychosocial support during legal proceedings has been available in Lower Saxony since 2013. Psychosocial support during legal proceedings is a particularly comprehensive form of support for victims of crime who are in particular need of protection. In Lower Saxony, this service is provided free of charge and on the basis of state-wide quality standards for all victims of crime, regardless of the offence and age, beyond the federal legal entitlement in the Code of Criminal Procedure. This means that this form of assistance is also regularly used in cases of domestic violence. During the reporting period, approximately 54 psychosocial trial support workers were active in Lower Saxony. A coordinating office in the Lower Saxony Ministry of Justice is responsible for training, networking and quality assurance, and also acts as a clearing house for those seeking help. The employees of the Lower Saxony Victim Support Foundation and the psychosocial trial companions are represented at regional level in numerous working groups, round tables and other committees, thereby contributing to further improvements in support and coordination between local actors. In particular, there is already good cooperation at the municipal level in networks dealing with domestic violence and coordination in so-called high-risk cases.

The Victim Protection Unit, which is part of the State Prevention Council, aims to implement the victims' rights enshrined in European law and to provide "access to justice" for all victims of crime and their relatives. To this end, the Victim Protection Unit has set up a state-wide website, Victim Protection Lower Saxony (opferschutz-niedersachsen.de). On this website, victims, their relatives and affected third parties can obtain information about the rights of those affected and about local support services in Lower Saxony.

The Lower Saxony State Commissioner for Victim Protection is an advocate for successful victim protection in Lower Saxony and campaigns for the interests of those affected by crime. Together with his office, which is affiliated with the Lower Saxony Ministry of Justice, he is primarily a central point of contact for all victims of crime and their loved ones. The first step is to find out what help is needed so that those affected can then be referred to appropriate support systems – whether for psychological stabilisation or financial assistance – as part of the pilot function. The State Commissioner and his office also support those affected by so-called crime-related major incidents (e.g. terrorist attacks or rampages).

As part of the on-site operation, women are assisted in finding accommodation in women's shelters or referred to suitable (victim) support facilities.

8. North Rhine-Westphalia

Support infrastructure for women affected by violence

The 62 general women's counselling centres funded by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia focus on providing concrete assistance in all forms of violence against women through acute crisis intervention, individual or group psychosocial counselling, and accompaniment to doctors, the police, courts and other institutions. The specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence funded by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia offer concrete help to women and girls who have experienced sexualised violence, in the form of acute crisis intervention, psychosocial counselling, and accompaniment to doctors, the police, courts and other institutions. If a need arises that goes beyond the counselling and support services offered, the staff of the above-mentioned counselling centres refer the women concerned to the appropriate specialist services, authorities or institutions.
counselling centres will refer the women concerned to the appropriate specialist services, authorities or institutions.

The federal regulations of SGB VIII stipulate that youth welfare offices are responsible as local agencies
responsible for youth welfare services to provide educational counselling facilities. The state of North Rhine-Westphalia supports this counselling structure by funding around 300 counselling centres

run by local authorities, welfare organisations and churches. The counselling centres consist of multi-professional teams and are points of contact for family problems, violence, neglect and abuse. They are also expressly available to girls, young women and their parents. They offer competent help themselves or arrange it in individual cases.

The girls' counselling centres in Bielefeld, Cologne, Gelsenkirchen and the counselling centre "femina vita" in Herford offer help exclusively for girls. For the majority of all counselling centres, prevention and public relations work are an essential part of their work.

State Government Commissioner for People with Disabilities and for Patients in North Rhine-Westphalia

A particular focus is on protecting women and girls with disabilities who are at increased risk of gender-based violence. In close cooperation with partner institutions, the State Government Commissioner for People with Disabilities is committed to ensuring that their perspectives are systematically taken into account – for example, in barrier-free access to protection and counselling services or through targeted awareness-raising measures.

The Commissioner for Victim Protection of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

The Victim Protection Commissioner of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia [155] and her team are responsible in particular for informing victims of crime and violence about their rights in general, guiding victims of crime and violence to existing victim support services, promoting cooperation between victim support services, networking, advising the Ministry of Justice on fundamental matters of victim protection and collaborating on the further development of judicial victim protection. The Victims' Commissioner has offices at the Higher Regional Courts of Cologne (since 2017) and Hamm (since 2023).

The Victims' Commissioner is, among other things, the central point of contact for victims of criminal or violent acts, including victims of violence against women and domestic violence. In daily practice, people who have been victims of a criminal or violent offence contact the team via a dedicated hotline, in writing or in a personal conversation with a wide range of concerns and questions about support or counselling options and/or legal issues, seeking the most immediate and comprehensive help possible. Relatives of those affected or network partners also contact this office with concerns and questions.

The provision of assistance with education, training and job searches is not within the remit of this office. The office cannot provide financial support. Victims are therefore informed about suitable foundations and funds, including the North Rhine-Westphalia Victim Protection Foundation and the Sexual Abuse Fund, and referred to them. If victims of violence against women and domestic violence are looking for affordable and permanent accommodation, the office is not responsible for finding them a place to live. However, the local office does provide support in finding a place in a women's shelter or similar facility.

North Rhine-Westphalia Victim Protection Portal[156]

In September 2020, the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia, under the leadership of the Department of Equality, launched a joint victim protection portal. The portal offers victims of violence, their relatives and interested parties quick help and provides target group- or topic-specific to protection and support services such as women's shelters, Counselling centres, trauma clinics and much more. In addition, advice and

[155] https://recht.nrw.de/lmi/owa/br_bes_text?anw_nr=2&bes_id=48650
[156] www.opferschutzportal.nrw

Those affected and their relatives seeking help are referred to a suitable service in their area using a radius search and forwarded to the relevant authorities.

The North Rhine-Westphalia Victim Protection Portal website also provides information and materials from all state authorities on relevant topics such as anonymous evidence collection, cybercrime, genital mutilation, domestic violence, bullying, violence in care or forced marriage. In addition to German, it is available in English, French, Turkish, Arabic, Ukrainian and Russian. In April 2022, a disguised app for the NRW Victim Protection Portal was released. It contains various information from the portal, such as emergency numbers and counselling services. The app can be "hidden" on the smartphone using various disguises.
smartphone.

9. Bremen

The Social Code XIV (social compensation) regulates the entitlements of victims of violent crimes. Victims have access to case management and are entitled to treatment in a trauma outpatient clinic.

People who have been victims of violence and develop a mental illness can find help in social psychiatric treatment centres, from registered psychotherapists and in the semi-inpatient and inpatient psychiatric, psychotherapeutic and psychosomatic treatment services offered by hospitals in the state of Bremen.

The Ameos Clinic in Bremen is the only hospital in the state of Bremen to offer specific treatment for people with trauma-related disorders, and the Reinkenheide Clinic in Bremerhaven is in the process of setting up a similar service. However, this service is aimed at victims of violence of all genders; there is no known specific service for women.

The requirements for a violence prevention concept in the state of Bremen describe a number of measures that serve to aid the recovery and support of those affected:

- Counselling by violence protection officers, at least once a week as a confidential service
- Supervision, case consultation and support programmes for employees to reduce occupational stress and thereby reduce the potential for aggression
- Networking with counselling centres, clinics and other institutions, which creates interdisciplinarity.
- Evaluation of measures, including through user surveys, in order to respond to the needs of those affected

10. Saarland

(1) Pilot project "Second Stage"

In 2023, AWO Saarland launched the "Second Stage" pilot project with financial support from the state. The aim of the model project is to support women's shelter residents towards the end of their stay as they become independent and transition to their own homes. In the process of breaking away from violent relationship patterns, the women receive intensive support to help them return to a self-determined everyday life.

The Second Stage concept is being expanded in terms of both content and personnel at all women's shelter locations in Saarland. Once it has been successfully implemented, the measure will be continued and further developed. Staffing capacities will be expanded as needed and the concept will be expanded to include specific content that meets the individual needs of those affected (e.g. promoting career prospects or solving
practical life issues).

One proposal for implementation is the establishment of a coaching project for (very) young women's shelter residents. The focus is particularly on school education and career orientation in order to offer targeted support to the growing target group of young women in women's shelters.

(2) Amendment to the Saarland Hospital Act 2025

In 2025, the Saarland Hospital Act was amended, extending, among other things, the provisions relating to patient advocates. Previously, these individuals had to be appointed in every hospital and represent the interests of patients vis-à-vis the hospital. They are required to review suggestions, requests and complaints from patients and, with their consent, contact hospital management, other institutions and authorities. They thus serve as important points of contact for victims of violence and can provide support during their recovery.

The amendment gives patients the opportunity to designate a close person to the hospital who will henceforth enjoy the same rights to information and participation as the patient. These provisions serve in particular to protect victims of violence, as they are often physically or psychologically unable to represent their interests without assistance.

In addition, a regulation was issued in 2024 to regulate the content, minimum standards and procedures of protection concepts and error reporting systems in Saarland hospitals in accordance with Section 5a of the Saarland Hospital Act. The aim of the regulation is to create equivalent protection standards for patients, hospital staff and other persons staying in a hospital. To protect against boundary-violating behaviour such as sexual assault and other forms of assault, violence, abuse and discrimination, every hospital is obliged to develop and implement a protection concept. The regulation contains comprehensive minimum requirements in this regard (e.g. prevention, intervention, review, further development) and also makes recommendations.

In addition, every hospital must maintain an error reporting system and the reports received must be evaluated at least once a quarter. The error reporting systems serve to report safety-related incidents within the framework of the
Recording patient care in order to learn from these events.

11. Berlin

General support services are often essential for public services. Smooth processes and low-threshold access can make a significant contribution to effective protection against violence. The State Action Plan for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Berlin therefore provides for the analysis of the processes and structure of the official actions of general support services in relation to women affected by violence and the development of guidelines tailored to the respective support service (Chapter 5.2.1 of the LAP, Measures 18 and 19).

In addition to the 2020 supplement to the baseline report, the following is reported:

The social services department of the State Office for Refugee Affairs offers support on the issue of violence against women, usually in cooperation with specialised support services or the health system:

- The social services department offers psychological/psychiatric support through the PEV (Psychosocial Initial Diagnosis and Referral Centre at the Centre for Transcultural Psychiatry (ZtP)), which in turn can offer further treatment and/or therapy options. Referrals are also made to specialist counselling centres.
- In the case of FGM/C , attempts are made to centres for sexual health, Balance registered association,

gynaecologists, Berlin Coordination Office FGM/C, Desert Flower Centre, should be consulted – especially in the case of pregnant victims.

- In cases of human trafficking and forced prostitution, cooperation with specialised services is provided.
- In acute cases involving injuries, the women are taken to an emergency centre or a violence protection clinic.
- The State Office for Refugee Affairs (LAF) attempts to place women who have experienced violence and are in an acute threat situation and urgently need protection in women's shelters or protected accommodation.

Emergency housing assistance services are aimed at people who are at risk of homelessness or are already homeless. Although emergency housing assistance is not primarily intended to protect women from violence, homeless women* are particularly vulnerable to violence or affected by it, which is why emergency housing assistance is an integral part of low-threshold violence protection for women*. Protecting women* from violence primarily means providing women with low-threshold access to needs-based counselling and/or accommodation services. In addition to specific counselling structures that are explicitly and exclusively aimed at women*, there are also other low-threshold services exclusively for women* that are embedded in a well-networked care structure for this target group.

For health services, see the 2020 supplement to the Basic Report (including the Berlin Round Table on Health Care in Cases of Domestic and Sexual Violence).
as well as the answer to the following question 19 (p. 209); for the area of integration assistance
see question 23 (p. 232).

12. Baden-Württemberg

The state government of Baden-Württemberg supports second-stage projects following a stay in a women's and children's shelter. These projects provide intensive care and support to those affected after a stay in a women's shelter, helping them to build an independent life. This provides women who are intersectionally affected and have a greater need for support (due to language deficiencies, single parents with many children) receive individual and direct support and assistance. An example of the measure: in 2024, funding was provided for 14 locations and a total of
539,331 euros was provided.

In addition, together with funds from the European Social Fund, projects are being supported in which people who have experienced violence and prostitutes can develop a career
careers.

13. Brandenburg

The Federal State of Brandenburg supports the creation and maintenance of permanently affordable housing for the benefit of low-income households and households that find it difficult to provide themselves with housing on the housing market (see target groups § 2 BbgWoFG). As part of social rental housing promotion, rent and occupancy commitments are agreed in favour of the authorities responsible for housing (usually the housing authorities). In their regional responsibilities, these authorities therefore have the opportunity to control the allocation of housing via a right of appointment or occupancy and to meet special needs accordingly. This
means that the responsible authorities in the municipalities are the point of contact when looking for affordable and permanent accommodation.

Specific questions on public health:

19. Have specific measures been taken to ensure that public health services (hospitals, health centres, others) address the

safety and medical needs of women and girls who are victims of all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention?

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Bavaria, Lower Saxony (reference question 20, p. 212), North Rhine-Westphalia

1. Hamburg

At the University Medical Centre Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE), the Institute of Legal Medicine (IfR) runs the outpatient clinic for adults affected by violence and the Childhood House Hamburg as a centre of excellence for child protection. These facilities offer low-threshold, confidential and, if desired, anonymous forensic documentation of injuries and evidence collection. The IfR has a high level of expertise and meets the quality requirements necessary for subsequent civil or criminal proceedings. All central emergency rooms and children's clinics in Hamburg are informed about these services, and the IfR's information materials are available there. After emergency care, they refer patients to the UKE's 24-hour outpatient clinics for prompt scheduling of an appointment. The UKE's teams of doctors carry out examinations in accordance with specialist medical standards and the recommendations of the German Society for Legal Medicine and the Istanbul Convention. At the UKE, a set of working instructions entitled "Dealing with sexual offences" developed jointly by the Clinic for Gynaecology, the Institute of Legal Medicine and the Central Emergency Room (ZNA) is authoritative. These were updated in May 2023, among other things. In addition, Hamburg's planned hospitals have internal procedural instructions or guidelines for dealing with rape victims. These are binding for staff. There is also cross-institutional cooperation with the UKE's forensic medicine department. Victims are always referred for the legally secure preservation of evidence.

All Hamburg hospitals with a specialist psychiatric department, including closed acute wards, now have protection concepts for the prevention of and assistance with abuse and violence in accordance with the guidelines of the Joint Federal Committee on Quality Management. In addition, a "Guide to the creation of protection concepts for the prevention, detection and intervention of sexual, physical and psychological violence and boundary violations in healthcare facilities for children and adolescents" was drawn up at state level and published in November 2023.

As part of the reform of the Youth Protection Act in 2021, Section 4 of the Act on Cooperation and Information in Child Protection (KKG) was amended, among other things, to improve the protection
of girls (and other minors) through counselling and the transmission of information by persons bound to secrecy in cases where the welfare of children is at risk.

2. Hesse

The Fulda Protection Clinic has been part of the public health service in the Fulda district for over ten years. It enables legally admissible documentation of simple physical injuries and professional evidence collection without the need to file a criminal complaint. In cases of rape, it provides support with specialist medical examinations. It also provides case management for victims of violence. This means that the Fulda Protection Clinic facilitates access to medical care, provides information on suitable counselling and protection facilities, assists in contacting them and, if necessary, makes appointments. It
also offers proactive counselling, for example for victims of violence whose mobility

is limited.[157]

Emergency medical assistance after rape is an approach that is being implemented at several clinics in Hesse and is to be established at others. This model offers women and men the opportunity to receive specialist medical care after a sexual assault, usually in a clinic. The medical examination and care can be combined with legally admissible documentation and preservation of evidence, again without the need to report the incident to the police. Cooperation between the examining hospital and local counselling centres helps to ensure that rape victims feel encouraged to seek psychosocial support and, if necessary, trauma therapy after receiving medical care. The evidence is then stored securely by one of the two Hessian Institutes of Legal Medicine
i.e. stored for later use in court proceedings and, if necessary, examined by them. Storage is currently limited to one year.

The Giessen Forensic Council (FoKoGi) is based at the Institute of Legal Medicine at the Giessen-Marburg University Hospital and, through cooperation agreements with other clinics, ensures legally admissible medical documentation and evidence preservation at several locations. The FoKoGi has its own examination rooms and also conducts outreach work; it is often consulted by hospital staff. It is also a cooperation partner of the "Medical
emergency assistance after rape". FoKoGi also facilitates contact with suitable counselling and protection facilities.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Relevant information for doctors and healthcare professionals can be found
in the guide for medical practice on healthcare for adult victims of domestic and sexual violence in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

4. Saxony-Anhalt

As part of the introduction of Section 137k of the German Social Code, Book V (SGB V), an agreement was concluded with the statutory health insurance providers, the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Halle and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Equality of the State of Saxony-Anhalt on the provision of confidential evidence collection services. This regulates the billing of services and the expansion of the offer to up to 10 additional hospitals across the region. This regulates the procedure-independent preservation of evidence after (sexual) violence between the contracting parties and ensures that victims of violence receive care after an incident, even if no report is filed.

5. Thuringia

Further training in the public health sector to raise awareness, e.g. of domestic violence or violence during pregnancy.

6. Rhineland-Palatinate

Reference is made to the comments on the model project "Emergency medical assistance after rape" in the first state report of the Federal Republic of Germany 2020 (Appendix, p. 174 f.), which also existed in Rhineland-Palatinate (Appendix, p. 40). On 28 January 2025, the follow-up project "Confidential help after violence" was launched, which is to be extended to 12 hospital locations. This service includes confidential medical care,
confidential, court-admissible evidence collection at the request of the victims, and subsequent psychosocial counselling and support in cases of sexualised and now

[157] https://www.landkreis-fulda.de/buergerservice/gesundheit/hilfe-fuer-opfer-von-gewalt/die-schutzambulanz
[158] https://www.soforthilfe-nach-vergewaltigung.de/
[159] http://www.fokogi.de/

other domestic violence. Men can also take advantage of this service. It is free of charge for those affected. The Institute of Legal Medicine at Mainz University Medical Centre has developed a new concept consisting of a comprehensive examination and evidence collection form and a corresponding kit.

7. Bremen

There are no overarching regional standardised protocols for the entire healthcare system to address the needs of women and girls who are victims of violence.

The documentation and evidence collection following domestic and sexual violence in the violence protection clinic and the child protection clinic are based on the recommendations of the German Society for Legal Medicine and thus correspond exactly to the expert reports that are also prepared on behalf of the investigating authorities. DNA evidence after sexual offences is collected using an evidence collection kit with a standardised medical report; after domestic violence, a free-text documentation is prepared following the forensic medical examination. In the future, documentation after domestic violence will be carried out in the cooperating clinics by trained doctors using standardised documentation forms. The violence protection clinic does not document FGM/C. In such cases, patients are referred to pro familia's list of doctors, which includes specialists in this field. The staff at the cooperating clinics and central emergency rooms are trained in dealing with victims of violence and are sensitised to the issue.

The violence protection clinic also has a case management service that refers affected individuals and children to appropriate support services within the help and support system. The violence protection clinic team is represented in all relevant committees on violence protection.

8. Saarland

Further training for medical professionals

As part of its confidential evidence collection support, the women's emergency hotline conducts regular training courses for medical professionals. In addition, a certificate course for doctors was developed in 2021 to teach them the skills required to carry out confidential evidence collection. The course familiarises medical professionals with the documentation form for sexual violence.
The form is accessible to them in their everyday work and assists with documentation.

9. Berlin

To date, there are no medical guidelines in Germany for the care of victims of domestic or sexual violence.

To implement the evidence-based guidelines of the World Health Organisation (2013) in Berlin, the Berlin Round Table – Healthcare for Domestic and Sexual Violence was established under the chairmanship of the Senator for Health (https://rtb-gesundheit.de/ueber-uns; see also 2020 supplement). The members of the RTB have developed recommendations/guidelines for action in the following areas of care: Berlin Fire Brigade emergency services, central emergency rooms, general medicine, obstetrics, dentistry, pharmacies, victims with children, and pregnancy (conflict) counselling centres. The recommendations provide employees with targeted support on how to proceed in cases of (signs of) domestic/sexual violence. All recommendations are based on WHO guidelines. [161] The recommendations are disseminated by members of the RTB and the administrative office , supported by training courses, and are to be anchored in quality management in the future.

[160] https://mffki.rlp.de/themen/frauen/gewalt-gegen-frauen-und-maedchen/vertrauliche-hilfe-nach-gewalt
[161] https://rtb-gesundheit.de/

The coordination and intervention centre of S.I.G.N.A.L. e.V. offers Berlin hospitals with central emergency rooms support in providing binding and standardised round-the-clock care for victims of domestic and sexual violence, known as the *violence protection team model*. Since 2016, the hospital plan of the State of Berlin has stipulated that hospitals providing emergency care must have structures and concepts in place for the care of victims. With a cooperation agreement, hospitals can draw on the support, expertise and experience of the Coordination and Intervention Unit, receive specific training and ongoing support for their violence protection team. There are currently six hospitals with violence protection teams and three more hospitals in the process of initiating cooperation.

The State Hospital Act will be amended as necessary to ensure that the special needs of victims of violence are taken into account in clinical care and that links are established with existing support systems. To this end, the specialist unit responsible for the needs of victims of violence in clinical care and networking with existing support systems will, if a need for regulation is perceived, formulate a proposal based on practical experience, which, after review, will result in a proposed amendment to the State Hospital Act, which will then be adopted through the
Currently, the health administration does not see any need for additions.

10. Baden-Württemberg

Since March 2020, persons with statutory health insurance have been entitled to benefits from health insurance funds for confidential evidence collection, i.e. the collection, documentation and legally admissible preservation of evidence, see Section 27 (1) sentence 6 SGB
V. This entitlement is guaranteed by a tripartite agreement between the respective federal state, the health insurance funds and the service providers. In Baden-Württemberg, agreements are in place with three emergency rooms at the institutes of forensic medicine at the university hospitals in Heidelberg, Freiburg and Ulm. The agreements also regulate standards and procedures. For example, it is stipulated that the emergency room must be headed by a specialist in forensic medicine in order to ensure the professional quality of evidence collection. The facilities are obliged to ensure that the services they provide comply with the recognised state of the art in science and forensic medicine. Evidence collection is also pseudonymised, which means that when billing health insurance companies for evidence collection, no data is exchanged that could lead to the identification of the victim. The services are networked with youth welfare offices and support organisations. Confidential evidence collection is also available to people who are not covered by statutory health insurance. In these cases, the costs are covered by state subsidies. Here, too, the victims' data remains confidential. All persons who have been victims of violence can make use of the service, regardless of age, origin or gender. The service is currently being gradually expanded. In addition to the violence clinics at university hospitals, partner hospitals will also offer confidential evidence collection in the future in order to
to ensure comprehensive coverage.

11. Brandenburg

- Confidential forensic evidence service as an offer in public health services (13 hospitals in BB)
- Standardised, court-usable procedure for securing trace, aligned with the current police standard - no mandatory police report as a prerequisite for accessing immediate assistance
- Maintaining confidentiality, but not anonymity of those affected, as otherwise the secured material could not be attributed in the event of criminal prosecution
- Victims have control over the process and their decisions

- Training of professionals (doctors, police, etc.)

20. Are such protocols used to describe the procedure in detail for:

a. Identifying victims through screening;

b. Ensuring that all medical needs of victims are treated in a supportive manner

c. collecting forensic evidence and documentation;

d. ensure that a clear message of support is conveyed to the victim;

e. refer to the appropriate specialist support services that are part of a multi-agency cooperation structure; and

f. identify children who may be/have been exposed to domestic violence or other forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and who therefore need additional support.

Contributions: Hamburg, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, Berlin, Brandenburg

FA: Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Hesse (reference to question 19, p. 207), Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (reference to question 19, p. 208), Thuringia (reference to question 19, p. 208), Bremen
(reference to question 19, p. 209), Baden-Württemberg (reference to question 19, p. 210)

1. Hamburg re

a)

The University Medical Centre Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE) understands this to mean the recognition of forms of violence.
To this end, regular training events are organised for doctors working in the emergency department.

Re b), c), d) and e)

This is implemented in a standardised manner at the UKE and Childhood House.

Re f)

This is asked as a standard question during the UKE's medical history interview. See also the AWMF's child protection guidelines.

2. Saxony-Anhalt

As part of the confidential evidence collection project, it is currently possible to secure forensic evidence after a (sexual) offence at seven locations in Saxony-Anhalt. The evidence is stored anonymously and the person concerned is given the opportunity to report the offence retrospectively and to use this evidence in legal proceedings. In Saxony-Anhalt, the evidence obtained can be used for the duration of the statute of limitations for the respective offence. However, only those with statutory health insurance and members of the German Armed Forces can currently take advantage of this service. The possibility of private health insurance holders or persons receiving subsidies using this service is currently being examined by the Federal Ministry of Finance.

In addition to the collection and preservation of evidence, those affected can receive medical care on site, regardless of their insurance status. Furthermore
, the facilities are integrated into existing support networks and, if necessary, refer patients to

[162] https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/service/publikationen/details/kinderschutzleitlinie-kurzfassung.html.

to further support and protection facilities and affiliated psychiatric services. Participation in the network for confidential evidence collection and the associated
associated activities and public relations work, the outward message of support for those affected is conveyed.

3. Schleswig-Holstein

on a), b), c)

Confidential evidence collection

In Schleswig-Holstein, there is a confidential evidence collection service, the purpose of which is to secure forensic evidence and documentation in cases of domestic and/or sexual violence, regardless of whether criminal proceedings are initiated. The procedure for confidential evidence collection was developed by the Institute of Legal Medicine at the University Medical Centre Schleswig-Holstein, which also issues the examination kits (materials for evidence collection) including guidelines for the examination, thus ensuring a uniform standard of forensic medicine.

Re d) and e)

Referral by medical facilities to other support structures is not generally required by mandatory protocol. However, the kits that are used
contain information material on counselling and support services.

4. Lower Saxony

on a), b)

The ProBeweis network offers victims of domestic or sexual violence who are capable of giving consent documentation of injuries and evidence collection that can be used in court. Coordinated by the Institute of Legal Medicine MHH and funded by the MS since 2012, GKV financing in Lower Saxony since 1 January 2024.

Regarding c)

ProBeweis network: preservation of evidence in cases of sexual/physical violence with criminal charges (referral by the police for forensic examination in forensic medicine).

Re e)

ProBeweis network: 45 examination centres and 40 partner clinics, plus referral counselling via Nds. BISS, violence counselling centres and women's shelters.

The BISS, which work closely with the police and the judiciary, have proven to be particularly important and helpful thanks to their proactive work and have now been successfully implemented for many years. Not only are they the first point of contact for women who have been victims of domestic violence, but their proactive approach also reaches women who would otherwise not have sought help – or at least not at such an early stage. The BISS are a fundamental interface in the networking of support services and a central component of the police-BISS-court intervention chain. The BISS promote proactive, psychosocial initial counselling for women affected by domestic violence or stalking, prevention, networking and public relations work, and assistance for relatives and third parties. Each BISS is affiliated with a women's shelter or a violence counselling centre, preferably locally. They cover the area of the respective police station. The operators must submit written confirmation of their willingness to cooperate with the respective police station to the approving authority.

There are currently 46 women's shelters in Lower Saxony, providing 454 places for women affected by violence and up to 900 places for their children. There are also 47 violence counselling centres and 29 counselling and intervention centres with 19 branch offices that provide counselling to women affected by domestic violence.

Women affected by human trafficking can seek advice from one of the specialist counselling centres funded by the state of Lower Saxony

Lower Saxony (Kobra e.V. in Hanover, SOLWODI e.V. in Braunschweig and Osnabrück). The specialist counselling centres also have places in sheltered accommodation where victims of human trafficking can be housed.

Re f)

Youth welfare offices are responsible for providing legal protection in accordance with Section 8a of SGB VIII (Social Code Book VIII) if there are serious indications that the welfare of a child or young person is at risk. They must assess the risk of danger in collaboration with several specialists. Although witnessing domestic violence does not necessarily cause significant harm to the child or young person, it does generally constitute a
"Danger" to the mental well-being of the child or young person. Therefore, at least "strong indications of a risk to the well-being of a child or young person" must be assumed (Section 8a (1) sentence 1, Section 8a (4) sentence 1 SGB VIII, Section 4 (1) sentence 1 KKG). The specialists offer help and support aimed at eliminating or compensating for the identified parental deficit. The basis for the design of the assistance is the assistance plan to be drawn up (Section 36 SGB VIII). As part of the public administration, youth welfare offices are obliged, even without an explicit legal provision, to document all essential procedural actions (e.g. the assessment of the risk of danger) and relevant events (e.g. reports of danger received or behaviour or statements made by an affected person) in a complete, comprehensible, objective and truthful manner. This is based on the principle of the rule of law under Article 20(3) of the German Basic Law, as only proper record-keeping enables the courts to review the legality of administrative actions (see Vertrauensschutz im Kinderschutz [Protection of Trust in Child Protection] by Prof. Dr Christof Radewagen, 3rd revised and expanded edition, Guide for child and youth welfare professionals on answering data protection questions in cases of (suspected) child endangerment). Section 47 of SGB VIII regulates the reporting and documentation obligations of institutions requiring a licence.

The Lower Saxony Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Health and Equality maintains a forensic child protection clinic. It offers registered doctors, clinicians and doctors employed in the public health service – regardless of whether criminal charges have been filed – expert advice and qualified medical diagnostics in cases of suspected child abuse and sexual abuse. The aim of the project is to improve early detection in cases of suspected abuse and to provide expertise and specialist knowledge quickly, easily and without barriers.

In addition, two hospitals have medical child protection outpatient clinics which, in addition to inpatient care, also provide an outpatient setting for suspected cases of child abuse.

5. Rhineland-Palatinate

See the comments on question 19, p. 208. All relevant information is recorded in the investigation and evidence collection form. The evidence secured with the accompanying kit and any other evidence on clothing, etc. is stored at the Institute of Forensic Medicine and kept for up to five years. The documentation is kept for up to 30 years. The kit contains a flyer from the Ministry for Women with all the support services available to victims of violence. The participating clinics network with local women's support organisations and can refer victims to them if they wish. If a victim of violence requires medical care beyond immediate emergency treatment, she will be admitted to the clinic participating in the project.

A separate concept is being developed for affected children.

6. Saarland

a)-f) Yes – for the confidential collection of evidence

7. Berlin

The following information refers to the recommendations/guidelines for action developed within the framework of the RTB.

Re a)

Signs of violence are identified and example sentences are provided for addressing suspected cases.

Regarding c)

Documentation (and, if necessary, securing of evidence) should be offered to those affected as a matter of course and is part of initial care.

Re d)

Those affected should be made aware that they can receive support in the healthcare system and that they can raise the issue.

Re e)

All recommendations contain lists of addresses, and some of the specialist counselling centres are involved in the RTB.

Re f)

The supplementary recommendations on care for those affected with children address this issue and provide practical assistance.

8. Brandenburg re

d)

Contact is made at the partner clinic following the medical examination, in close cooperation with Opferhilfe Land Brandenburg e.V. (Victim Support Brandenburg).

Re e)

Verbal referral to victim support organisations, contact mediation on request

Re f)

The examinations carried out by the child and youth medical and dental services may reveal any risks to the child's welfare. Procedures for dealing with violence are described in the violence guidelines for Brandenburg.

21. Please provide information on the procedures applicable to the documentation and collection of forensic evidence from victims of domestic violence, victims of sexual violence, including rape, and victims of female genital mutilation by public health actors.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saarland, Berlin, Brandenburg

FA: Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (reference to question 19, p. 208), Saxony, Bavaria, Rhineland-Palatinate (reference to questions 19/20, pp. 208/213), Bremen, Baden-Württemberg (reference to question 19, p. 210)

1. Hamburg

See answer to 19, p. 207.

At the UKE, a standard operating procedure (SOP) was developed for outpatient examinations of living persons. persons with indications of injury documentation and adequate

evidence collection, including photographic documentation and sample preservation. For further information, see the AWMF Child Protection Guideline.

2. Hesse

Methodologically, the "Emergency Medical Care after Rape" approach ensures a systematic procedure during the medical examination and further care. The model is geared towards providing comprehensive care for victims of violence. The clinics cooperate with local specialist counselling centres so that individual support can also be provided after medical treatment. The documentation aid "Findings, securing evidence, care in cases of suspected sexual violence" is used to ensure that findings are legally admissible and evidence is secured. These guidelines are recommended by the German Society for Gynaecology and Obstetrics and the Working Group on Medical Law in their 2008 recommendations for action and were included in the 2012 quality manual of the German Medical Association and the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians. The precise, carefully structured medical history and findings form is supplemented by a scientifically developed and field-tested evidence collection kit, Spurensicherungsset, an deren Entwicklung sich das Hessische
State Criminal Police Office was involved.

3. Saxony-Anhalt

The forensic evidence obtained during the confidential collection of evidence is supplemented by the evidence collector's notes on the statements made by the person concerned. In addition to specific but voluntary information on the circumstances of the offence, etc., the evidence collector's subjective impressions are also documented and identified as such. The personal data collected and other case information are stored separately from the data obtained and anonymised in accordance with applicable
data protection regulations.

4. Schleswig-Holstein

Confidential evidence collection

As part of the confidential evidence collection process, a consent form must be signed. A structured documentation form including details of the crime and the person, photos, drawings, various swabs and toxicological samples is used to
the traces of injury are secured.

5. Thuringia

Introduction of confidential evidence collection in December 2024 in accordance with SGB V, which enables legally insured women to have evidence collected, documented and preserved in a manner that is admissible in court
traces of violence, which will be available for possible subsequent criminal proceedings.

6. Lower Saxony

In Lower Saxony, confidential, anonymous evidence collection has been carried out since 2012 via the ProBeweis network, which is affiliated with Hannover Medical School (MHH). As of 31 December 2024, the network has 40 partner clinics with 45 examination centres that examine victims of domestic violence and collect evidence using standardised procedures and standardised examination kits. The examination documents are stored centrally at the MHH for at least three years. All partner clinics must be available 24/7, have gynaecology and trauma surgery facilities, and receive regular training from the ProBeweis network. Since 1 January 2024, confidential evidence collection has been a service covered by statutory health insurance. Lower Saxony was the first federal state to conclude negotiations
and covers additional costs incurred for the examination of persons who are not insured or are privately insured.

7. North Rhine-Westphalia

Confidential evidence collection after violence (sexual violence as well as other forms of abuse) includes legally admissible documentation of the consequences of violence, securing evidence where necessary, and initial psychosocial counselling. Clinics that offer confidential evidence collection must meet certain minimum structural requirements (e.g. use of the iGOBSIS system, standardised documentation and legally compliant evidence collection, regular training, evidence transport and cooperation with forensic medicine).

Information about iGOBSIS: This is a web-based, easy-to-learn documentation system and information portal of the University Hospital Düsseldorf (financially supported by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia), which supports doctors in examining victims of violence, documenting injuries, securing evidence and referring them to the psychosocial support network. The system also offers 24-hour on-demand advice from forensic medicine specialists, enabling doctors to seek collegial advice on specific, case-related issues
.

8. Saarland

A standardised procedure has been developed for the confidential collection of evidence, which regulates its use for all target groups.

9. Berlin

The Charité's Violence Protection Clinic (GSA) is a project funded by the Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection. Adults who have been affected by domestic, interpersonal or sexual violence, or who have experienced violence while on duty, undergo forensic medical examinations. Children suspected of being abused or neglected are examined by forensic doctors on behalf of the institution. The injuries are documented in writing and with photographs. Affected adults also receive advice on further help and support services. Forensic medical history, physical examination, photo documentation and written documentation of findings are carried out both at the GSA and in mobile operations. After sexual violence – with or without a police report – the examination is carried out in a rendezvous procedure together with gynaecologists or surgeons in the central emergency rooms of the Charité hospital. In addition to the forensic medical history and photographic documentation, DNA evidence is also collected. The forensic medical examination is free of charge; medical measures are billed regularly through health insurance companies. This rendezvous system is only available during the GSA's business hours and has been suspended since mid-2023 due to the ongoing severe staff shortage, but is to be resumed as soon as possible once the staffing situation improves. In cases of genital mutilation, a forensic medical examination via the violence protection clinic is not provided, as these cases usually involve findings that require treatment or are already scarred. Before each examination, the identity of the person concerned is verified by means of an identity document, but no copy is made. In addition, written consent for the examination is obtained.

In Berlin, victims of domestic violence can also have their injuries documented by their treating physician, provided that the physician offers this service (e.g. central emergency room, general practitioner's office, gynaecologist). To assist with this, S.I.G.N.A.L. provides an interdisciplinary documentation form that has been tried and tested over many years, as well as recommendations for documentation that can be used in court. S.I.G.N.A.L. offers (in various languages) an overview of clinics that offer injury documentation[·]

See also answer to question 28.

10. Brandenburg

https://www.signal-intervention.de/informationen-fuer-patientinnen

- A specially trained team takes over medical care and trace evidence services in one of the (13) partner clinics
- Procedure: a detailed, standardised medical history form is completed
- Physical examination is carried out and possible injuries are documented (in writing and photographically)
- Special examination kits (e.g. for collecting DNA, hair, etc.) are used; depending on the case, clothing or bed linen is also preserved
- Urine and blood samples are taken if necessary
- all steps are carried out with the consent of the victim of violence and in a confidential manner
- (annex documentation of findings)

22. Can all women who have been victims of violence, regardless of any of the reasons listed in Article 4(3) of the Istanbul Convention, in particular women seeking asylum, refugee women, migrant women, women belonging to a national or ethnic minority, women with irregular residence status, women with disabilities and LBTI women, access existing health services on an equal basis? Please describe all measures taken to remove legal or practical barriers to their access to regular health services.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin

FA: Bavaria, Rhineland-Palatinate, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

1. Hamburg

Emergency treatment is available to everyone in Hamburg, regardless of their eligibility for benefits or residence status. This applies in particular to victims of violence: in acute medical emergencies, such as after sexual or domestic violence, care is provided regardless of health insurance, residence status or eligibility for benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act.

Hamburg hospitals are obliged to provide immediate medical treatment in emergencies – in accordance with Section 25 of the Residence Act and Section 6 of the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act. Women without regular residence status or without papers can also receive emergency care.

In addition, anonymous and free services such as confidential evidence collection (VSS) at the UKE also enable access to medical treatment without legal hurdles.

Other institutions in the field of health promotion and prevention funded by the responsible health authority are aimed at target groups without any preconditions, i.e. also at women affected by violence with the characteristics mentioned above. In accordance with service agreements, the institutions are obliged to prevent or eliminate discrimination in their work.
eliminate discrimination in their work. This also applies to how they address the target groups.

2. Hesse

The "Emergency medical assistance after rape" service offered by the Fulda protection clinic and the Giessen forensic council for confidential evidence collection can be used by all women free of charge, regardless of their origin, disability or insurance status
free of charge.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

An initial medical examination is carried out at the initial reception centre in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. Acute illnesses and pain are treated in accordance with the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act. As soon as there are indications of a mental illness, an appropriate examination by a specialist is sought. In the case of acute illnesses, emergency medical transfer to appropriate clinics is also provided.

In addition, services offered by psychosocial centres are also utilised. In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, four psychosocial counselling centres[164] in Schwerin, Greifswald, Rostock and Neubrandenburg offer low-threshold, short- and medium-term support to mentally distressed, traumatised refugees, regardless of gender, and may also take initial steps towards treatment within the regular medical system. These services are funded by the European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and co-financed by the state.

Access to these psychosocial counselling centres for those who have experienced violence and other trauma is aimed at third-country nationals; the exact target group is defined in accordance with Section 10 of the AMIF funding guidelines. There are no restrictions based on gender, nationality, ethnicity, disability or LGBTIQA+ community membership. The psychotherapeutic staff at these counselling centres are characterised by their transcultural competence and work continuously with language mediators to facilitate communication with clients. All women who have been victims of violence are eligible for social compensation benefits under SGB XIV, provided that the other
requirements are met.

4. Saxony

In principle, everyone has equal access to health services.

With specific regard to persons with disabilities, reference should be made to the implementation of Measure 59 of the State Government's Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This states: "The State Government shall work to ensure that medical care for persons with disabilities is provided in accordance with their needs and regional requirements." The current status of implementation of this measure is explained as follows: Ensuring that all persons with statutory health insurance have access to contracted medical care is the responsibility of the self-governing bodies, which means that the state government can only provide incentives or advocate for appropriate legal regulations at the federal level to ensure that medical care for people with disabilities is provided in line with needs and regional requirements. The programme "Barrier-free construction – favourite places for everyone", which is included in the funding guideline Investments Participation as an independent funding object, is one such incentive. It provides financial support for the expansion of accessibility in doctors' and dentists' practices. The Saxony Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians and the Saxony Association of Statutory Health Insurance Dentists, which are responsible for ensuring the provision of medical care by contracted physicians, both offer an online doctor search with information on the accessibility features of specific medical and dental practices to varying degrees.

With regard to LBTI women, there are no formal legal barriers to accessing health services. According to the study "Lebenslagen von lsbtiq* Personen in Sachsen" (Living conditions of lsbtiq* people in Saxony) (2022)
However, there are certainly informal practical barriers due to a lack of awareness and knowledge within the health system about the needs and realities of life for LBTI

[164] Rapid Assistance - LAGuS

women. This is particularly true for gynaecological care and care for trans and intersex women and non-binary women. Based on the state action plan for the acceptance of diversity in lifestyles, the Ministry of Health is in dialogue with queer self-advocacy associations and the Saxony State Medical Association to raise awareness among professionals in training and further education
exchange with queer self-advocacy associations and the Saxony State Medical Association. In addition, the state government has funded awareness-raising and educational projects on the needs of tin persons in healthcare.

5. Saxony-Anhalt

In order to identify legal and practical barriers to women with disabilities accessing health services, several expert discussions were held with key players in the health care system, such as the Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians and the Hospital Association of Saxony-Anhalt.

The aim was to raise awareness of the needs of various population groups and to identify existing barriers. In addition, a survey conducted by the Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians in Saxony-Anhalt also asked about needs and problems in providing the most comprehensive access possible to healthcare in order to better remove barriers in the future.

In Saxony-Anhalt, all women who have been victims of violence – regardless of their origin, residence status, disability, sexual identity or membership of a minority group – have the fundamental right to access existing health services on an equal basis. In order to facilitate access to medical and psychosocial care and to remove existing legal or practical barriers, supportive measures and structures such as SAIDA mobil are being promoted. In addition, links are being established with psychosocial centres such as the Psychosocial Centre for Migrants (PSZ) in Saxony-Anhalt, which is funded by the Ministry of Social Affairs and provides low-threshold services for
refugee and traumatised women.

6. Schleswig-Holstein

Residence status

Residence status generally has no influence on access to health systems in Germany. People without residence status usually have only limited access, e.g. in emergencies.

State Office for Immigration and Refugees

The use of health services by residents of state accommodation is governed by the Asylum Act (AsylBLG). The medical service, which is located in all state accommodation facilities, ensures non-discriminatory access to health services. The vulnerabilities of women are taken into account, and special attention is paid to the fact that multiple vulnerabilities can exist due to membership of several vulnerable groups, as is the case, for example, with women with disabilities or queer persons.

The medical service offers specialised services in all state accommodation facilities for the treatment and support of health problems related to vulnerability
, such as legally admissible documentation in cases of domestic, gender-based and sexual violence.

7. Thuringia

Asylum seekers receive an eGK for regular care. The interpreting programme of the state of Thuringia is also available for the health sector and covers 30+ languages.

8. Lower Saxony

Migration counselling offers women and, where applicable, their family members various forms of support.

In particular, women are informed about their rights in the Federal Republic of Germany and other support services and, if necessary, referred to specific regular services (e.g. women's counselling centres for migrants, women's shelters, self-help organisations).

Even uninsured persons have the opportunity to take advantage of the confidential evidence collection service, as the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Health and Equality covers the costs for persons who are not insured or are privately insured.

State Reception Authority (LAB NI)

For every person who is required to live in an initial reception centre, basic needs are regulated by the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act. Access to existing health services is equal for all.

Health services at LAB NI properties have been awarded to service providers through a tendering process. The service descriptions state that those entitled to services are the residents of LAB NI; there are no differences in content that affect certain groups of people, and every eligible person has the same access to health services. Each location (including branch offices (Ast) and emergency shelters (NUK)) has a medical station open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for low-threshold medical and non-medical care. In addition, medical care similar to that provided by a general practitioner is ensured during consultation hours. The doctors are free to practise their profession and are not subject to the instructions of LAB NI. The decision as to when further medical or dental treatment is required in addition to basic medical care is made by the doctors on their own responsibility.

As a general rule, if a person is entitled to full benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act (AsylbLG), the benefits must be provided in accordance with Sections 4 and 6 of the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act (AsylbLG). According to Section 4 AsylbLG, this includes benefits for the medical treatment of acute illnesses and pain, including the provision of necessary medication/dressings, as well as benefits for the recovery, improvement or alleviation of illnesses or the consequences of illnesses. The treatment required must be decided on a case-by-case basis from a medical point of view. According to Section 6 (1) AsylbLG, benefits may be granted if they are essential for safeguarding health.

Each location (or ASt/NUK) has a social service. The employees are contact persons for the needs of the residents and are sensitised to vulnerable persons. All social services staff support residents with any personal obstacles they may face in accessing medical services or receiving treatment. The social services department helps and supports residents by referring them to the Network for Traumatised Refugees in Lower Saxony (NTFN) e.V. or to specialist counselling centres (e.g. women's counselling centres).

In addition, the "Guideline on the Granting of Subsidies for the Promotion of Social Care and Counselling Measures for Residents of the Lower Saxony State Reception Authority" currently supports, among other things, projects by non-governmental actors that provide additional contact points for residents of the LAB NI. In addition to other projects, the following are currently being funded:

A decentralised psychological consultation service provided by NTFN e.V. at its Oldenburg location.

Cross-location counselling by "baobab – zusammen sein e.V." with a focus on African countries of origin and support/accompaniment for women and girls who are affected by or at risk of female genital mutilation.

A counselling and testing service provided by Aidshilfe Niedersachsen across all locations, which offers prevention and education independent of legal boundaries of the
Asylum Seekers Benefits Act. It contains advice on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, promotion of sexual health, pregnancy (with

HIV), (legal) background information on sexual self-determination and diversity in Germany, and information on German health and care structures. The current version of the directive current version runs from 2021 to 2025.

9. North Rhine-Westphalia

Refugees initially have access to the healthcare system through the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act. Until they are granted protection status, but for a maximum of 36 months, they are entitled to so-called basic benefits. After that, they either transfer directly to health insurance in accordance with the Social Security Code (SGB) or receive equivalent benefits in accordance with the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act. When receiving basic benefits, the scope of benefits is essentially reduced to emergency care compared to statutory health insurance. According to Section 4 of the AsylbLG, the costs for the following items are covered:

- medical and dental treatment for acute illnesses and pain, as well as the provision of medicines, dressings and other necessary medical measures
- certain protective vaccinations and medically necessary preventive examinations
- Medical care for expectant mothers and women who have recently given birth
- Medically necessary preventive medical check-ups
- Dental prostheses, if they cannot be postponed for medical reasons. Section 6 also allows for additional benefits in individual cases if they are absolutely necessary to safeguard health.

These are individual decisions made by the benefits authorities on a case-by-case basis.

10. Bremen

Bremen has an inclusive healthcare system in many areas, which, for example, also offers services to all people on a neighbourhood basis. There is also a state-funded specialised consultation service for undocumented migrants:

- Association for the Promotion of Health and Medical Care for Undocumented and Uninsured People in Bremen e.V.[165]

11. Saarland

The service is open to all target groups. At network meetings, which take place twice a year , all potential barriers to access and problems with utilisation are discussed and possible solutions are developed.

12. Berlin

The proactive counselling service between central emergency rooms and specialist counselling and intervention centres for domestic violence is available in various languages. There are translated information flyers for patients in 19 languages and in easy-to-read language.

23. Please describe the measures taken to facilitate the identification and care of women affected by violence in institutions for persons with disabilities or in retirement and nursing homes, as well as in closed facilities for asylum seekers, and to respond to their safety and protection needs.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-

[165] https://www.mvp-bremen.de/

Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg

FA: Brandenburg

1. Hamburg

Regular training events on this topic are held at the UKE.

The following regulations apply to the accommodation of people with disabilities: The creation of violence protection concepts in accordance with Section 37a of SGB IX requires the integration assistance service provider to work towards the implementation of the protection mandate. In Hamburg, the existence of such a violence protection concept is a prerequisite for the conclusion of agreements in accordance with Sections 123 ff SGB IX. In addition, service providers are obliged under Section 10 (3) of Annex 3 of the State Framework Agreement to implement measures to prevent abuse of power and violence. This is set out in the quality assurance reports that have to be submitted every year. Basically, though, it's up to the service provider to take steps to make it easier to identify and support women affected by violence in facilities for people with disabilities. This generally has to be done as part of a participatory and facility-specific risk analysis. Gender-specific perspectives have to be taken into account here. In particular, needs are assessed and any resulting security and protection requirements are determined as part of the participation or overall planning process, whereby the service provider is also responsible for ensuring and implementing these measures.

For inpatient care, Section 11(4a) of the Hamburg Residential and Care Quality Act (HmbWBG) stipulates that all residential facilities must apply appropriate methods for the prevention of violence and the avoidance of measures that deprive residents of their liberty, and for the protection of users from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, on the basis of a violence protection concept. Residential facilities within the meaning of the Act are full-time residential care facilities or special forms of residential integration assistance.

This requirement includes:

- the appointment of a prevention officer,
- the implementation of training courses on violence prevention,
- the existence of internal guidelines for dealing with suspected cases and actual violence,
- training on the guidelines for action
- consideration of the topic of violence prevention and dealing with suspected cases of violence in the context of case discussions, care visits, etc.
- the provision of information material on existing support services (e.g. through notices or the display of information material)

This regulation is reviewed as part of the regular inspections carried out by the MD Nord or the residential care supervisory authorities of the district offices. In addition, every person in need of care or their relatives, as well as employees of a residential facility, have the option of reporting to the residential care supervisory authorities (WPA) if situations arise that should be considered by an external body. In addition, the HmbWBG provides for an annual survey of relatives in full-time residential care facilities. One of the topics covered in the survey is violence. The results of the survey are sent to both the facilities and the WPA at the same time, so that they have the opportunity to initiate an investigation if any abnormalities are found in this area.

In addition to the WPAen, the Care Complaints Hotline, which is based at the Hamburg-Mitte Care Support Centre and for is responsible for the whole of Hamburg is a possible

contact person. A report to the care complaints hotline may also lead to an investigation by the residential care supervisory authorities, should this be requested by the complainant
.

2. Hesse

(Hessian) municipalities and districts are obliged to provide humane accommodation for refugees and to protect this group of people from violence. Often, there are separate municipal protection concepts (so-called "violence protection concepts") for vulnerable groups, including women and girls, which are applied in reception centres for asylum seekers.

The provisions of Sections 7 and 9 of the Hesse Act on Care and Nursing Services (HGBP) can be cited as a measure to address the safety and protection needs of women affected by violence in facilities for people with disabilities:

> "Section 7 Violence prevention
>
> Operators of facilities pursuant to Section 2 (1) sentence 1 no. 1 or of services pursuant to Section 2 (1) sentence 1 no. 2 shall take appropriate measures to protect persons in need of care and nursing from any form of exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-specific aspects."

According to Section 2 (3), facilities for the disabled are facilities pursuant to
Section 2 (1) sentence 1 no. 1.

> "Section 9 Requirements
>
> (1) An institution pursuant to Section 2 (1) sentence 1 no. 1 or a service pursuant to Section 2 (1) sentence 1 no. 2 may only be operated if the operator
>
> (...)
>
> 6. preserves and promotes the privacy, independence, self-determination and personal responsibility of those in need of care and support,
>
> 7. guarantees individual care and support based on support and assistance plans for people who receive disability assistance services,
>
> 8. uses appropriate methods to prevent violence and avoid measures that deprive people of their liberty, and regularly trains or has trained the care and nursing staff in this regard (...)."

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

There are no closed facilities for asylum seekers in the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The following applies to other facilities for accommodating asylum seekers: The operators of the initial reception centre and municipal accommodation facilities have violence protection concepts in place. These regulate, among other things, minimum protection standards and measures for the protection of vulnerable groups. These vulnerable groups also include women affected by violence. The staff at the initial reception centre are also trained in dealing with violence. A wide range of further training courses are also offered, including on the prevention of sexual violence. Women who are acutely affected by or threatened with violence are already accommodated and cared for separately in the initial reception centre.

In care facilities and special forms of housing, special incidents (including in particular acts of violence, theft, running away or suicide) must be reported to the home supervisory authority as the competent authority. The home supervisory authority informs the specialist supervisory authority (Ministry of Social Affairs) about the incident. Possible measures include counselling by the home supervisory authority, relocation within the residential facility or even the removal of the violent person.

The revision of the Facility Quality Act (EQG M-V) is currently in the legislative process as a draft of the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Housing and Participation Act (WoTG M-V)

legislative process and is scheduled to come into force on 1 January 2026. The aim is to legally anchor the implementation of Section 37a of the Social Code Book IX (SGB IX) by obliging operators to implement violence protection concepts in special residential facilities for people with disabilities. In future, care facilities, hospices and short-term care facilities will also be required to submit a concept for
service provision, including a concept for violence prevention and complaint management.

4. Saxony

In the area of people with disabilities, the SMS is currently examining, as part of the implementation of the state government's action plan to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, under measure 65, "whether counselling on sexual and reproductive health for people with disabilities can be permanently promoted, taking into account the peer approach." In addition, there are several measures in the aforementioned action plan that aim to raise awareness among Saxony's authorities of the concerns of people with disabilities.

No separate measures are known at the state level for intersex persons. Reference is made to federal legislation: in order to protect intersex children from irreversible and medically unnecessary interventions, the federal government passed the Act on the Protection of Children with Variations in Sex Development in 2021. Among other things, this law stipulates that "surgical interventions on the internal or external sex characteristics of a child with a variation of sex development who is incapable of giving consent" (Article 1, (2)) are prohibited and that exceptions to this rule can only be made under strict conditions. Unfortunately, the law does not provide for measures to prevent circumvention of the ban and enable effective prosecution. For intersex persons of consenting age, there are no
There are no known special regulations regarding sterilisation or abortion.

5. Saxony-Anhalt

At the Central Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in Saxony-Anhalt (ZASt), staff members are available as representatives for special protection groups, e.g. child protection officers, women's protection officers and contact persons for queer refugees. Vulnerability screening is carried out at the ZASt. The issue of violence against women is addressed in further training courses. In the reception centre, female residents are informed about risks and protection mechanisms, with the assistance of language mediators if necessary. If required, accommodation is initially provided in protected areas of the reception centre or in facilities where special protection needs can be taken into account (e.g. in the women's refugee shelter). Protection against victimisation is provided through sensitive communication by social care staff. Legal assistance and further counselling are provided through appropriate referral services. In addition, the state's initial reception centre has an established complaint management system and 24/7 social support. This can help to identify women affected by violence in the initial reception centre and facilitate their access to assistance.

In addition, reference should be made to the women's representatives in WfbM in accordance with Section 222 (5) SGB IX, which have been required by law in workshops since 1 January 2017. Women's representatives represent the interests of women with disabilities employed in the workshop vis-à-vis the workshop management, particularly in the areas of gender equality, work-life balance, and protection against physical, sexual and psychological harassment or violence. In 2019, the association "Starke.Frauen.Machen. – The Federal Network of Women's Representatives in Institutions" was founded. The association represents the interests of around 1,500 women's representatives and their deputies in WfbM. All women's representatives from all over Germany can become members here and
exchange ideas about their work as women's representatives with other women in the association.

In April 2022, a state working group of women's representatives in Saxony-Anhalt was founded, to which all women's representatives from the 33 workshops for disabled people in Saxony-Anhalt belong.

In accordance with Section 11 (3) No. 13 WTG LSA (Residential and Participation Act), every facility must have a professional concept in place that takes appropriate account of the agreements referred to in Section 1 (2) WTG LSA (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Charter of Rights for People in Need of Assistance and Care) and ensures that the requirements of Section 11 (2) and (3) Nos. 1-12 WTG LSA are complied with. The aforementioned agreements contain specific provisions on protection against violence. The operator of a facility must also ensure, in accordance with Section 11 (4) No. 5 WTG LSA, that a quality management and complaint management system is in place. The institutions' violence protection concepts also describe appropriate procedures for identifying and caring for women affected by violence. These are either an integral part of the violence protection concept or are identified separately as an institutional protection concept in order to provide specific guidance for action (including for volunteers).

This section describes the procedure to follow in the event of suspected (sexual) violence, including requirements for documenting suspected, reported or observed (sexual) boundary violations/violence, as well as contact persons and counselling centres. Against this legal background, the home supervisory authority also recommends that institutions develop guidelines for violence prevention and protection within the framework of their institutional concept or as procedural instructions within their quality management system (e.g. violence prevention in the case of physical or verbal violence; dealing with challenging behaviour in residents with cognitive impairments; etc.) and to evaluate these regularly. According to Section 9 (2) of the Residential and Participation Act Personnel Ordinance (WTG-PersVO), further training courses on dealing with violence, violence prevention and violence avoidance must be carried out in particular. If, in the course of the home supervisory authority's inspection activities, there is an initial suspicion of a criminal offence (regardless of the type of offence), the facts of the case are submitted to the public prosecutor's office via the legal department of the Saxony-Anhalt State Administration Office. In all other respects, reference is made to the ASMK decision (see Annex 5).

In Saxony-Anhalt , , , , Caritas (ZASt and LAE) and other providers offer advice on asylum procedures. [166] For queer people, the Lesbian and Gay Association of Saxony-Anhalt e. V. offers the "Queer Refugee Support" project.

6. Schleswig-Holstein

State Office for Immigration and Refugees

Women living in state accommodation have contact with the various institutions in the state accommodation facilities. Signs that women may be affected by violence are documented at various points. Women are given the opportunity to communicate their protection needs in protected rooms so that they can receive targeted support. The information and counselling services offered to people working in state accommodation include regular information events on the measures of the protection concept in accordance with Section 44 2a of the Asylum Act and counselling by social services. In addition, there are regular leisure activities in secure rooms specifically for women. Information material on the right to protection is displayed and made available in secure locations.
leisure activities in protected spaces. Information material on the right to protection is displayed and made available in protected locations.

7. Thuringia

As part of the planned amendment to the Thuringian Housing and Participation Act, the Commissioner for Gender Equality has spoken out in favour of women

[166] https://integrationsportal.sachsen-anhalt.de/beratung-netzwerke/beratungsstellen/asylverfahrensberatung-in-sachsen-anhalt

with disabilities should be entitled to lockable, private or separate washing and toilet facilities and a private or same-sex room if necessary to prevent violence in facilities for people with disabilities.

Reference is also made to the findings and conclusions of the final report on the evaluation of the Thuringian Residential and Participation Act (ThürWTG) from 2024, according to which the majority of respondents were in favour of the obligation to draw up a violence protection concept in facilities. The amendment of the Thuringian Residential and Participation Act is still pending.

Furthermore, as part of the update of the Thuringian Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN CRPD – Version 3.0, the Commissioner for Gender Equality intends to focus on improving violence prevention and protection for girls and women with disabilities. The working group on "Women with Disabilities" are discussing measures to be implemented during the term of the action plan from 2026 to 2029.

8. Bavaria

All female asylum seekers are entitled to general medical care. This includes inpatient, outpatient and complementary treatment. If the requirements of Sections 4, 6 and 2 of the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act (AsylbLG) are met, the Free State of Bavaria will cover the costs of the aforementioned treatments. Women who are entitled to asylum seeker benefits can, if the requirements of Sections 4 and 6 of the AsylbLG are met, receive treatment from registered specialists (after referral by a general practitioner) or at the medical centres in the ANKER facilities; the latter usually cover general medical care as well as psychiatry and psychotherapy. After 36 months, female asylum seekers usually receive medical assistance similar to that received by social assistance recipients. Recognised asylum seekers are usually compulsorily insured under the statutory health insurance scheme.

The Bavarian protection concept of the accommodation administration for the prevention of violence reflects the essential aspects of violence prevention at various levels. The protection concept provides a framework for facility-specific concepts, which are necessary and expressly desired in view of the adaptation to individual circumstances on site. Among other things, it stipulates that the staff working there in accommodation management and security services, as well as the violence protection coordinators employed at ANKER, should be sufficiently sensitised through a range of support services, depending on their area of responsibility, to be able to recognise conspicuous behaviour or unusual situations in the accommodation facilities at an early stage, including those originating from outside, and to respond appropriately. The violence protection concept is therefore an important building block for safeguarding and enforcing women's rights. The constant presence of a well-staffed security service in the ANKER centres and some follow-up accommodation facilities means that violent behaviour by asylum seekers is detected and prevented at an early stage. Since protective measures must always be tailored to the specific characteristics of the property, the governments responsible for the asylum accommodation facilities decide on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with the police's assessment of the situation, which protective measures are appropriate and necessary for the respective accommodation facility.

The identification of obvious or visible signs of violent incidents and those reported by the victims themselves is often already carried out by employees of the
Governments, through investigations conducted under Section 62 of the Asylum Act or through employees of various social projects in or around asylum accommodation facilities.

9. Lower Saxony

Joint concept of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Health and Equality (MS) and of the Ministry for the Interior and Sport (MI) for the Protection against violence in

State reception facilities for refugees

At the end of 2015, Lower Saxony was one of the first federal states to adopt a violence protection concept for reception facilities, thereby developing effective recommendations for protecting children and women from abuse and violence in the state's reception facilities. This concept has been updated ("Concept for the Protection of Refugees in Reception Facilities in the State of Lower Saxony", see Appendix I) and is being successfully implemented by the State Reception Authority of Lower Saxony (LAB NI). The LAB NI and the protection concept place particular emphasis on the protection of vulnerable groups, including LGBTIQ* persons. The early identification of protection needs is an important element of the initial reception process. This ensures, among other things, that the BAMF is informed accordingly by the LAB NI so that, for example, a special representative (see above) can conduct the hearing.

The concept for the protection of refugees in reception centres in the state of Lower Saxony, which is binding for the LAB NI, contains the following in particular:

1. Recognising vulnerability

   Immediately after admission to LAB NI, all asylum seekers have an initial interview with social workers from the social services department, with the assistance of interpreters in the national language. It is of course also possible to consult a specialist from the social services department at the time of admission. Here, the person's social and medical situation is assessed, documented in the specialist application "Integrated Lower Saxony Foreigners Software" (I.N.A.) and information about the further procedure is provided. Follow-up interviews build on the initial interview and the residents are introduced to the person responsible for them in the social services department. Particularly vulnerable persons are invited to a follow-up meeting as a matter of standard practice. New arrivals are informed about the areas of protection offered by the facility. Victims of violence should be aware of their rights and know that they are entitled to help and support. They also learn who they can turn to for help and who is responsible for their protection. This information is communicated regularly in a way that is understandable and comprehensible to all. The caretakers in the accommodation buildings play an important role in this. Due to their close contact with the residents, they are often the first to notice conflicts and changes in behaviour. The security service also plays a central role in protecting the residents of LAB NI. Regular patrols are carried out by the security services at all times, giving every resident the opportunity to make themselves known immediately.

2. Providing information and values for the prevention of violence

   Information in reception facilities is provided in an understandable form and in the most common languages spoken by the residents. Information materials (flyers, brochures) about the services and availability of external counselling and support centres, as well as internet addresses and telephone numbers for helplines, are made available to residents in reception facilities in the most common languages where possible.

3. Cooperation between stakeholders (At this point, explicit reference is also made to the security service.) In addition, section III of the protection concept, "Measures for protection against violence", contains the following:

   a. Implementation of violence and child protection coordinators

      A 50% position for violence protection coordination has been implemented at each LAB NI location. Currently, a 50% position for violence protection coordination is also being gradually planned in the Ast and NUK in new job advertisements.

   b. Accommodation

When allocating accommodation, the individual circumstances of residents, insofar as these are known, are taken into account as far as possible. This also applies to the relevant security concept. Where possible, accommodation is also allocated according to specific target groups, in particular women with children, women travelling alone and trans* persons. Target group-specific accommodation is also provided for women affected by violence in order to restore their sense of personal safety during their stay. The aim is to accommodate them in separate facilities or wings. Where this is not possible, efforts should be made to accommodate these groups of people separately from others in easily observable areas and to accommodate women and children in close proximity to the sanitary facilities for women. Where possible, separate retreat areas for women to which men have no access should also be set up.

c. Staff protection concept

All full-time and volunteer staff shall be made aware of the protection concept. They shall be informed about the forms and effects of abuse and sexual violence as well as about specific issues relating to particular target groups, and all full-time staff shall receive separate training. A staff-to-resident ratio of 1:75 shall apply at the locations.

In addition, section IV of the protection concept, "Help and support in cases of violence", stipulates that a contact person must be available around the clock at every facility to whom all residents can turn if they are affected by violence or suspect violence. Comprehensive information about this option must be provided in the accommodation in a manner specific to the target group. Every suspicion of violence is investigated. In cases of violence, the security service and the police must be called and the parties involved must be separated. In addition, it is the responsibility of the employees in the reception centres to provide victims of violence with access to counselling services against violence. To this end, the social services establish contact with the local institutions. If necessary, counselling services are given the opportunity to work in the facility, for example for consultation hours or outreach assistance. Regional help and support services as well as hotlines (helpline for women, helpline for pregnant women in need, helpline against forced marriage, emergency number, posters on LGBTI*) are publicised in the facilities.

In general, the services in the reception centres, in particular the social services
offer close support to women affected by violence and work with the women concerned to find individual solutions.

10. Rhineland-Palatinate

Conduct awareness-raising initiatives and training courses on the topic of "violence in care"

There are already a number of analyses, initiatives, documents, etc. on the topic of "violence in care" that relate to the vulnerable group of people in need of care.

The Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Transformation and Digitalisation is examining the extent to which further awareness-raising initiatives and training courses can be offered.

Continue to combat violence in integration assistance and care facilities and residential forms

The Rhineland-Palatinate State Office for Social Affairs, Youth and Care advises residential facilities on this issue and is also the point of contact for reports and complaints about violations or shortcomings in protection against violence, which it investigates, advises on or, if necessary, takes further action.

In order to take into account the specific concerns of women, particularly with regard to discrimination and protection against violence, the State Law on Residential Facilities and

participation in Rhineland-Palatinate stipulates that a representative for women's issues shall be appointed for a period of four years in residential facilities for integration assistance. She acts as a confidante for women;

During its advisory visits to residential forms of integration assistance and care, the State Office for Social Affairs, Youth and Care in Rhineland-Palatinate regularly holds discussions with the residents' advisory boards and, where appropriate, with the representative for women's issues.

The State Inclusion Act for Rhineland-Palatinate stipulates the appointment of an independent visiting commission to review equal participation and self-determined living, taking into account violence prevention and protection against violence in workshops and special residential facilities for people with disabilities (Section 19 of the State Inclusion Act). The visiting commission must check whether violence protection concepts are being developed and implemented.

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Transformation and Digitalisation is currently revising and updating the guidelines for preventing violence against people with disabilities. These guidelines are intended to serve as a guide to respectful interaction between residents, staff and relatives in integration assistance services, as well as providing helpful suggestions for dealing with violence against people with disabilities.

Support for self-advocacy measures to combat violence against women with disabilities

Self-advocacy institutions are committed to empowering women with disabilities. Peer counselling, i.e. counselling provided by women with disabilities for women with disabilities, plays an important role in this context.

11. North Rhine-Westphalia

The state legislature of North Rhine-Westphalia has significantly strengthened protection against violence as part of the amendment to the Housing and Participation Act, which came into force on 1 January 2023. Since then, the focus has been on developing concrete concepts for violence prevention in institutions, which must include both prevention strategies and intervention concepts. The aim is to protect all users and employees from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-specific aspects.

With the amendments to the Housing and Participation Act NW [167]that came into force on 1 January 2023, an independent and professionally independent central monitoring and complaints office for affected persons and professionals was established at the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and for Patients in North Rhine-Westphalia in accordance with Section 8a (7) and Section 16. This contact point is available to anyone who is directly or indirectly affected by incidents of violence in connection with deprivation of liberty, measures restricting liberty and deprivation of liberty under the Housing and Participation Act, particularly in facilities for the disabled and nursing homes. The State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and Patients receives complaints, documents structural grievances and makes recommendations for prevention and protection of those affected.

In addition, after undergoing deprivation of liberty, a measure restricting or depriving liberty, users can contact an ombudsperson, who must be appointed in the districts or independent cities, or the guardianship court. After the measure has ended, users are
Inform users of this. These regulations and measures to strengthen protection against violence apply to all users and employees and exclude

[167] https://recht.nrw.de/lmi/owa/br_text_anzeigen?v_id=10000000000000000678

so that women affected by violence are included.

This is ensured through close cooperation between the Rhineland and Westphalia-Lippe regional associations, which are responsible for integration assistance in North Rhine-Westphalia, and the service providers, as well as through regular audits and ongoing dialogue with the authorities responsible for the Housing and Participation Act.

Specific measures include, for example:

- Inclusion in regional planning, addressing the issue in regional planning conferences, where current challenges are discussed, best practices are shared and new strategies for improving measures are developed
- Submission of individual violence protection concepts that include specific measures for protection against violence. Regular audits are to ensure the quality and effectiveness of these measures.
- Obligation to report special incidents in accordance with the provisions of the LRV SGB IX
- Regular exchange with the WTG authorities, which includes information on the requirement for violence protection concepts on the one hand and direct exchange on the implementation of suitable protective measures on the other
- Development of individual solutions for the person entitled to benefits as part of the overall planning process. Personal experiences and living circumstances can be taken into account here.
- Involvement of external assessors and experts in the context of participation planning and regular training and awareness-raising for participation planners with regard to violence prevention and intervention.
- Specialist staff in disability services are required to undergo regular training and further education in the context of violence protection in order to recognise signs of violence and respond appropriately. These awareness-raising measures can help to develop a better understanding of the specific needs of, for example, women affected by violence in disability care facilities.

In addition, since the amendment of the WTG on 1 January 2023, the supervision of workshops for disabled people (WfbM) has also been included. This means that WfbM must, among other things, have a violence protection concept in place. Compliance and implementation is part of the supervisory review by the WTG authorities.

According to the state violence protection concept for refugee accommodation facilities in North Rhine-Westphalia, every state reception centre for refugees has female and, where possible, male care staff trained in dealing with vulnerable persons as defined in this concept, as well as persons who are traumatised or have experienced (sexualised) violence, or appropriately qualified female and male contact persons.

As a first step in identifying special protection needs, which include women affected by violence, the state initial reception centre and the state reception centres use questionnaires for refugees. In addition, so-called case managers have been deployed in the initial reception centres and central accommodation facilities of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia since 2023. These case managers conduct interviews with refugees to determine special protection needs and, if such needs are identified, refer them to appropriate support and assistance services. Furthermore,
a state-wide binding and thus uniform structure for determining special protection needs is currently under development.

12. Bremen

Disabled women and women in need of care in institutions have the right to have their dignity and physical and mental integrity preserved. Institution operators are therefore obliged to take appropriate measures to protect these women from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse. This regulation is based on the constitutional principles of human dignity, personal freedom and equality in Articles 1 to 3 of the Basic Law, as well as the social welfare principle in Article 20 of the Basic Law, and implements these in legislation. At the state level, the state of Bremen has taken this requirement into account, so that in Sections 1 and 12 of the Bremen Housing and Care Act (BremWoBeG), service providers are required to take appropriate measures.

In addition, Bremen has improved the protection of women against violence in these facilities by introducing a legal requirement to appoint women's representatives.

In order to implement violence prevention, the following measures must be taken with the participation of the women's representatives:

1. A responsible person appointed by the institution

2. A violence prevention concept must be developed.

In the area of inpatient accommodation for children and young people, facilities may only be operated after an operating licence has been granted in accordance with Section 45 of SGB VIII. As part of this operating licence, the operators of the facilities – usually recognised child and youth welfare organisations – must submit a so-called facility-specific protection concept. This protection concept must explain how residents within the facility are protected from assault and how residents who have been victims of assault are to be treated. The protection concepts are mandatory and are reviewed by the facility supervisors of the state youth welfare office, who also monitor their further development.

In addition, there are also mandatory violence protection concepts for refugee accommodation.

A procedure aimed at identifying special protection needs has recently been piloted in the initial reception centre for asylum seekers. This also includes women affected by violence. If a special protection need is identified, appropriate measures are then taken where possible (e.g. referral to a psychiatrist or counselling centre).

Following a survey on the accessibility of various facilities and counselling centres, these were trained in a further training course on the topic of sexual violence and impairment. On the basis of the previous survey, joint consideration was given to what changes could be implemented quickly and effectively to make counselling (more) accessible. The expertise of the kom.fort
e. V. was available for this purpose, which subsequently provided inspections and individual consultations on both conversions (including small measures) and their financing.

13. Saarland

The state reception centre is a reception facility for asylum seekers as well as shared accommodation and a departure centre for asylum seekers, rejected asylum seekers and foreigners who have entered the country illegally.

The special protection needs of women and children, for example, are taken into account in the accommodation. For example, separate accommodation, showers and toilets are available. All rooms can be locked from the inside using a chip system. The new buildings also take into account the need for complete privacy. The privacy of women who have fled alone, with or without children, is ensured by the provision of separate living areas. There is close cooperation with the law enforcement police. For example, a "police office" has been set up in the state reception centre to ensure direct contact with the law enforcement police.

Accommodation also takes into account factors such as proximity to security services. At the

Lebach State Reception Centre, both female and male staff are employed by the security service.

In specific cases, the security service may be made particularly aware of the situation and female security personnel may be deployed to provide additional surveillance/support. In the event of a specific incident, dismissal from the initial reception centre for other reasons (distribution to municipalities) is also an option that may be considered.
(distribution to municipalities) is an option to be considered.

14. Berlin

Facilities for people with disabilities/retirement or nursing homes

With the revision of the Residential Participation Act (WTG) in 2021, new regulations were introduced for all supervised communal WTG living arrangements in the areas of care and integration assistance to protect against abuse, exploitation, violence and discrimination (including measures that restrict freedom). Because these protected interests are of paramount importance, the WTG has been extensively amended in various places, including the requirement to report incidents of violence to the supervisory authority.

During each regular inspection of facilities, the WTG Home Supervisory Authority at the State Office for Health and Social Affairs checks whether a (partial) concept relating to abuse, exploitation, violence and discrimination is in place and up to date, and discusses the issue with the operator and facility representatives as well as the acting resident representatives. In the event of complaints and reports of abuse, exploitation, violence and discrimination in WTG residential facilities, the home supervisory authority investigates these as a matter of priority, if necessary in the form of on-site inspections. The "Non-violent Care" network facilitates communication with the specialist unit for offences against persons in care at the Berlin State Criminal Police Office. In individual cases, this has resulted in joint action by the LKA and the home supervisory authority.

A characteristic feature of the participation rights and resident representatives under Section 13 WTG is that the representatives are elected by the residents themselves and are involved in a wide range of matters – in particular measures to protect against exploitation, violence and discrimination. In order to further expand the protection system, specific legal provisions for the role of a women's representative in these types of residential facilities are currently being examined. This measure is intended to specifically strengthen the interests of women with disabilities and take their individual protection needs into account even more systematically.

The specialist counselling centre "Pflege in Not" (Care in Need) in Berlin offers independent, free and, if necessary, outreach counselling for people in need of care, family carers, professional carers and other groups of people who are in contact with people in need of care who may be affected by violence against women or domestic violence. Counselling is provided anonymously on request. During the evaluation period, consultation hours were extended. The training programme for employees of inpatient and outpatient long-term care facilities, which sensitises employees to the identification and care of women in need of care and persons affected by domestic violence, among other things, was established and expanded.

In addition, the promotion of grant projects within the framework of the Integrated Social Programme (ISP) should also be mentioned. In addition, grant recipients provide targeted services for affected women and girls with disabilities, regardless of whether they are eligible for integration assistance. The aim is to highlight intersectional needs and design appropriate measures in line with those needs, with a view to preventing and combating violence against women with disabilities and promoting empowerment.

Accommodation for refugees

The State Office for Refugee Affairs (LAF) is responsible for the accommodation of refugees in Berlin, unless the persons concerned can organise their own accommodation

organise their own accommodation.

The LAF has two women's shelters and one shelter for LGBTIQA+ persons. Women who have experienced violence and are particularly vulnerable can be accommodated there to meet their safety and protection needs. Like all LAF shelters, these have a violence and child protection policy.

All LAF shelters have representatives for women, LGBTIQA+ persons and child welfare. They identify the specific needs of these groups and are available as confidential contact persons. Confidential advisors are to be trained for their specific tasks.

In addition, the "Psychosocial Relief and Violence Prevention" project (run by Ipso Care) provides outreach counselling for refugees with mental health issues in emergency situations within LAF accommodation. It is offered in several accommodation facilities in parallel, as needed, and provides relief and support for both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.

Further measures for violence prevention for all residents of LAF accommodation:

- Security services (SDL) with access control in most LAF accommodation facilities
- (Mandatory) training for employees in the accommodation facilities on the topics of child protection, LGBTIQ* and diversity

15. Baden-Württemberg

The Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Integration also supported and continues to support various projects run by the Fetz Women's Counselling and Therapy Centre Stuttgart e.V. to combat violence against women and girls with disabilities:

- Project to improve the situation of women with disabilities affected by violence (2015 to 2017)
- Project to consolidate cooperation between women's counselling centres and disability support services (2016–2019)
- Project to establish and test a model network office to support women's representatives in workshops for people with disabilities (2018–2020)
- Project to test and expand the network office for women's representatives in workshops for people with disabilities (2021 to 2022)
- Project on further training for women in workshops and facilities for people with disabilities (2023 to 2025)

On YouTube, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Integration also provides information in an explanatory video in simple language about violence against women and girls with disabilities and about counselling and support services, such as the helpline 116 016.[168]

From 2019 to 2021, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Integration funded the project "Disability, Sexuality and Partnership" from 2019 to 2021 and the project "Process support for the development of sex education concepts in institutions for the disabled" from 2022 to March 2024. The project was carried out by the pro familia Landesverband Baden-Württemberg e.V. in cooperation with the Landesverband Baden-Württemberg der Lebenshilfe für Menschen mit Behinderung e.V. The aim of the projects was to develop sex education concepts that empower people with disabilities to exercise their sexuality in a self-determined manner and
at the same time offer support to other affected parties (e.g. relatives, staff in institutions). Sex education concepts are not yet part of

[168] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFmLo-9sKYE

the standards in institutions for disability assistance and self-help. The topic of sexuality among people with disabilities is often not addressed, and people with disabilities are still hindered in the self-determined expression of their sexuality. Sexuality often only becomes an issue when undesirable behaviour occurs. Sex education concepts not only help disability care facilities to regulate how they deal with issues relating to sexuality. They also strengthen the decision-making skills of all stakeholders, thereby helping people with disabilities to exercise their
self-determined sexuality. Last but not least, the concepts also serve to prevent sexualised violence, for example.

24. Please explain how the authorities ensure that different groups of women and girls, including women with disabilities, Roma women and other members of national or ethnic minorities, migrant women and intersex persons, are fully informed about procedures such as sterilisation or abortion, that they understand the procedures and that these are only carried out if they have voluntarily consented to them.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saarland, Berlin

FA: Saxony-Anhalt, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Bremen, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

1. Hamburg

From the perspective of the Office for Health, the general duty to provide information pursuant to Section 630e of the German Civil Code (BGB) applies. Through legal requirements, multilingual information, culturally sensitive counselling and protective mechanisms, Hamburg ensures that all women – including particularly vulnerable groups – undergo medical procedures such as abortion or sterilisation only after receiving comprehensible information and giving their voluntary consent. In addition, the Act on the Protection of Children with Variations in Sex Development has been in force since 2021, which prohibits medically unnecessary procedures on intersex children if they are not capable of giving consent themselves.

2. Hesse

In addition to providing medical treatment, the duty to inform is one of the main obligations of the doctor under the treatment contract with the patient. This duty was regulated by law in the Patient Rights Act, which came into force in February 2013 in the German Civil Code (BGB). The distinction previously made in case law between risk information (also: information on intervention and self-determination) and safety information (also: therapeutic information) was taken up in principle and supplemented in part by further obligations. Sections 630c and e of the BGB now regulate the doctor's obligations to provide information and clarification.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

The counselling centres for pregnant women in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania provide advice and support
these vulnerable groups accordingly.[169] In addition, reference is made to the answer to question 22 (p. 218).

4. Saxony

There are currently 17 women's and children's shelters funded by the Free State, spread across twelve of the thirteen districts in Saxony. There are also shelters in the 13th district, but these are not funded by the Free State.
There are also shelters in the 13th district, but these are not funded by the Free State. In total, the Free State funds 168 family places here (as of 31 December 2024). A

[169] Pregnancy and pregnancy conflict counselling – Mecklenburg-Vorpommern government portal

A family room is usually a room with two beds that can be occupied by both women affected by violence and their children. Women's and children's shelters serve as emergency accommodation for women and their children in acute situations of domestic violence. Here, they receive temporary, usually anonymous, protective and secure accommodation as well as counselling and support. The women's and children's shelters have an on-call service. In addition, there is a clearing house ("central emergency shelter") for the Leipzig region that is accessible 24/7. As there are several women's and children's shelters in the Leipzig area, a central telephone number has been set up for all facilities.

In addition, each of the thirteen districts in Saxony has an intervention and coordination centre for combating gender-based violence against women and domestic violence (IKS). Their main task is to provide counselling and support to those affected, which is often done proactively in cooperation with case-specific crisis intervention by the police. In addition, the IKS cooperate and network with police stations and headquarters as well as other facilities and institutions. They also carry out public relations work, conduct training courses and act as multipliers within their network.

There are also three men's shelters in Saxony with a total of eleven family places. These facilities are located in the three independent cities of Chemnitz, Dresden and Leipzig and offer men and their children temporary, anonymous refuge.

In addition, there is a specialised shelter in Plauen with three family places. This is intended to cover gaps in the protection system and is aimed, for example, at individuals and, where applicable, couples who are affected by the threat of forced marriage or honour killings, as well as economic and social violence.

There is also a specialist counselling centre for victims of human trafficking and honour-based violence. It offers counselling and support for victims of human trafficking and, together with the police, carries out outreach social work in the red-light district. This counselling centre also networks at local, regional, national and international level and lobbies at social and political level. For victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation or marriage trafficking, four additional family protection places are provided through this counselling centre.

As an umbrella organisation, the Saxony State Working Group for a Violence-Free Home e.V. (Saxony State Working Group for Non-Violent Homes) performs important coordination tasks and also acts as an interface between public administration and the institutions of the support network. The State Centre for Men's Work, a project of the Saxony State Working Group for Boys' and Men's Work e.V. (State Working Group for Boys and Men in Saxony), offers counselling, specialist conferences and further training as an umbrella structure for the protection of men against violence in Saxony, takes on coordination tasks and acts as an interface between public administration and the support network of men's protection institutions.

In addition, there is the specialist centre of the State Working Group on Sexual Violence – Prevention and Intervention, which coordinates and acts as an interface for the institutions in the support network in the area of sexual violence.

In the area of short-term psychological support and trauma treatment, the Free State of Saxony currently maintains eight trauma outpatient clinics as a means of early psychotherapeutic intervention (within the meaning of Sections 31 ff. SGB XIV): Dresden University Hospital, Leipzig University Hospital, Chemnitz Hospital, Diakonie Clinics Zschadraß, Rudolf Virchow Clinic Glauchau, Görlitz Municipal Hospital, Waldschlösschen Clinic Dresden, Saxon Hospital Arnsdorf. In the future, such trauma outpatient clinics are also to be set up at the three other Saxon state hospitals in order to further expand care in rural areas.

5. Schleswig-Holstein

Pregnancy and pregnancy conflict counselling centres

In the nationwide available pregnancy and pregnancy conflict counselling centres, women and girls can obtain comprehensive information and advice on all questions relating to pregnancy and abortion. Some of the counselling centres are accessible and, if necessary, sign language interpreters can be called in for the consultations. Various digital translation tools can be used to help with language barriers
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6. Thuringia

In Germany, according to Sections 2 and 5 of the Pregnancy Conflict Act (SchKG of the Federal Government), there is a guaranteed right to counselling on the protection of unborn life and the provisions on the procedure for confidential birth according to Section 6 of the Pregnancy Conflict Act, which is to be implemented by the state of Thuringia. There are 33 pregnancy and pregnancy conflict counselling centres throughout Thuringia. These are obliged, among other things, under Section 3 (1) No. 4 ThürSchKG to provide preventive, age-appropriate, gender-specific and target group-oriented services on issues of partnership, sex education, family planning and pregnancy, as well as the protection of unborn life and the development of the unborn child. The counselling centres are also obliged to record the standards underlying their counselling activities and the experience gained in this process in a written report each year, Section 3 (3) ThürSchKG.

The obligation to provide counselling under Section 5(1) of the SchKG gives rise to open-ended counselling under Section 219 of the StGB. The counselling must be guided by the endeavour to encourage the women/girls concerned to continue with the pregnancy and to open up prospects for a life with the child. The counselling should help those affected to make an independent and conscientious decision. The pregnant woman may remain anonymous if she wishes.

At the same time, the counselling provides information about legal rights and offers help in dealing with the conflict situation arising in connection with the pregnancy in order to avert any emergencies. The counselling service presents alternatives, e.g. adoption and placement in mother-and-child facilities. It provides information on methods of termination of pregnancy and possible physical and psychological consequences, as well as the costs involved. The counselling service also provides information on contraceptive options, if necessary.

The counsellor has specialist knowledge and experience in client-centred communication and conflict counselling in accordance with Section 5 (2) No. 1 SchKG (Pregnancy Conflict Counselling Act) through appropriate additional qualification in the field of pregnancy conflict counselling in accordance with Section 2 ThürSchKBVO (Thuringian Pregnancy Conflict Counselling Ordinance). They have the necessary knowledge to provide all the medical, social and legal information required in each case, to explain the legal rights of the mother and child and the practical assistance available, in particular that which facilitates the continuation of the pregnancy and the situation of the mother and child (Section 5 (2) No. 2 SchKG).

The aim of the counselling centre is to reach out to all groups of women and girls seeking advice, including women with disabilities, Roma women and other members of national or ethnic minorities, migrant women and intersex persons, and to empower them in their decision-making.

To this end, the operators and staff of the counselling centre are committed to continuously evaluating processes, structures and results. The operators and counselling centres are supported in their quality development by the respective umbrella organisation. This is accompanied by a trusting professional dialogue between LIGA der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege (League of Independent Welfare Organisations) and the responsible ministry.

The annual activity reports and statistical evaluations enable the

the responsible body and the Free State of Thuringia to record and evaluate quality performance.

The evaluation of all activity reports from the pregnancy and pregnancy conflict counselling centres in the Free State of Thuringia essentially revealed the following:

- The free, professional video and telephone interpreting service LingaTel, provided by the Free State of Thuringia, is particularly helpful for the counselling centres. More than 800 professionally trained interpreters in over 70 languages are available around the clock by telephone or video.
- Preventive group events, workshops, discussion groups, project days, seminars and information sessions are held regularly on topics such as contraception, sexuality, values and norms, gender diversity, prevention of sexual assault, unwanted pregnancy, pregnancy and childbirth. The target groups for the events are schoolchildren, young adults, trainees with mental and physical disabilities, vocational school students, parents, social educators, carers, nursery staff and teachers as multipliers.
- The demand for prevention events in schools and other social areas (child and youth welfare, work with people with disabilities, migration work, work with the elderly) is continuous and growing.
- The use of various media raises awareness of each counselling centre in the Free State of Thuringia and the services it offers to different target groups. Information is provided on the website and in flyers.
- Online counselling is an additional option for anonymous and low-threshold contact.
- The public channel Instagram provides information on the topics of sex education, abortion (medical and surgical), pregnancy, gender and sexual diversity.

7. Rhineland-Palatinate

The Ministry of Science and Health considers the waiting times for psychotherapy in the state to be too long and has been campaigning for some time for a review of needs planning and thus improved psychotherapeutic care for all patients in Rhineland-Palatinate at federal level.

The Department of Science and Health has already scheduled meetings to discuss with partners in the healthcare sector the necessity and availability of protection concepts to safeguard employees and patients from violence, and to bring these issues to the attention of the committees of the medical associations.

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8. North Rhine-Westphalia

The key points on violence protection in social participation services also include that integration assistance service providers should provide and implement prevention services for people entitled to benefits. Here, explicit reference is made to empowerment services. At the same time, the Rhineland Regional Council is currently developing key points for protection against violence, which are to relate in particular to the counselling services offered by the EGH. If such a need becomes apparent in the course of counselling within the meaning of Section 106 of SGB IX, a corresponding reference to specialised services will be made.

The provision of information in the context of sterilisation and abortion is not a direct task of the service provider. However, counselling and support can contribute to raising awareness of rights and health issues. In this context, service providers are obliged to refer to appropriate counselling services or services
and/or to refer them to the appropriate agencies. If, in the process of

needs assessment, a need arises in relation to this issue, e.g. in the form of necessary assistance for visiting a counselling centre or a specialist doctor, this can be included in the service planning.

In addition, the North Rhine-Westphalia State Initiative for Protection against Violence, initiated by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia – with the participation of, among others, self-advocacy groups and interest groups representing women and girls with disabilities – deals with gender-specific experiences of violence and concepts for the prevention of violence. As part of the sub-working group "Advice and Competence Network for Protection against Violence in North Rhine-Westphalia" of the State Initiative for Protection against Violence, the systematic further development of so-called counselling services and their expansion to the Westphalian part of the state is currently being prepared conceptually.

The pregnancy (conflict) counselling centres are open to anyone who would like advice on issues related to pregnancy. The counsellors also offer events on various topics, such as sex education and sexual awareness, or development-oriented, intercultural programmes to strengthen skills and expand knowledge. These events often take place in other institutions, such as schools.

If a pregnant woman wishes to have an abortion in accordance with Sections 19 ff of the Pregnancy Conflict Act, she must visit a counselling centre and seek advice on the matter. This is a mandatory requirement for a non-punishable termination of pregnancy. The counsellors ensure that the pregnant woman is not influenced by a third party during the consultation. They also make it clear that only the pregnant woman can decide to have an abortion, i.e. the procedure must be based on her free decision. If there is a language barrier, the counsellor will call in an interpreter.

The state funds the counselling centres according to a formula of one counsellor per 40,000 inhabitants.
40,000 inhabitants. This ensures that pregnant women have access to a diverse range of pregnancy (conflict) counselling centres close to their place of residence.

9. Saarland

The specialised centres offer individual counselling and also provide training for multipliers.

10. Berlin

In counselling settings such as the LAF social services, initial counselling and referral services are provided on the subject of abortion if this wish is expressed. Referrals are made to sexual health centres and pregnancy conflict counselling services
, which offer multilingual services; direct contact can be made upon request. [170]

Article 22: Specialised support services

25. Please list the specialised support services available to women who have been victims of gender-based violence covered by the Istanbul Convention (e.g. (sexual) harassment, domestic violence, including in digital form, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, forced sterilisation or forced abortion) and describe in particular the support services that offer the following:

[170] https://www.berlin.de/sen/gesundheit/schwangerschaft-und-kindergesundheit/schwangerschaftskonfliktberatung/.

a. **Women's shelters and/or other safe accommodation**
b. **medical care**
c. **short- or long-term psychological support,**
d. **trauma treatment**
e. **Legal advice**
f. **Counselling services**
g. **telephone (emergency) counselling,**
h. **Other forms of support (e.g. programmes for social and economic self-determination or online support platforms).**

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

1. Hamburg

on a)

Since 2020, Hamburg has continuously increased the number of shelter places from 194 to 259.

In 2020, Hamburg's sixth women's shelter, with 32 places, was opened. In 2023, Hamburg's second and fourth women's shelters were expanded by a total of three places.

Since 2023, two sheltered apartments, each with two places, have also been offering protection to women affected by forced marriage and/or domestic violence.

In 2024, Hamburg opened its seventh women's shelter for women with mental illness. This nationwide flagship project arose from the realisation that certain target groups cannot be adequately accommodated and cared for in women's shelters. In order to offer women with mental illnesses protection and an adequate place of refuge, 11 places are now available for affected women in the 7th Hamburg women's shelter. The women's shelter is operated in close cooperation with an adjacent hospital with a specialist psychiatric department in accordance with the Hamburg State Psychiatry Plan 2025, Drs. 22/17437. The women's shelter for mentally ill women is the first of its kind in the Federal Republic of Germany.

In addition, as part of the public accommodation for immigrants and homeless people, accommodation for particularly vulnerable women and their children with a total of 96 places was opened in 2020 (replacing an initial reception facility for particularly vulnerable women and children). Women and children are protected from violence and threats by an increased security standard, which, however, does not correspond to the security standard of a women's shelter. Additional services support the women in the accommodation in their stabilisation.

Re b), d) Reference Questions 19ff, pp. 207, 211, 214, 217.

Re c)

Since the refugee migration of 2014/2015, structures for the psychosocial and trauma therapy treatment of refugees have already been in place in Hamburg.

These are

- the refugee clinic for refugee children and young people at the UKE[171]
- the Centra Coordination Centre for Traumatised Refugees, also at the UKE, which specialises in the treatment of adult refugees[172]

[171] https://www.uke.de/kliniken-institute/zentren/ambulanzzentrum-medizinisches-versorgungszentrum-(mvz)/fachbereiche/fl%C3%BCchtlingsambulanz/index.html
https://centra.hamburg/

- The counselling centre savia - steps against violence, run by Verikom, which counsels refugees affected by sexualised and gender-based violence in the accommodation facilities[173]
- Stabil & Gesund, which has been offering a so-called stabilisation consultation hour for traumatised refugees in initial reception facilities since 2015 [174]

With the outbreak of Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine in mid-2022, these services were expanded and supplemented with services for Ukrainian refugees.

In mid-2022, an additional position was created at the Emergency Hotline for Raped Women and Girls (Notruf für vergewaltigte Frauen und Mädchen e.V.) to provide psychosocial support for Ukrainian refugee women who had been victims of sexual violence in their home country or during their flight. This position was funded by the social welfare authority from May 2022 to May 2025.

Re f)

The state funding plan "Family and Youth"[175], which was adopted in 2021, promotes projects in Chapter 6 Women's Counselling that provide general counselling for women and represent a low-threshold, independent psychosocial counselling and support service. The services take gender-specific needs into account and provide specific services that enable women to better exercise their social participation and rights.

Re h)

The project "bereit & stark" (previously: "BIG! Berufliche Integration Gewaltbetroffener")(176) ·funded by Hamburg, has been helping women affected by violence to find training, further education and work since January 2021. The counselling includes coaching for career orientation, assistance with the recognition of foreign qualifications, support in the
the application process. The counselling is confidential and is provided in several languages, with the assistance of interpreters if necessary.

2. Hesse

on a)

There are a total of 32 women's shelters in Hesse. The 32nd women's shelter was added in 2024.

Re b) Reference to question 25 (p. 240)

Re f)

There are around 60 counselling centres for women affected by violence in Hesse, of which just under 50 offer counselling on domestic violence and 36 offer proactive intervention. 11 centres offer counselling and support specifically for sexual violence (so-called women's emergency hotlines). The nine specialist centres in the "2RegionenNetzwerk" offer counselling and support for girls, women, couples and men who are threatened or affected by violence in the name of 'honour', tradition and faith, and forced marriage. There is a specialised counselling centre in Frankfurt for lesbian, queer and trans women affected by domestic violence.

g)

The 11 women's emergency hotlines in Hesse offer low-threshold telephone (emergency) counselling. In addition, a few institutions in the women's protection system offer 24-hour

[173] https://www.verikom.de/gewaltschutz/savia/
[174] https://stabilundgesund.de/
[175] https://www.hamburg.de/resource/blob/38716/083631f52506eb994432d3d70d1399c0/landesfoerderplan-datei-data.pdf
[176] https://www.verikom.de/gewaltschutz/big-berufliche-integration-von-gewaltbetroffenen/

Availability in emergencies (e.g. domestic violence).

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

The state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania provides a differentiated counselling and support structure for victims of domestic and sexual violence[177]. The state's five intervention centres offer short-term and proactive counselling for people affected by domestic violence and their children, with special counselling for children and young people. The eight counselling centres for victims of domestic violence provide support to adults affected by violence, regardless of their gender, as well as to relatives and professionals. The six specialist counselling centres for victims of sexual violence support adults and children, regardless of gender and regardless of how long ago the violence occurred. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania has nine women's shelters for women and their children who are also affected. There is also a specialist counselling centre for victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and forced marriage.

Since 2024, a trusted lawyer has been available as a legal advisor for employees of the support network's institutions on the topics of family law and asylum and residence law as part of a pilot project. Employees can obtain an initial assessment of a case free of charge or approach the lawyer with specific questions on individual issues.

The state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania also contributes to the costs of the nationwide men's helpline.

In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the victim outpatient clinics [178]at the forensic medicine institutes throughout the state offer court-admissible documentation of findings after acts of violence.

Victims of violent crimes with mental health problems can receive treatment in clinics with special trauma
Ambulances provide rapid assistance (see above). Witnesses to violent crimes can also receive medical and psychological counselling and treatment.

4. Saxony

There are currently 17 women's and children's shelters funded by the Free State, spread across twelve of the thirteen districts in Saxony. There are also shelters in the 13th district, but these are not funded by the Free State. In total, the Free State funds 168 family places here (as of 31 December 2024). A family room is usually a room with two beds that can be occupied by both women affected by violence and their children. Women's and children's shelters serve as emergency accommodation for women and their children in acute emergency situations, providing protection from domestic violence. Here, they receive temporary, usually anonymous, protective and secure accommodation as well as counselling and support. The women's and children's shelters have an on-call service. In addition, there is a clearing house ("central emergency shelter") for the Leipzig region that is accessible 24/7. As there are several women's and children's shelters in the Leipzig area, a central telephone number has been set up for all facilities.

In addition, each of the thirteen districts in Saxony has an intervention and coordination centre for combating gender-based violence against women and domestic violence (IKS). Their main task is to provide counselling and support to those affected, which is often done proactively in cooperation with case-specific crisis intervention by the police. In addition, the IKS cooperate and network with police stations and headquarters as well as other
facilities and institutions. They also carry out public relations work, conduct training courses and act as multipliers within their network.

[177] Women and men in crisis situations – Mecklenburg-Vorpommern government portal
[178] Victim outpatient clinic – Institute of Legal Medicine

There are also three men's shelters in Saxony with a total of eleven family places. These facilities are located in the three independent cities of Chemnitz, Dresden and Leipzig and offer men and their children temporary, anonymous refuge.

In addition, there is a specialised shelter in Plauen with three family places. This is intended to fill gaps in the protection system and is aimed, for example, at individuals and, where applicable, couples who are affected by the threat of forced marriage or honour killings, as well as economic and social violence.

There is also a specialist counselling centre for victims of human trafficking and honour-based violence. It offers counselling and support for victims of human trafficking and, together with the police, carries out outreach social work in the red-light district. This counselling centre also networks at local, regional, national and international level and lobbies at social and political level. For victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation or marriage trafficking, four additional family protection places are provided through this counselling centre.

As an umbrella organisation, the Saxony State Working Group for Non-Violent Homes e.V. (Saxony State Working Group for Non-Violent Homes) takes on important coordination tasks and also acts as an interface between public administration and the institutions of the support network. The State Centre for Men's Work, a project of the Saxony State Working Group for Boys' and Men's Work e.V. (Saxony State Working Group for Boys and Men), offers counselling, specialist conferences and training courses as an umbrella organisation for the protection of men against violence in Saxony, takes on coordination tasks and acts as an interface between public administration and the support network of men's protection institutions.

In addition, there is the specialist centre of the State Working Group on Sexual Violence – Prevention and Intervention, which coordinates and acts as an interface for the institutions in the support network in the area of sexual violence.

In the area of short-term psychological support and trauma treatment, the Free State of Saxony currently maintains eight trauma outpatient clinics as a means of early psychotherapeutic intervention (within the meaning of Sections 31 ff. SGB XIV): Dresden University Hospital, Leipzig University Hospital, Chemnitz Hospital, Diakonie Clinics Zschadraß, Rudolf Virchow Clinic Glauchau, Görlitz Municipal Hospital, Waldschlösschen Clinic Dresden, Saxon Hospital Arnsdorf. In the future, trauma outpatient clinics are also to be set up at the three other Saxon state hospitals in order to further expand care in rural areas.

5. Saxony-Anhalt

on a)

19 women's shelters with space for 113 women and 142 children offer protection and assistance in the form of counselling and care during and after their stay in the women's shelter, support in legal proceedings or in finding accommodation and asserting financial or other claims, and provide psychosocial support and stabilisation for women and children.

For women and couples affected by forced marriage and honour-related violence, there is the option of accommodation in two safe houses in high-risk cases.

For women affected by violence who are in the special situation of flight and migration, the Refugee Women's Shelter in Halle (Saale) (residential care home for female refugees with/without children) offers refugee women and their children a protected place to stay and retreat.

Re b)

Confidential evidence collection in seven hospitals enables the collection of evidence that can be used in court after an act of (sexual) violence, without the need to file a complaint. The evidence is preserved and can be used in court proceedings if a complaint is filed

. The hospitals have committed themselves to working closely with the rest of the protection and support system in order to be able to refer those affected to appropriate support services if necessary and if desired, and to ensure that there are no gaps in care.

Regarding c)

Two mobile teams support the work of women's shelters by providing psychological care for residents and their children. The assistance complements the counselling services offered by women's shelters and, if necessary, arranges further psychological care after the women have left the shelter.

d)

Four specialist counselling centres for victims of sexual violence, currently with five branches nationwide, offer treatment and counselling for traumatised people who have experienced sexual violence.

Re e), f)

Ten outpatient women's counselling centres (plus a few branch offices) provide counselling and support to women affected by violence. The counselling is intended to help them find their own way out of violence and to create the necessary conditions for this. It also serves to relieve the burden on those affected and as a possible mediator to other more specialised protection and assistance services. In Magdeburg, counselling services are offered in particular to women and girls with disabilities.

Four specialist counselling centres for victims of sexual violence (see letter d.) offer counselling and support to affected women and girls, as well as their relatives and multipliers. In addition to trauma treatment, the focus is above all on empowering them to live their lives despite their experiences of violence.

Four intervention centres offer initial stabilisation, counselling and referral to specialised help and protection services for women affected by violence. As a rule, contact is made proactively by the counsellors after police intervention in cases of domestic violence. Counselling and support are also provided in particular in cases of stalking.

The state's anti-discrimination agencies actively support people who have experienced discrimination and offer comprehensive assistance. This includes qualified individual counselling as well as training courses, further education and workshops on topics related to discrimination and the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG).

g)

The "Violence against Women" helpline is promoted by the institutions of the protection and support system and the Coordination Centre for Women and Gender Equality Policy through public relations work and direct contact.

Re h)

There are seven women's centres in Saxony-Anhalt. The women's centres serve as social, political and cultural education and meeting places for girls and women. The aim is to prevent discrimination and violence, as well as to break down role attributions and traditional clichés. Further objectives include contributing to democracy education, raising awareness and promoting equality between women and men. The work in the women's centres is therefore guided by the principle of "gender-equitable, feminist, intergenerational work with women and girls". For many years, the integration of refugee girls and women and their children has been an increasing focus of their work.

As key players in the field of equality policy, the administrations are

Saxony-Anhalt's equal opportunities officers. [179] Local equal opportunities officers in particular are the point of contact for employees and initiate and support measures to promote equal opportunities in the administration. Externally, municipal equal opportunities officers are active in various fields of action and topics relating to equal opportunities policy and develop measures and projects in their municipalities to enforce equality between women and men. As representatives of women's interests at the local level, they are the point of contact and advisors for the population. They maintain close contact with other public bodies, institutions, associations and federations, work in committees and panels, and are committed to reducing the continuing under-representation of women in social, political and administrative decision-making levels.

6. Schleswig-Holstein

on a)

Women's shelters

Women's shelters aim to protect women and their children who are directly and acutely affected by or threatened with violence. This is achieved through temporary accommodation, counselling and support for women affected by violence and their children, as well as prevention
, education and public awareness work. Recurring counselling topics/support services include: initial intake interview; crisis intervention; social work counselling; psychosocial counselling; mother-child counselling; life counselling and development of perspectives; talking and sharing; informational discussions; conflict discussions.

f)

Women's counselling centres

Women's advice centres in Schleswig-Holstein offer support, advice and protection for women in difficult life situations. Their tasks can be divided into: advice on violence against women, psychosocial counselling, legal advice, strengthening and empowerment, prevention and public relations work, and specific support for migrant women.

g)

Women's advice centres

All women's counselling centres in Schleswig-Holstein offer telephone counselling. This service is aimed at women who have experienced or are still experiencing violence, as well as their relatives and professionals. It offers support in cases of domestic violence, stalking, sexual
violence and other forms of violence.

7. Thuringia

a)

Thuringia has a comprehensive network of women's shelters and women's refuges. They take in women who are threatened by and/or affected by violence, along with their children, and offer them protection, counselling, support and, if necessary, accommodation. They advise them on psychosocial, legal and financial issues. This includes stabilising and processing experiences of violence, promoting independence and self-confidence, and providing support in planning for the future and finding accommodation and work.

If necessary, the staff accompany the women to appointments with authorities, court hearings and doctor's appointments. All women's shelters are in contact with the social services of the municipalities and districts, child protection services and other counselling centres and

[179] https://leitstelle-frauen-geschlechtergleichstellung.sachsen-anhalt.de/frauen-und-gleichstellung/akteurinnen-und-netzwerke/gleichstellungsbeauftragte

institutions. Close networking between all parties involved ensures that women receive the best possible care. The Free State of Thuringia supported a total of twelve of these facilities between 2022 and 2024.

In accordance with the Thuringian Ordinance on the Promotion of Women's Shelters and Women's Protection Apartments (ThürFHFöVO), based on the Thuringian Act on the Promotion of Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and the Promotion of Women's Shelters (ThürChancGlFöG), the state of Thuringia funded personnel expenses for the 24-hour emergency hotline for acute emergencies in the area of domestic violence. The emergency number is published by the women's shelter in daily newspapers and on the women's shelter's website, among other places, and is known to the police stations. In the event of active interventions, the women and their children are taken into the women's shelter and provided with emergency care if necessary. In the case of emergency calls without intervention, brief information is provided, dangerous situations are clarified, counselling appointments are arranged or referrals are made to other sources of help. In addition, personnel and material expenses for networking, prevention, training and supervision, performance documentation and public relations work by women's shelters were subsidised.

Domestic violence intervention centres continue to exist throughout the country and, with their proactive counselling services, bridge the gap between police intervention and applying for protection at the family court under the Protection Against Violence Act.

During the reporting period, personnel and material expenses for the work of the four intervention centres for victims of domestic violence were funded by the Free State. These include counselling and, where necessary, referrals for persons affected or at risk of stalking, domestic violence and digital violence. Funding is also provided for public relations work to provide information about counselling services and violence prevention, cooperation with the state police inspectorates and the authorities and agencies to be involved in individual cases, regional and supra-regional networking and case-related networking, high-risk management, and the documentation, analysis and needs-based development of counselling services.

In addition, preparations were made in 2024 for a change in the overall security of women's protection. The ChancGlFöGTH came into force on 1 January 2025 and guarantees victims of violence and their children (from Thuringia) the right to free accommodation in women's shelters and safe houses in Thuringia, with the state covering personnel costs (4.5 positions) and reasonable material costs. Support for intervention centres against domestic violence and stalking.

Re c)

Section 53 of the ThürSchulG stipulates that all state schools must have specially trained counselling teachers. In Thuringia, counselling teachers are trained for their specific tasks in two-year further training courses. The ThILLM is responsible for the organisation of this training, while the school psychology service is responsible for the content. Even after completing the further training (described above), counselling teachers receive regular further training from the school psychology service on various topics relevant to their work, usually in half-yearly events.

The state education authorities and the school psychology service also support schools in their preventive work.

In addition, there are local partnerships with child and youth welfare institutions (e.g. in the context of school-related youth social work carried out by school social workers, youth facilities and clubs) which support schools in their catchment area in the prevention of sexualised violence through various projects.

Re d)

In Thuringia, there are 10 trauma clinics available for immediate psychosocial assistance.

Re e)

Personal and free external counselling for employees of the Thuringian Ministry of Finance and subordinate departments, including relatives (EAP Assist).

Re f), g)

Section 53 of the Thuringian School Act stipulates that all state schools must have specially trained counselling teachers. In Thuringia, counselling teachers are trained for their specific tasks in two-year further training courses. The ThILLM is responsible for the organisation of this training, while the school psychology service is responsible for the content. Even after completing the further training (described above), guidance teachers receive regular further training from the school psychology service on various topics relevant to their work, usually in half-yearly events.

The state education authorities and the school psychology service also support schools in their preventive work.

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The "elly – Advice Centre against Hate Speech" is funded by the state.

Personal and free external employee counselling by the state administration, including relatives (EAP Assist).

Re h)

The website of the Integration Commissioner of the Free State of Thuringia provides information on protection against violence with a special focus on migrants and multilingual services. [181]

Since 2023, the TMJMV has been funding the project "SAIDA mobil Thüringen – Beratung bei weiblicher Genitalverstümmelung" (SAIDA mobile Thuringia – counselling on female genital mutilation) run by the association SAIDA International through the Integration Project Funding Guideline. The continuation of this funding will ensure that outreach counselling services continue to be available throughout Thuringia in order to educate migrants and refugee women and girls living here on topics such as women's health and sexual and reproductive rights. Regular awareness-raising and training events for professionals ensure that participants have basic information about female genital mutilation and are able to recognise the need for help at an early stage. Direct contact with medical specialists who specialise in treating the consequences of FGM also ensures that
Timely and adequate medical care is guaranteed.

8. Bavaria

An overview of the support services available in Bavaria can be found online.

9. Lower Saxony

Psychiatric clinics in Lower Saxony provide inpatient or day-care treatment for women who have been victims of gender-based violence.
semi-inpatient or outpatient treatment needs-based psychiatric, psychosomatic and psychotherapeutic services.

[180] https://elly-beratung.de/
[181] https://bimf.thueringen.de/integration/gewaltschutz
[182] www.bayern-gegen-gewalt.de

Re a)

Currently, the MS supports 46 women's shelters with 454 places for women and around 900 places for children, 29 BISS, 19 branch offices and 47 violence counselling centres and emergency hotlines, which offer counselling and support beyond initial intervention for sexualised and other forms of violence. All women's shelters, BISS, violence counselling centres and emergency hotlines can be viewed online on a map, including contact details. [183]Women affected by human trafficking can seek advice from one of the specialist counselling centres funded by the state of Lower Saxony (Kobra e.V. in Hanover, SOLWODI e.V. in Braunschweig and Osnabrück). The specialist counselling centres also have places in sheltered accommodation where victims of human trafficking can be housed.

The Crisis Intervention Centre Anonymous Residential Group and Shelter (Ada) provides emergency accommodation in an anonymous residential group and shelter for girls and young women. It can be contacted by email:info@ada-schutzhaus.de or by calling the freephone number: 0800/6647799.[184]

Where possible, LAB NI properties provide target group-specific accommodation areas, e.g. an area for women only. In specific cases, accommodation in a women's shelter is also provided in cases of violence.

Re b), c), d)

Reference to question 21, p. 215.

Medical care equivalent to that provided by a general practitioner is provided in every LAB NI property. The decision as to when further medical or dental treatment is required in addition to basic medical care is made by the doctors on their own responsibility. As a general rule, if a person is entitled to full benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act (AsylbLG), the benefits must be provided in accordance with Sections 4 and 6 of the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act (AsylbLG). The social services department also works closely with NTFN e.V. to provide psychological support. As a general rule, it must be ensured that residents receive the necessary medical care and treatment in accordance with their need for protection. Among other things, the social services department is responsible for providing psychosocial counselling and care for refugees with mental illness or trauma, as well as psychosocial counselling to ensure sexual and reproductive self-determination, in order to identify existing needs in a timely manner and to arrange support from external counselling services.

Regarding e)

At LAB NI locations where asylum procedure counselling is available, women can access this service directly on the premises.

Re f), g)

One of the tasks of employees in reception centres is to provide victims of violence with access to counselling services. To this end, social services establish contact with local institutions. If necessary, counselling services are given the opportunity to work in the facility, for example for consultation hours or outreach assistance. Regional help and support services as well as hotlines (helpline for women, helpline against forced marriage, emergency number) are publicised in the facility. The counselling services can be used independently or with the support of social services.

Since September 2019, an internal online traffic light system has been mandatory for all women's shelters in Lower Saxony. The interactive map of the state showing all women's shelters,

[183] https://www.frauenhaeuser-niedersachsen.de/karte
[184] www.ada-schutzhaus.de

their places and "special features" provides a daily updated overview of the (occupancy in all women's shelters for better networking and placement of women; places for women are regularly available. It also serves to assess needs.

Affected girls and women in Lower Saxony, as well as their confidants, teachers, employees of authorities or counselling centres, can obtain expert information and exchange ideas on questions and problems relating to forced marriage/forced marriage by calling the crisis hotline AGAINST forced marriage (crisis hotline). The free telephone number 0800-0667888 (email:zwangsheirat@kargah.de) offers personal and initial telephone counselling in the following languages: German, Arabic, Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, English, Farsi, French, Kurmanci, Sorani and Turkish. In addition, information is available on who can provide qualified regional counselling in case of problems. The staff at the counselling centre are bound by confidentiality. The support options include jointly discussing the individual situation, developing perspectives and solutions, cooperating with authorities and institutions, providing encouragement, offering psychosocial counselling, referring clients to counselling services offered by other institutions, and arranging suitable and anonymous accommodation, such as shelters specifically for the target group. Prevention work is an essential part of the crisis hotline's work. This takes the form of public relations work, i.e. the widespread provision of information material on forced marriage (flyers in different languages, posters and recommendations for action for professionals), workshops and training courses for both professionals and volunteers who have access to the potential target group. Nationwide information campaigns, including posters for schools, are also carried out, particularly before the summer holidays[185].

Since March 2024, the Lower Saxony Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Health and Equality has been supporting the "Elikia" project ("hope" in Lingala, an African language). The project is run by
baobab - zusammensein e.V.

The aim of the project is to provide girls and women affected by FGM/C with low-threshold counselling on health issues and further support services, as well as assistance and guidance from expert counsellors, to help them cope with and process the suffering inflicted on them.

To this end, counsellors, school staff, daycare centres, youth and health authorities and other public institutions, as well as doctors, equal opportunities officers, etc., are sensitised to dealing with those affected or at risk and their culture and informed about the topic through specialist training events throughout Lower Saxony. In addition to counselling, this also fulfils the important function of education and the associated prevention. More volunteers are being recruited for counselling and education work, who are familiar with the issue, among other things, because they are affected by it themselves and have better access to the communities. The aim is to take a two-pronged approach to the necessary prevention and awareness-raising work: in addition to permanent counselling centres where those affected can seek help, staff members go directly into the communities to raise awareness of the injustice of FGM/C and provide information. The fight against FGM/C in
Lower Saxony is thus supported and strengthened.

10. Rhineland-Palatinate

All five regional police headquarters in Rhineland-Palatinate have full-time victim counselling services, whose staff have specialist qualifications in social work or psychology (e.g. degree in social work/social pedagogy, degree in psychology). They have extensive specialist knowledge and provide counselling and advice to victims of crime.
psychology (e.g. degree in social work/social pedagogy, degree in psychology). They have extensive specialist knowledge and advise victims of crime

[185] www.kargah.de/zwangsheirat

and refer them to further support services.

The criminal investigation officers at the relevant specialist police stations receive special training in dealing with victims of the crimes mentioned in the question. During the initial contact, a sensitive assessment of the facts is carried out, accompanied by references to support services. In addition, victims are given the "victim information sheet". This is a pre-printed police form that provides victims with information about their rights, obligations and options for filing a claim. Furthermore, there is close contact between the case officer and the victims throughout the proceedings.

The Quint* specialist counselling centre has been active since the beginning of 2023 for queer people (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and non-binary people, LGBTIQ*) who have experienced violence in Rhineland-Palatinate. It offers professional support and is one of the few organisations in Germany specifically created to provide counselling for queer victims of violence and their relatives. It complements existing peer counselling and other counselling services and is open to all queer people affected by violence and their relatives.

In 2025, the state of Rhineland-Palatinate will fund:

- 19 women's shelters with 140 rooms for women with their children who have experienced violence/family places
- 6 second stage projects affiliated with women's shelters, with a total of 14 places
- 19 specialist counselling centres for women affected by violence, affiliated with all women's shelters
- 18 intervention centres at 22 locations
- 14 women's emergency hotlines for women who have experienced sexual violence
- The state-wide project Confidential Help after Violence (see the answer to questions 19-21, pp. 208, 213) at 12 prospective clinic locations

Agreement on the implementation of Section 132k of the German Social Code, Book V (SGB V) – Confidential evidence collection in Rhineland-Palatinate

Rhineland-Palatinate is now the eighth federal state where women and men affected by sexual and domestic violence can take advantage of confidential evidence collection, even if they have not yet filed a criminal complaint (see response from the Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration to question 1). The possibility of securing evidence independently of legal proceedings, which will apply retroactively from 1 January 2025, represents an active and important contribution to victim protection in Rhineland-Palatinate. Victims of violence will thus have the opportunity to decide in peace and at a distance from the crime whether they wish to file a complaint without the evidence of the crime being lost. To this end, the Ministry of Science and Health, together with the Ministry of Family, Women, Integration and Culture, the statutory health insurance funds and the Institute of Legal Medicine at Mainz University Medical Centre, has concluded an agreement on the assumption of costs for the confidential collection of evidence after violent crimes in accordance with Section 132k of the German Social Code, Book V (SGB V). The state government's goal is to cooperate with an initial 12 clinics throughout Rhineland-Palatinate in order to be able to offer confidential evidence collection as comprehensively as possible and thus close to home. For the purposes of documentation that can be used in court, the victims are physically examined and, depending on the case, evidence may also be collected from their bodies. Injuries are photographed. All findings are stored in a tamper-proof and secure manner and can be requested in the event of a complaint and release from confidentiality and used in criminal proceedings.

Re d)

Expansion of Trauma outpatient clinics according to the Social Compensation law

(Social Security Code, Book XIV)

Trauma clinics offer victims of physical, psychological and sexual violence rapid and early counselling and psychological help to support them in coping with the consequences of the crime. There are currently eight trauma clinics in Rhineland-Palatinate.

Re f)

In 2019, the model project "Addicted women with experience of violence" was initiated by the Ministry for Women. As part of the model project, cooperation between women's support organisations and specialist centres for women-specific addiction work was intensified and expanded. In most cooperation partnerships, collegial case discussions, supervision and further training have become established. Several joint training courses on the topic of "trauma" were held. In the course of the project, the network partners were further diversified (e.g. to include equal opportunities officers, social psychiatric services, homeless assistance) and public relations work was intensified. This made it much easier for women with the dual problems of addiction and violence to access the respective support systems.

On forced marriage: see question 9 b), p. 81.

Re h)

In 2021, Rhineland-Palatinate became the second federal state to initiate a state project on female genital mutilation ("Effectively combating female genital mutilation: supporting those affected, training professionals and creating sustainable networks" [187]). At the start of the state project, the focus was initially on taking stock and networking existing services. In the following years, the project was further developed, new target groups were addressed and forms of support were developed: since 2024, for example, a newly established fund has been used to cover the travel costs of affected women and their accompanying persons to medical
facilities. The state project is currently developing a group programme for women affected by genital mutilation.

11. North Rhine-Westphalia on a)

The state of North Rhine-Westphalia has a very well-developed infrastructure for supporting women, offering protection and qualified, concrete support and counselling to women affected by violence.

Women's shelters in North Rhine-Westphalia offer women with children refuge, professional counselling and support for further independent living. Further information on the tasks of women's shelters can be found in section 4.2 of the guideline on the granting of subsidies for the promotion of women's shelters.

After five existing women's shelters that had not previously received state funding were included in the state funding programme in 2023, a second women's shelter in Gelsenkirchen, which was newly built, was included in the funding programme in 2024, meaning that 70 women's shelters now receive state funding
. The state government has thus been able to further increase the number of places of refuge for women affected by violence.

[186] https://lsjv.rlp.de/themen/soziale-entschaedigung/schnelle-hilfen
[187] https://www.caritas-mainz.de/caritas-vor-ort/mainz/cbjz-st.-nikolaus/fgm?searchterm=FGM
[188] https://recht.nrw.de/lmi/owa/br_bes_text?anw_nr=1&gld_nr=2&ugl_nr=2170&bes_id=52318&val=52318&ver=7&sg=&aufgehoben=N&menu=1

Since the beginning of the legislative period, a total of 75 new state-funded shelter places for women have been created in women's shelters – meaning that North Rhine-Westphalia now has a total of 711 shelter places for women and a comparable number of places for children.

The following table shows the development of shelter places since 2020. The increase in shelter places is the result of new facilities being included in the women's shelter funding programme and the expansion of places in women's shelters that have already been receiving state funding from the programme for many years.

Calendar year	Shelters for women	Number of women's shelters
2020 as of 31 December	619	64
2021 as of 31 December	636	64
2022 as at 31 December	640	64
2023 as at 31 December	698	69
2024 as at 31 December	703	70
2025 as at 30 April	711	70

To support women affected by violence after a stay in a women's shelter, the Ministry responsible for equality also funded six model second-stage projects until 31 December 2020, which focused on the difficult transition phase following a stay in a women's shelter, and two model housing projects in the Cologne/Bonn conurbation, which focused on finding accommodation and housing.

The state of North Rhine-Westphalia supports the specialist unit of Mädchenhaus Bielefeld e.V., which offers concrete help for women and girls with disabilities. Since 2019, the specialist unit of Mädchenhaus Bielefeld e.V. has been funded annually with around £230,000 as a specialist unit for "Violence prevention and protection against violence for girls and young women with disabilities/chronic illnesses – Mädchen sicher inklusiv" (Violence Prevention and Protection for Girls and Young Women with Disabilities/Chronic Illnesses – Girls Safe and Inclusive) since 2019 in order to ensure improved accessibility for the target group (directly and indirectly via specialists and trusted persons) and to offer adequate advice and support, e.g. through state-wide advice, help and referral for the above-mentioned target group, information events with workshop elements, nationwide and, in some cases, nationwide networking, education and interface work. Particular mention should be made of the consistent pursuit of implementing accessibility to all of the organisation's services (including the refuge and the supra-regional specialist counselling centre against forced marriage). The specialist centre moved to a new, accessible building in 2022.

For information on the promotion of places for girls and young women who are threatened by or affected by forced marriage by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, please refer to the 1st State Report. A new development is the promotion of a place for a girl with a disability. Funding for the place for a girl with a disability in the inclusive anonymous refuge of the Bielefeld girls' shelter has been in place since 2022. This funding was preceded by a pilot phase starting in March 2019, during which the place was funded and evaluated as part of a pilot project. An overview of the shelters can be found online.

In order to further strengthen and expand the range of women's shelters, in 2020 the Ministry of the Interior, Local Government, Building and Digitalisation included the construction and modernisation of women's shelters as well as the corresponding conversion of buildings in its public housing subsidy programme (subsidies for construction/investment costs,
no funding for operating, personnel and other costs). The funding relates both to the creation of places for women seeking protection and to special

[189] https://www.mkjfgfi.nrw/Gewaltpr%C3%A4vention

follow-up care services after a stay in a women's shelter (second stage services). The measures are funded through project-related special quotas within the framework of experimental housing construction, so that the individual projects are closely advised during the planning phase and receive qualitative support that goes beyond financial support.

The general requirements for barrier-free construction, in conjunction with additional housing subsidies for more barrier-free living space, are intended to make women's shelters accessible to women with disabilities.

In the specified period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2024, four women's shelters were funded with a total of around EUR 7.1 million as part of public housing promotion.

Re c)

In North Rhine-Westphalia, there are 136 psychosocial support workers for victims of violent crime spread across all regional court districts. These support workers are required to undergo training on issues relating to gender-based violence, including the associated intersectional burdens. Of these, 51 offer support specifically to victims of sexual offences. Fourteen services are aimed specifically at girls.

Re f)

The 62 general women's counselling centres funded by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia focus their activities on providing concrete assistance in all forms of violence against women, namely through acute crisis intervention, individual or group psychosocial counselling, and support in dealing with doctors, the police, courts and other institutions.

Since 2020, the number of institutions included in the state's support programme for specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence has increased from 52 to 57. The 57 specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence funded by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia offer concrete help for women and girls who have experienced sexualised violence, in the form of acute crisis intervention, psychosocial counselling, and accompaniment to doctors, the police, courts and other institutions.

A state-funded specialised network of eight women's counselling centres is available for those affected by or at risk of sexual exploitation (forced prostitution or human trafficking for sexual exploitation). In addition to funding for counselling and support, the state provides money to ensure that foreign victims can be accommodated in safe accommodation and receive funds for legal advice, language mediation and qualified interpreting, as well as accompaniment to appointments.

The state-funded YUNA project carries out prevention work on the subject of female genital mutilation and also offers specific advice and support to girls and women who are at risk or affected. For example, the counsellors establish contact with lawyers and doctors, accompany the girls and women to appointments and support them in the asylum process. Counselling is provided by telephone, email or in person. Counsellors have the option of visiting women and girls who are at risk or affected at their place of residence, e.g. a refugee shelter.

Two specialist counselling centres are funded to support girls and women who are affected by or threatened with forced marriage: The specialist counselling centre against forced marriage at the Bielefeld Girls' Shelter and the project "Self-determined future – against forced marriage and patriarchal violence" run by the agisra e.V. association, which offer psychosocial counselling via various communication channels and, if necessary, refer those affected to the wider support system.

See the answer under Article 7, Question 3 (p. 30), in particular with regard to the funding provided by the State Coordination Office for Anti-Violence Work and the psychosocial counselling centres.

Re g) Reference to question 18, p. 202

12. Bremen

The financial resources and thus also the staffing levels of the specialist counselling centres for domestic violence, sexualised violence and forced prostitution have been continuously increased in recent years. Legal advice is also provided there.

In addition, a counselling service for female genital mutilation has been newly established and is funded with approximately 30,000 euros annually.

The number of beds in Bremen's women's shelters was increased from 115 to 145 between 2020 and 2024.

In the municipality of Bremen, there are three independent child and youth welfare organisations that continuously provide services for victims of violence, especially underage females. One of these services specialises in victims of sexual violence. All services also offer online and anonymous counselling.

Bremen has trauma clinics for adults as well as for children and young people.

In the area of refugees, there are two communal shelters at the municipal level that are reserved for women only. The places are primarily intended to provide safe housing for women who have been traumatised by violence. In addition, there is asylum procedure counselling specifically aimed at vulnerable refugees, which includes women who have experienced violence.

13. Saarland

on a)

The Elisabeth Zillken House of the Catholic Women's Social Service (SkF) in Saarbrücken is a specialised shelter that, as an integration assistance facility, caters specifically to the needs of women with disabilities. The Zillken House can accommodate women who are entitled to social assistance under SGB XII or who are self-payers. Women with acute addiction requiring treatment or illness, as well as those in need of care, cannot be admitted to the Elisabeth Zillken House or the AWO women's shelters.

Otherwise, the existing measures (four women's shelters in Saarland) will be continued (see first state report).

Re b)

(1) Institute of Legal Medicine at Saarland University in Homburg

(2) Victim emergency room of forensic medicine at Saarbrücken Hospital

In addition, regular medical care is provided through outpatient treatment by a general practitioner and/or gynaecologist.

Re c)

(1) Family and life counselling

   a. Psychological counselling centre of the Saarpfalz district

   b. Psychological counselling centre for parenting, marriage, family and life issues at the Caritas Centre in Sankt Ingbert

(2) Specific services for children affected by parental domestic violence offered by the Life Counselling Service of the Diocese of Trier in Saarbrücken

Re d)

(1) Trauma outpatient clinic at the MEDIAN Clinic Münchwies in Neunkirchen

(2) AHG Clinic Berus in Überherrn-Berus

(3) Trauma treatment in rehabilitation clinics

a. MEDIAN Clinics Berus

b. MediClin Bliestal Clinics

c. MEDIAN Clinic Münchwies

Rehabilitation clinics

Information about legal advice and counselling assistance

Those affected have access to legal advice at the lawyers' advice centres. They can apply for and receive advice assistance at the local courts. Legal advice centres run by the Saarland Bar Association are located in the premises of the local courts in Saarbrücken, Merzig and Neunkirchen. There, citizens who cannot afford the costs of legal advice but need legal advice can obtain legal advice from a solicitor quickly and easily. If the legal question cannot be answered immediately on site, those seeking legal advice have the option of applying for legal advice assistance. With the eligibility certificate, citizens can then obtain further legal advice from a solicitor of their choice.

The service is easily accessible on the websites of the courts and the Saarland Bar Association. Information about availability, opening hours and the application procedure is provided online.

Re f)

(1) Continuation of existing advisory services

(2) Reference is made to the responses in the first state report.

(3) Other counselling centres that already existed at the time of the first state report but were not explicitly mentioned => for family and life counselling

a. Life counselling by the Diocese of Trier in Lebach, Merzig, Neunkirchen, Saarbrücken, Saarlouis, St. Wendel

b. Protestant counselling centre for educational, marital and life issues of the Diakonisches Werk in Saarbrücken

c. Parenting, marriage, family and life counselling by the AWO in Saarlouis

Re g) Existing measures were continued, reference to country report. **Re h)**

Since summer 2023, the women's emergency hotline has offered online counselling.

14. Berlin

The expansion of protection and counselling services for gender-based violence described below is a central component of Berlin's state action plan for implementing the Istanbul Convention. A tabular overview is available online.

Re a)

In addition to the information provided for the baseline report, the following is reported:

Since 2020, the number of places of refuge has been continuously expanded. In particular, the number of low-threshold places of refuge for women and their children who are acutely affected by violence has been increased.

[190] https://www.parlament-berlin.de/adosservice/19/Haupt/vorgang/h19-1897.A-v.pdf

has increased from 301 to 521 since the beginning of 2020.

Of the 521 shelter places for women affected by acute violence and their children,

- 462 places in the eight women's shelters in Berlin, one of which is barrier-free.
- 15 places in the Berlin clearing house, which will open in 2023, and
- 44 shelter places in the women's shelters of the Berlin City Mission

In 2025, a further 50 or so shelter places will be opened in a barrier-free property. In addition, preparations are underway for another women's shelter, which will be set up in a property acquired by the state of Berlin. It is scheduled to open in 2028, once extensive refurbishment and renovation work has been completed.

In addition to the emergency shelters, there are around
170 shelter places in refuge apartments and approximately 160 shelter places in second-stage apartments are available for women affected by violence and their children.

In addition, the state of Berlin currently provides a total of 10 barrier-free and five barrier-reduced anonymous shelters for queer adult victims of hate violence, forced marriage and domestic violence, which were set up during the reporting period.

The low-threshold and anonymous emergency overnight accommodation provided by Sleep In is also available as a shelter. This mainly concerns young women of legal age who do not receive youth welfare services from the youth welfare offices.

There is close cooperation with social welfare (emergency) overnight accommodation services, which can also be arranged quickly upon consultation.

With its specialised services for girls, the youth welfare organisation Wildwasser Arbeitsgemeinschaft gegen sexuellen Missbrauch an Mädchen e.V. addresses the gender-specific counselling and support needs of affected girls and young women and also ensures the right to counselling for child and youth welfare professionals in accordance with Section 8b of the Social Code Book VIII (SGB VIII) and professionals who belong to the group of persons specified in Section 4 (1) of the Child Protection Act (KKG).

In addition, the organisation operates the Mädchennotdienst (Girls' Emergency Service) on behalf of the State of Berlin as a branch of the Berliner Notdienst Kinderschutz (Berlin Child Protection Emergency Service). Here, girls and young women who have been affected by sexual violence are taken into care.

In addition, the state of Berlin has an anonymous crisis centre for girls and young women threatened by forced marriage and femicide. PAPATYA is a city-wide, gender-specific and culturally sensitive special service that can immediately admit girls and young women in the aforementioned high-risk situations and ensure their protection in anonymous accommodation. PAPATYA is a complementary project with a gender-specific focus and additional security structures. PAPATYA is funded by a grant from the Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family Affairs.

Re b) Reference to question 28 (p. 275)

Re c)

The provision of psychological support has been expanded since the last survey for the GREVIO baseline report. Psychologists are employed in three of the eight women's shelters, in the Berlin clearing house and in two specialist counselling and intervention centres, so that women and, in some cases, their children can receive psychological counselling.
This involves participation in risk analysis, crisis intervention and

[191] https://www.berlin.de/notdienst-kinderschutz/maedchennotdienst/

short-term psychological support in coping with the experience of violence. Mothers with children with mental illnesses are supported by social workers and psychologists in their search for psychological help.

In Berlin, in addition to trauma clinics (see below) for people affected by acute violence, there is regionalised compulsory psychiatric care, with some clinics also focusing specifically on the health consequences of gender-based violence.

Re d)

According to Section 3 of SGB XIV, victims of violence are entitled to so-called rapid assistance in a trauma clinic. There are three trauma clinics in Berlin, two for adults and one for children.[192]Adults are entitled to 15 sessions, children and adolescents to 18 sessions.

The website of the Fachstelle Traumanetz Berlin lists 147 therapists in a database who, according to their own information, work with the target group/victims of gender-based violence. In addition, three Berlin clinics offer (partially) inpatient trauma therapy for the target group, which in individual cases includes confrontation therapy. The three cooperating clinics are: Alexianer St. Joseph Hospital Berlin-Weißensee, Vivantes Neukölln Hospital, and Havelhöhe Community Hospital.

In addition, a list of psychotherapeutic practices offering trauma therapy is available for people affected by gender-based violence.

Re e)

Many of the counselling centres listed under letter f below, as well as the shelters, have funds available for legal advice.

The Welcome Centre, the state counselling centre of the Berlin Senate Commissioner for Participation, Integration and Migration, advises people with a migration background and their relatives on topics such as arrival, entry and residence, social benefits, work and training, and more. Among other things, multilingual legal advice is offered. In close cooperation with anti-violence counselling centres, women affected by violence and women in precarious situations are supported in securing their right of residence and access to benefits.

Re f)

For the initial situation, please refer to the supplementary information to the basic report. During the reporting period, counselling services were expanded as follows:

In 2024, the sixth specialist counselling and intervention centre for domestic violence was opened, and another is currently being set up and is scheduled to open in June 2025. Both counselling centres are located in outlying districts of Berlin that are disproportionately affected by domestic violence (Spandau and Marzahn-Hellersdorf). The establishment of these services improves the regional distribution of counselling options for violence against women.

In order to improve counselling services for women affected by sexual violence, the specialist centre against sexual violence against women* was expanded as part of the implementation of the state action plan. Four new positions were added to the staff and a second location was opened in another district.

The anti-stalking project for victims of (cyber) stalking and digital violence was established at a women's centre in 2024. There, and at two other counselling services
, victims receive technical support and IT security advice for greater self-determination and security in the digital space.

[192] https://www.berlin.de/lageso/versorgung/soziales-entschaedigungsrecht/traumaambulanzen/
[193] https://lara-berlin.de/home

Since 2020, the Berlin Coordination Centre against FGM_C has been offering counselling and support to victims of female genital mutilation. The coordination centre's most important services include awareness-raising work in communities, psychosocial and psychological (group) counselling, gynaecological (regular) care, training and further education for specialists, as well as networking and public relations work. The services offered by the Coordination Centre were also expanded in implementation of the 2024 State Action Plan.

In order to improve the interface management between the services offered by the Berlin support system for women affected by violence and the integration assistance for women with disabilities, the "Fachstelle Gewaltschutz Einfach Machen" (Specialist Unit for Simple Protection Against Violence) was established in 2024.

The additional counselling and support services for refugee women in the area of anti-violence (see supplement to the basic report), which were initiated in 2016/2017 in connection with the Master Plan for Integration and Security, have been consolidated and have been part of regular project funding since 2024. The language mediation pool at the BIG Hotline, originally intended for work with refugee women affected by violence, has been strengthened and has been available since April 2025 for counselling work with all women affected by violence who need language mediation.

In addition to the supplement to the basic report, reference is made here to the psychosocial counselling and support in various formats for victims of hate violence, forced marriage and domestic violence provided by the following anti-violence counselling centres for LGBTIQ+ people:

(1) LesMigraS: Anti-discrimination and anti-violence counselling by Lesbenberatung Berlin e. V.

(2) L-SUPPORT e.V. Lesbian | Bi | Queer Victim Support Berlin

(3) MANEO The gay anti-violence project of Mann-O-Meter e. V.

(4) Anti-violence counselling TIN Victim support and anti-violence counselling for trans, inter and non-binary people from Schwulenberatung Berlin gGmbH

For the counselling centre of Opferhilfe Berlin e.V. and iTOB – Stop Stalking – see supplementary basic report.

The Proaktiv service centre for victims of crime enables proactive referral of victims to counselling centres in Berlin. Proaktiv means that victims of crime do not have to search for and contact support or a counselling centre themselves, but can hand over this task to the service centre. The Proaktiv service centre finds a suitable counselling centre, which promptly contacts the victims and provides them with information, advice and support free of charge, confidentially and anonymously if desired, see also question 14.c (p. 165).

Since June 2024, the state of Berlin has been funding Germany's first specialist counselling and coordination centre that provides advice specifically on the issue of trafficking and exploitation of minors (run by IN VIA Katholischer Verband für Mädchen- und Frauensozialarbeit für das Erzbistum Berlin gGmbH). The counselling centre focuses on providing case-specific advice and support to youth welfare office staff and employees working with unaccompanied refugee minors in cases of trafficking and exploitation. The specialist counselling centre assists in identifying victims, assessing and evaluating risks, and developing tailored protection and support measures.

Re g)

In addition to the information provided in the basic report, it is reported that the BIG hotline has been available around the clock every day since February 2024.

The Girls' Emergency Hotline (030 61 00 63) is available 24/7 and offers counselling for girls and young women who are affected by sexual exploitation, physical and psychological violence, harassment or forced marriage, for example. The portfolio of support services includes counselling sessions, clarification discussions with family

and/or authorities, as well as referral to inpatient services.

In cases of acute need, the hotline refers girls and young women to suitable support services such as Wildwasser e.V., PAPATYA of the Turkish-German Women's Association (Türkisch-Deutscher Frauenverein e.V.) or women's shelters, or ensures protection through the Berlin Youth and Girls' Emergency Service.

h)

The internet portal hilfe-in-berlin.de[194]provides victims of crime with lots of useful information about what they can do and what support options are available. The search function also takes victims to numerous support services that offer assistance to victims, witnesses, relatives and professionals – free of charge, without obligation and anonymously. For information on the violence protection clinic as a documentation centre, see the supplementary basic report.

To combat violence against women, the state of Berlin has been implementing an innovative and protected app developed by the association Gewaltfrei in die Zukunft (Violence-free into the Future) for victims of gender-based relationship violence (a specific form of domestic violence) since January 2023.[195] The app offers victims a bridge to the existing support system. Available in several languages, it offers comprehensive legal and psychosocial information as well as counselling services around the clock and in the comfort of one's own home, including the option of securely documenting incidents of violence in a court-supported violence diary. The project office of the Senate Department for the Interior and Sport coordinates distribution and communication, particularly with administrative institutions in the state of Berlin, as part of the "Gewaltfrei in die Zukunft" innovation project. [196] The project office is working closely with the supporting association Gewaltfrei in die Zukunft (Violence-free into the Future) to implement the app for victims of gender-based domestic violence.

The Berlin Police has implemented domestic violence coordinators and victim protection officers in its directorates and offices. Among other things, they provide advice to women who have been victims of gender-based violence covered by the Istanbul Convention and provide information on police intervention options and external help and support services.

In individual cases, a psychologist is available for short-term crisis intervention. See also the answer to question 27 (p. 269).

In addition, Berlin has a diverse and interconnected project landscape that aims to empower women and strengthen their resources, including in terms of their career orientation, development and advancement.

15. Baden-Württemberg

An overview of all counselling centres in Baden-Württemberg in German can be found online.

An overview of counselling centres for victims of human trafficking can be found online. [199]

[194] https://www.hilfe-in-berlin.de/
[195] https://www.gewaltfrei-in-die-zukunft.de/
[196] https://www.berlin.de/sen/inneres/sicherheit/innovation-wissenschaftsvernetzung-undforschung/projekte-und-innovationsvorhaben/gewaltfrei-in-die-zukunft/gewaltfrei-in-diezukunft-1527140.php
[197] https://www.berlin.de/sen/frauen/
[198] https://sozialministerium.baden-wuerttemberg.de/fileadmin/redaktion/m-sm/intern/downloads/Downloads_Gegen_Gewalt_an_Frauen/Uebersicht_BW-Hilfeangebote-gewaltbetroffene-Frauen.pdf
[199] https://sozialministerium.baden-wuerttemberg.de/fileadmin/redaktion/m-sm/intern/downloads/Downloads_Gegen_Gewalt_an_Frauen/Liste_Beratungsstellen-BW_Opfer-Menschenhandel.pdf

In addition to the aforementioned institutional support provided by VwV FBS and VwV FKH, the following specialised support services funded by the state are available in Baden-Württemberg: Coordination centre for digital violence, specialist counselling for organised sexual violence, women's shelter Segel for victims of violence with addiction problems, violence clinics, contact point for FGM/C, state coordination centre for information, counselling and support for tin* persons who have experienced gender-based and sexual violence, emergency accommodation and counselling for victims of forced marriage and violence in
the name of honour.

16. Brandenburg

on a)

17 women's shelters, 4 women's protection facilities and 3 specialised counselling centres. The 17 women's shelters act as competence centres for protection against violence. They take on many tasks, such as emergency calls and counselling.

b)

Confidential evidence collection and initial medical care after sexual violence at 13 clinics in the federal state of Brandenburg.

Re f)

- Coordination and counselling centre for women affected by human trafficking and forced prostitution, Land BB, IN VIA
- Specialist counselling on various forms of violence, especially sexual violence by Opferhilfeland Brandenburg e.V.: at five locations in the state.

26. What kind of specialised support service includes child psychologists or other professionals who specialise in supporting children who have been exposed to domestic violence, including violence perpetrated by one parent against the other?

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

1. Hamburg

In Hamburg, the two child protection centres run by the Hamburg branch of the German Child Protection Association offer counselling and support for children, young people and their parents who have experienced various forms of violence. This includes domestic violence. The child protection centres employ psychologists and qualified social education workers.

In addition, educational counselling centres offer counselling for families, children and young people dealing with family problems, parental separation and, in this context, domestic violence.

The Ankerland Trauma Centre, UKE – Clinic for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics – is Germany's only facility for severely traumatised children and young people. In addition , a referral is made to
(registered) psychotherapists by child protection groups in the clinics.

2. Hesse

The specialists at the counselling centres not only advise those directly affected by domestic violence,
but also involve their relatives where appropriate. The special needs of children are also addressed, either as part of family counselling or –

depending on the severity of the case – in separate, tailored counselling and support.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Children who have been victims of violence receive the same straightforward and unbureaucratic psychotherapeutic support in trauma clinics (see above) as adults (provided that the other requirements are met). Unlike trauma outpatient clinics for adults, the staff providing treatment must have special qualifications in the psychotherapeutic treatment of children. If children have experienced violence (as defined in SGB XIV) between their parents, they can receive the above-mentioned support in the trauma outpatient clinic as relatives in accordance with Section 2 (1) and (3) SGB XIV.
trauma outpatient clinic.

4. Saxony

In addition to the trauma outpatient clinics for adults, there are currently four trauma outpatient clinics specifically for children and adolescents in the Free State of Saxony: Dresden Municipal Hospital, Leipzig University Hospital, Chemnitz Hospital, and Klinik am Waldschlösschen Dresden. In addition, the Saxon funding guideline "Health and Care" offers the possibility of financing so-called "case managers". These are social education specialists (attached to trauma outpatient clinics) who care for and accompany children and adolescents during the trauma therapy process.

Overall, the Free State has no systematic knowledge of the specialised support services and their staffing levels that are aimed at children and young people. The organisation of child and youth welfare services in accordance with SGB VIII is a mandatory municipal task that is not subject to any instructions. Within this framework, the districts and independent cities, as local providers of public youth welfare services, have overall responsibility for the fulfilment of tasks, including planning and financing responsibilities.

5. Saxony-Anhalt

Women's shelters provide **specialised services for children** of women affected by violence. These shelters have staff dedicated to providing specialised care for children. In addition, children who receive help with their mothers in women's shelters can also take advantage of psychological counselling provided by the mobile team to discuss and process trauma and develop solutions for dealing with difficult situations. Children who have experienced sexual violence can also – in consultation with their carers – receive counselling and help at specialist counselling centres for victims of sexual violence. This service is also available to adults who experienced sexual violence as children and recognise a need to process their experiences.

The Saxony-Anhalt Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians (KVSA) also announced that it had signed a **cooperation agreement on child protection** with the municipal umbrella organisations (County Council and Association of Towns and Municipalities) in August 2024. This agreement supports the idea of cooperation and networking to promote and support the physical and mental health of all children and young people in the state of Saxony-Anhalt. The objectives of the joint agreement are: to protect children and young people from violence, neglect and abuse through close cooperation between contracted doctors/psychotherapists and the local youth welfare offices, to strengthen regional cooperation, and to provide needs-based information and training opportunities. The KVSA supports network formation and local cooperation by establishing contacts, e.g. to regional quality circles, and by creating information and training opportunities.
KVSA through contact mediation, e.g. to regional quality circles, and the creation of information and training opportunities.

6. Schleswig-Holstein

Child protection centres

There are four child protection centres in Schleswig-Holstein that specialise in counselling and support for children, young people (and their families) affected by violence. The counselling centres have common quality standards. The professionals working there
are psychologists or social pedagogues with additional training in (child) therapy.

7. Thuringia

The model project "Sag's weiter" (Tell someone) was funded by the state of Thuringia (Thuringian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport) as a model project in the city of Gera from September 2020 to August 2022. Since September 2022, it has been continued by the city of Gera with municipal funds. "Sag's weiter" is a proactive counselling service tailored to the specific needs of children and young people who are affected by domestic violence. It is based on a cross-system cooperation approach between the intervention centre and the child and youth protection service.

With currently 20 child and youth protection services in 19 of 22 local authorities, Thuringia has an almost comprehensive network of specialised contact and counselling centres for children and young people who are threatened or affected by physical, emotional, sexualised violence or neglect. The target group also includes young
as victims of domestic violence.

8. Bavaria

State-funded women's shelters must provide specialist staff for counselling and caring for children in accordance with the following guidelines: 1.00 specialist positions for a women's shelter with five to seven places for women and an additional 0.10 specialist positions for each additional place for women. Eligible specialists for counselling and caring for children are educators, childcare workers, social pedagogues and persons with comparable completed pedagogical training or relevant experience.

Every specialist counselling centre subsidised by personnel costs must have specialist staff available to counsel women, children and young people in accordance with the following requirement: 2.00 specialist positions. Eligible specialists for counselling women, children and young people are social education workers, social workers and persons with comparable professional qualifications or relevant experience.
experience.

9. Lower Saxony

For all questions relating to child protection, the counselling centres in the area of violence against children and young people as well as the so-called "experienced specialists" according to SGB
. These specialists are specialised in issues of violence, but not exclusively and specifically in the issue of intimate partner violence.

The specialists at the youth welfare offices are also responsible for children who have been exposed to domestic violence, including violence perpetrated by one parent against the other. Specialists at independent youth welfare organisations are obliged by their organisation's agreement with the youth welfare office to take action if there are serious indications that endangerment of a child's welfare (Section 8a (4) sentence 1 no. 1 SGB VIII).

10. Rhineland-Palatinate

However, the victim advocates already mentioned in the answer to question 25 (p. 248) do not specialise in the target group of children. However, basic knowledge in this area is available due to the respective professional qualifications and, where applicable, previous professional experience
previous employment.

The task of police victim counselling is to provide short-term psychosocial counselling tailored to the needs of the individual victim with the aim of referring them to the existing support system with its specialist counselling centres, such as intervention centres – in cases involving children, child intervention centres, women's shelters, welfare associations or other victim support organisations, such as WEISSER RING e.V. When questioning children, the police take special protective measures and use child-friendly procedures. Where possible, interviews are conducted once using audiovisual technology. If children live in families affected by violence, the responsible youth welfare offices are always involved. They carry out risk assessments and initiate appropriate measures under their own authority.

The most important actors in child and youth welfare are the public (youth welfare offices) and independent agencies. In Rhineland-Palatinate, there are 41 youth welfare offices in twelve independent cities and five district cities with their own youth welfare offices, as well as in 24 districts.

In cases where it is necessary to place children and young people in care – for example, in cases where children and young people are affected or co-affected by domestic violence
– there are around 240 semi-residential and residential child and youth welfare services available in Rhineland-Palatinate.

Child protection services are an important part of child protection in Rhineland-Palatinate. Girls and boys in childhood and adolescence who are threatened or affected by sexual violence or abuse can find low-threshold help and support there. There are currently 16 child protection services at 19 locations with around 31 full-time equivalents in Rhineland-Palatinate. Child protection services are enshrined in Section 23 (1) of the state law implementing the Child and Youth Welfare Act.

Child protection services are specialised support services that work in multi-professional teams, which include not only pedagogically trained specialists with relevant further training, but also psychologists.

Child protection services receive annual funding of around €1 million from the state. An expansion of the services is planned for 2025 and 2026.

Since 2021, Rhineland-Palatinate has been supporting children's intervention centres that look after the needs of children affected by domestic violence. The child intervention centres are affiliated with the intervention centres and work with children whose mothers are supported by the intervention centre (with consent). Rhineland-Palatinate currently supports four child intervention centres. By 2030, all 18 intervention centres are to have a child intervention centre affiliated with them.

Rhineland-Palatinate has undertaken to place the issue of sexualised violence against infants /toddlers through information provided at the representatives' meeting of the medical profession in RLP and, in particular, to contact the Association of Paediatricians and Midwives
on this topic in order to determine the need for inclusion in the chambers' further training programmes.

11. North Rhine-Westphalia

When women with children are admitted to women's shelters, the staff at the shelters ensure that the children receive appropriate care and support from educators (see No. 4.3.2 of the Guideline on the Granting of Subsidies for the Promotion of Women's Shelters [200]). Since 15 April 2023, the state has been funding an additional fifth specialist position for working with children in women's shelters upon request. This is not an additional nursery school teacher position for the exclusive care
children and young people living in the women's shelter. The latter is already part of the

200
https://recht.nrw.de/lmi/owa/br_bes_text?anw_nr=1&gld_nr=2&ugl_nr=2170&bes_id=52318&val=52318&ver=7&sg=&aufgehoben=N&menu=1

state funding. In addition to working with children and young people, the tasks primarily include and
cooperation with youth welfare offices, schools and local child and youth welfare organisations.

12. Bremen

The municipality of Bremen has an alliance for child protection in which four specialised counselling centres run by independent child and youth welfare organisations work together. These centres offer targeted support for children and young people who have been affected by sexual, physical or domestic violence. The services offered are differentiated: two of them work on a gender-specific basis, while one is aimed specifically at children under the age of 12.

All facilities employ a multi-professional approach. In addition to social workers and psychologists, specialists with additional therapeutic qualifications are also employed, for example in trauma pedagogy, systemic counselling or child and youth psychotherapy.

This support is complemented by close cooperation with the Bremen Child Protection Group at the Bremen-Mitte Clinic, an interdisciplinary medical specialist group. This group specialises in the assessment, care and documentation of child welfare risks. It works with specialists from the fields of medicine, nursing, psychology and social work and cooperates closely with counselling centres, youth welfare offices, the police and the judiciary.

This coordinated network ensures comprehensive and child-friendly support
– from initial medical and forensic care to psychosocial support and longer-term assistance.

13. Saarland

(1) Child intervention centre for children and young people

In 2024, the Child Intervention Centre for Children and Young People was launched as a centre for victims affected by parental partnership violence. Since 1 April 2024, the pilot project has included one staff position with 0.75 FTE.

(2) Childhood House Saarland at the Saarland University Hospital in Homburg

In November 2024, the Childhood House opened at the Saarland University Hospital in Homburg. The Johanniter Child Protection Competence Centre was established under the auspices of the University Hospital as an institution of the Clinic for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry under the direction of Prof. Eva Möhler, MD. (…) The concept is specified by the World Childhood Foundation, a foundation that works worldwide to protect and promote the well-being of children.

The Childhood House Saarland follows the concept of interdisciplinary care and legal clarification in cases of sexual abuse or physical abuse of children and adolescents. Under the umbrella of the Johanniter Child Protection Competence Centre, specially trained doctors, psychologists and social educators work in an interdisciplinary and cooperative manner in appropriate constellations with public prosecutors, judges and police officers.

(3) Saarland Child Trauma Outpatient Clinic, SHG Clinics Saarbrücken

The Saarland Children's Trauma Outpatient Clinic is a cooperation between the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics and the Saarland Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Women and Family, State Office for Social Affairs (LAS). The Children's Trauma Outpatient Clinic serves to prevent and rehabilitate mental health disorders in underage victims of violent crimes and, through its targeted
services for children and adolescents, it is an extension of the "Trauma Network Saarland". Children and adolescents, the at experiences of violence suffer, is in the

Children's Trauma Outpatient Clinic offers active victim support with sound and proven expertise. Age-appropriate and individual psychotherapeutic assistance is offered preventively and rehabilitatively to counteract the chronicity of mental illness and trauma-related disorders following experiences of violence.

The Children's Trauma Outpatient Clinic closes a gap in care, as those affected often do not have immediate access to therapy despite severe acute impairment, and a long waiting period can lead to stress and trauma-related symptoms becoming entrenched and chronic. The children's trauma outpatient clinic therefore offers targeted, early intervention for children and adolescents with acute and post-traumatic stress following experiences of violence, usually within a few days of contact being made.

Specialised support is offered by counselling centres for children and young people who have experienced violence and/or sexual abuse:

- Weißer Ring e.V., LV Saarland,
- NELE – Counselling against sexual exploitation of girls
- SOS-KINDERSCHUTZ and Beratung Saar.

14. Berlin

All women's shelters offer specific services for the children of residents, provided by qualified educational staff. In 2024, additional funds were allocated to the children's and youth areas in women's shelters.

With the counselling centres (2 locations) run by the Child Protection Centre, the State of Berlin is providing funding to improve the care of minors affected by domestic violence. The organisation employs staff with psychological qualifications. The issue of domestic violence is a key focus of the counselling services offered. The organisation also offers children's groups that are specifically tailored to the needs of minors affected by domestic violence. In principle, however, other specialist child protection counselling centres also have the expertise to provide counselling on domestic violence
.[201]

15. Baden-Württemberg

The VwV FBS integrates support for counselling centres for victims of sexualised violence in childhood and adolescence. In addition, there are individual project grants to support children in the context of domestic violence. One example is the
"Hoffnungsträger" (Bearer of Hope) project run by the Mitternachtsmission/Diakonie women's and children's shelter in Heilbronn.

16. Brandenburg

One aspect of specialised support in the school context is school psychological counselling. School psychological counselling advises pupils, their parents, teachers, school management and the school supervisory board. The school psychologists work preventively, in emergencies, in conflict resolution, in psychological issues, in cases of impairments and disorders in pupils' learning and behaviour or in cases of special talents.

The youth welfare offices in the state of Brandenburg offer children, young people and their families who are affected by domestic violence a wide range of support. The support can take the form of: counselling, mediation, specific help and services under SGB VIII or targeted protective measures (e.g. taking into care) for children and young people.

There is also the option of seeking support from the parenting and family counselling centres in

[201] https://www.kinderschutz-zentrum-berlin.de/

the state of Brandenburg.

27. Are there specialised support services that address the specific needs of migrant women and girls or members of national or ethnic minorities who have been victims of violence against women, including women and girls seeking asylum and those who have been granted refugee status or international protection status?

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Bavaria

1. Hamburg

The social welfare authority supports the two intercultural counselling centres LÂLE and i.bera, which are run by verikom gGmbH. The centres advise people who experience violence in their relationships or families or who are affected by forced marriage.

In addition, the social welfare authority supports the savîa steps against violence project, also run by verikom gGmbH, which offers outreach counselling for refugees living in initial reception facilities or follow-up accommodation who experience relationship violence, sexualised violence or violence based on their sexual orientation or identity.

For further information, see answer to 25c (p. 254).

2. Hesse

Yes, see also the answers to questions 9a (p. 71) and 25 (p. 240).

The organisations behind the 2RegionenNetzwerk mentioned there offer a wide range of services for the above-mentioned target group.

At the local level, there are various specialised support services for the above-mentioned target group and their immediate environment (relatives, friends, acquaintances, etc.), both at municipal and independent level.

In addition to relevant (specialist) advice, these offer information, support and guidance. For detailed information, please refer to the local authorities.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Please refer to the answer to question 22 (p. 218). The four psychosocial counselling centres in Schwerin, Greifswald, Rostock and Neubrandenburg mentioned above offer professional psychosocial support for women and girls who have experienced violence and trauma. In addition, the treatment and care of the aforementioned group of people or of people who are particularly vulnerable is part of the care and safety concepts of the reception facilities and shared accommodation in the state.

4. Saxony

In addition to the support system mentioned in question 25 (p. 241), there are specialised support services for migrant women and girls.

The shelter for refugee women (S.H.E.) in Leipzig is specifically aimed at women and their children who have been subjected to or threatened with physical, psychological and/or sexual violence and who have asylum status. The expansion of linguistic, cultural and legal skills is intended to strengthen the self-confidence and independent capacity to act of refugee women and their children, thereby contributing to their integration in Germany. Refugees affected by violence should experience empowerment in this regard

empowered to find their way to shelters and to know and pass on relevant addresses and contact details.

The project mentioned above, which is based at the umbrella organisation for migrant women's organisations, is called "Intersectional Centre for Protection against Violence and Competence Building" (InGeKom) and is aimed at women affected by violence, particularly those who have experienced flight and migration. The aim is to identify the needs of people who face multiple discrimination and to develop a strategy for making the existing violence protection infrastructure even more accessible to those with an intersectional risk profile, in accordance with the IK.
.

5. Saxony-Anhalt

The state's goal is to protect women and children housed in state reception facilities and municipal shared accommodation from the dangers of violence, threats and sexual assault so that their safety is not compromised. Women in accommodation are educated about the rights of children and women in cases of violence or sexual assault and informed about who they can turn to in an emergency. The aim is to provide vulnerable persons with comprehensive and reliable information at all times about what they can do and where they can obtain appropriate support.

Saxony-Anhalt offers specialised support services that focus on the specific needs of female migrants, girls and members of national or ethnic minorities who have been victims of violence against women. These services are also aimed at women and girls seeking asylum, as well as those who have been granted protection status in the asylum procedure or who have another residence permit. A list of support services can be found in the attached guide on the protection of women and children from violence in initial reception facilities in the state of Saxony-Anhalt (Appendix 2).

In Halle (Saale), the Saxony-Anhalt Refugee Women's Shelter provides special protection for women travelling alone and their children who have experienced violence or
special protection needs, there is the Saxony-Anhalt Refugee Women's Shelter in Halle (Saale). In addition, the Saxony-Anhalt Anti-Discrimination Agency offers legal support.

6. Schleswig-Holstein

MYRIAM – Mobile (legal) advice for refugee women

Advice for refugee women who are threatened or affected by violence, especially on issues relating to asylum and immigration law, provided by a state-funded specialist centre. Implementation of improved individual protection against violence for refugee women from the day of their arrival through information and advice in all state accommodation facilities and at the
advice centre.

7. Thuringia

The following projects are funded under the Integration Project Funding Guidelines:

- The project **"Saida mobil Thüringen – Hilfe bei Genitalverstümmelung" (**Saida mobil Thuringia **– Help with genital** mutilation**)** by Saida e. V. supports migrant women and refugee women and girls living in Thuringia who are affected by or at risk of genital mutilation, as well as professionals who interact with this target group.

- The AMIF project **"Wege – ebnen und begleiten"** (Paving the way and providing support) by refugio thüringen e.V. implements various measures to improve support for victims of human trafficking at the specialist counselling centre. The overarching goal of the project is to ensure and further develop targeted support for asylum seekers who are victims of human trafficking, as they are particularly vulnerable persons. The project provides through the direct (psychosocial) counselling for
asylum seekers affected by human trafficking, referral to the

other further services and assistance with administrative procedures, it makes a concrete contribution to supporting the target group. This means that asylum seekers who are victims of human trafficking have access to a specialised service that takes a holistic view of the complexity and interplay between asylum applications and human trafficking, and thus provides more comprehensive support for emerging needs than more general services. Advice, information and assistance throughout the asylum procedure are provided to, among others, persons who have suffered torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence, such as victims of female genital mutilation.

- The project **"SENSA – Raising awareness of the special protection needs of asylum seekers in Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia"** run by the Refugee Councils of Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia aims to improve the identification procedures for the various special protection needs in the context of the asylum procedure. Third-country nationals in the asylum procedure with special protection needs benefit indirectly from SENSA in that the counselling and support structures involved in the asylum procedure are sensitised to the special needs of third-country nationals and qualified to identify these needs.
  The project is funded by the AMIF and co-financed by the state.

8. Lower Saxony

Migration counselling offers women and, where applicable, their family members various forms of support. In particular, women are informed about their rights in the Federal Republic of Germany and other sources of assistance, and, where necessary, referred to specific services (e.g. women's counselling centres for migrants, women's shelters, self-help organisations).

See 25f. Crisis hotline AGAINST forced marriage and the "Elikia" project, which also address the specific counselling needs of migrant women and girls from national or ethnic minorities, including women and girls seeking asylum and those who have been granted refugee status or international protection status.

Reference is also made to the answer to question 25 (p. 246). Within the LAB NI, the measures and services exclusively concern foreign nationals.

9. Rhineland-Palatinate

In this context, the Rhineland-Palatinate police work closely with the specialist counselling centre SOLWODI (Solidarity with Women in Distress), among others. This centre supports women in emergency situations, especially migrant women. The facility offers legal, psychosocial and practical assistance, e.g. in finding a safe place to stay or advice and support with residence permits.

Examples of regional services in this context include the Psychosocial Centre (PSZ) in Mainz, AWO Rhineland – for the north and west regions – and Wertzeug e.V. – for the central and south regions.

As a general rule, women's support services also serve to protect and ensure the safety of women and girls with a migrant background who experience violence, coercion and oppression.

Specifically for girls, the Ministry of Women's Affairs supports two girls' counselling centres and a girls' refuge [202](see the answer to question 5, p. 49).

The Ministry for Women supports counselling centres for girls and women with a history of flight and migration (Solwodi, RAHMA, Utamara). According to the analysis report on the implementation of the
Istanbul Convention in Rhineland-Palatinate, which was prepared in preparation for the development of the Rhineland-Palatinate state government's action plan for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention,

[202] https://mffki.rlp.de/themen/frauen/gewalt-gegen-frauen-und-maedchen

, women with a migration background are disproportionately affected by gender-based violence. The report's recommendations for action provide for the needs-based establishment and expansion of the support system and care structures for particularly vulnerable victims and vulnerable groups of victims. These include victims of forced marriage, forced prostitution, human trafficking and gender-specific persecution. In addition to counselling, some counselling centres provide support in the form of assisted living or shelters for
affected women.

10. North Rhine-Westphalia

Protecting women from domestic and gender-based violence is a key concern for the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia. Since 2022, the Ministry of Equality has been promoting counselling services and practical support for women who have come to Germany as refugees and who are threatened or affected by sexualised and gender-based violence through "need-help.nrw". The programme is aimed at them, regardless of their country of origin. This is because refugee women are often a particularly vulnerable group and are especially at risk of violence.

For example, low-threshold counselling and support services, the production of information materials, specialised events on topics such as trauma symptoms and coping with fear, open consultation hours for refugee women, or training courses for professionals to qualify them to deal with women affected by violence may be eligible for funding under the programme.

Funding of up to €20,000 can be granted for each measure. Applications for funding from this programme can be submitted by local women's support infrastructure institutions such as women's counselling centres, women's shelters and municipal equal opportunities officers.
women's support infrastructure, such as women's counselling centres, women's shelters and municipal equal opportunities officers.

11. Bremen

The state of Bremen offers specialised support services tailored to the specific protection needs and life situations of migrant women, refugee women and girls, and members of ethnic minorities.

In Bremen, for example, there are two specialised shelters for refugee women affected by violence and their children (see also question 25, p. 253).

The Alliance for Child Protection, whose participating counselling centres work in an intercultural and trauma-sensitive manner, also plays a central role in this regard. The facilities have the necessary language skills or use professional interpreting services when required. The support provided includes counselling for victims of violence, ensuring the welfare of children, arranging further assistance, and psychological and psychosocial support.

In addition, there are specialised organisations such as:

- Refugio Bremen: A specialist counselling centre for refugees suffering from mental health issues, which also offers support for women and girls affected by violence, particularly those who have experienced traumatic violence in their country of origin, during their flight or in their host country.
- Fluchtraum Bremen e. V.: An organisation focusing on young female refugees, which offers safe spaces, counselling services, empowerment projects and support for victims of violence, among other things. The work is culturally sensitive and takes migration-specific challenges into account.

These institutions work closely with youth welfare offices, women's shelters, psychosocial services and medical and legal specialists. The aim is to provide low-threshold, culturally sensitive and multilingual support that takes into account the particular stresses and traumas experienced by refugee women and girls who have been affected by violence
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12. Saarland

(1) Project "Pregnancy and Flight" – Expansion to include stillborn children

(2) Information provided by the police for migrants

Information packages for newly arrived and asylum-seeking women and migrants are available in various languages, as well as notices in suitable locations in the state reception centre, which provide information on local women's counselling centres in cases of violence against women and other support services.

Reference is also made to the specialised support services mentioned in the first state report.

13. Berlin

Women with a history of migration or flight are among the target groups of Berlin's support system for women affected by violence and their children. In principle, all anti-violence projects are tailored to the specific needs of these groups, and some focus their work on migrant women affected by violence (see also the comments under 25 f. (pp. 254, 264)).

The support services for queer victims are also intersectional in nature and address these potential needs.

In addition, a project-funded service offers outreach counselling for immigrant Roma women, focusing on empowerment, conflict management, networking, moderation and mediation – both among the residents and with the staff and neighbours of the shelters.

In cooperation with the provider Ipso Care (see answer to 23, p. 232), a wide range of group services have been offered since 2018 in accommodation facilities of the State Office for Refugee Affairs (LAF) and at the provider on the topic of non-violent conflict management, including in Farsi and Arabic.

As part of the migration law and refugee counselling support programme, grants are also being awarded to ten legal advice centres and six specialist centres belonging to the Berlin Network for Particularly Vulnerable Refugees (BNS).

The target group of the support programme is asylum seekers and tolerated persons or those with a humanitarian residence permit. Grants are also awarded to two specialist and counselling centres dedicated to advising and caring for victims of serious violence (Xenion/Zentrum Überleben). One third of those seeking advice there are female.

The contact and counselling centre KuB specialises in the needs of women, especially pregnant women, single parents and victims of gender-based violence. Another specialist centre specialises in counselling young refugees, especially unaccompanied minor refugees (Betreuungs- und Beratungszentrum für junge Geflüchtete und Migrant*innen - BBZ). Over 40% of those seeking advice there are female. Both specialist centres also offer migration law advice.

The project funding provided by Zentrum Überleben supports the psychosocial care of refugee girls and boys, young people and their caregivers who are in a situation of ongoing stress. They are offered integrated care tailored to their specific needs. integrated therapeutic-social work/social education care programme tailored to their specific needs and supported by qualified interpreters.

The project funding provided by Xenion enables adult refugees in Berlin who have fled from war and crisis zones to have low-threshold and barrier-free access to counselling, support and treatment services. The project is characterised
by a holistic approach combining psychotherapeutic, social work and language mediation services.

14. Baden-Württemberg

The NADIA project offers refuge and clearing for young female migrants who are threatened or affected by violence in the name of honour and/or forced marriage. The project is characterised by specialist admission management and care. The special needs of those affected are addressed, taking into account specific issues such as:

- Stabilisation of personality and processing of personal crisis situations (concept of honour)
- Extended biographical work
- Dealing with the separation from previous life connections associated with the anonymous phase of life
- Clarification and securing of residence status, asylum procedures if necessary
- Examination and cultivation of one's own cultural and religious identity. The

accompanying clearing includes:

- Detailed social history to assess risks within the family system, including family structure and degree of honour culture
- Diagnostic assessment Specification of the need for assistance (including clarification of the legal perspective on residence/asylum)

The YASEMIN project provides low-threshold, timely and needs-based counselling for young women who are threatened or affected by honour-based violence and/or forced marriage or female genital mutilation/cutting. The counselling is provided by experienced staff with a high level of expertise.

AJS addresses the specific situation of people with a migration background in the context of legal input, using case studies, and takes up topics such as residence requirements/residence restrictions, marriage delays, imported brides and other topics
relating to asylum and immigration law.

15. Brandenburg

In Brandenburg, there are no exclusively specialised support services for migrant women affected by violence, but there is a nationwide psychosocial care network into which this target group can be integrated at a low threshold:

- **Comprehensive psychosocial care**

  Establishment of a nationwide network of psychosocial support via AMIF funds, now co-financed by state funds.

  The services are open to all those seeking advice – regardless of residence status or gender.

- **Three established carriers with a specialised focus**

  Albatros gGmbH: mother-tongue psychosocial counselling and culturally sensitive health counselling

  KommMit e.V.: psychosocial care for sick and traumatised refugees, including transfer to regular care

  INTER HOMINES e.V.: psychotherapeutic and psychosomatic support for people seeking protection who are under severe stress

- **Digital advisory services**

  All providers offer hybrid or digital advice formats, which is particularly important for

Accessibility and participation in the state of Brandenburg.

- **Migration counselling in all districts**

  AMIF-funded projects with permanent contact points, recently strengthened in rural areas in particular.

- **Empowerment through a peer approach**

  Qualification of native-speaking migrant women as volunteer multipliers in shared accommodation.

  Topics: non-violent parenting, health, equality, violence prevention. Offers are low-threshold, mother-tongue and culturally sensitive.

- **Statutory counselling by migration social workers** and **social services in all districts and independent cities**.

- **Targeted referral**

  If necessary, referrals are made to specialised facilities such as women's shelters or counselling centres.

- **Generally open standard structures**, but still **a challenge: language barriers**, even if interpreting services or multilingual materials are available in some cases.

Article 25: Support for victims of sexual violence

28. Please indicate whether any of the services listed below are available in your country:

a. Emergency centres for victims of sexual violence (i.e. specialised care services that provide emergency medical assistance, forensic examinations and crisis intervention for victims of sexual violence)

b. Crisis centres for rape victims (i.e. specialised support services that offer long-term counselling, therapy and support to victims of sexual violence, regardless of whether the sexual violence occurred recently or in the past);

c. Other specialised institutions offering long-term or short-term medical, forensic and psychosocial support for victims of sexual violence.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Brandenburg

FA: Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg

1. Hamburg

on a)

The UKE does not have a specialised emergency centre "reserved" for this issue, but it is possible to visit the central emergency room (ZNA) with a gynaecological support unit staffed around the clock, depending on the details of the case, for an appointment examination together with the IfR. For children, there are child protection groups at all children's hospitals.

Regarding b)

The UKE has a psychiatric clinic and institute outpatient clinics where patients can be seen at any time. For child protection groups, see above.

In addition, the specialist counselling centre NOTRUF für vergewaltigte Frauen und Mädchen e.V. (Emergency Hotline for Raped Women and Girls) has been providing counselling for many years as a specialised trauma and victim protection facility for those who have experienced rape or other forms of sexualised violence.

Regarding c)

The Institute of Legal Medicine at the University Medical Centre Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE) performs this task; for further information, see the comments on question 19 (p. 207). It provides immediate medical assistance after sexual violence, evidence collection that is admissible in court without the obligation to report the crime to the police, and initial psychosocial crisis intervention. The care
is provided anonymously, free of charge and in compliance with confidentiality requirements. Upon request, those affected are also referred to further support services.

2. Hesse on

a)

Yes, the clinics affiliated with the "Emergency Medical Assistance after Rape" initiative. See also the answers to questions 19 and 20 (p. 207).

Regarding b)

Yes, so-called women's emergency hotlines (specialist counselling centres for sexual violence).

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Specialist counselling centres for victims of sexual violence provide support to adults and children, regardless of gender and regardless of how long ago the violence occurred. In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the victim support centres at the forensic medicine institutes throughout the state offer legally admissible documentation of findings after acts of violence (see answer to question 30, p. 279 below). Victims of violent crimes with mental health problems can receive rapid assistance at clinics with special trauma clinics. Witnesses to violent crimes can also receive medical and psychological counselling and treatment. In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, there are trauma clinics for children and young people at six locations, while adults can turn to
seven locations in the state.

4. Saxony

Since 2021, the development of a strategy to expand counselling structures for adult victims of sexualised violence in Saxony has been promoted. There are currently ten districts with a specialised counselling centre, and the aim is to have such a facility in every district in the future. The goal is to provide comprehensive care and counselling to women affected by gender-based violence, especially sexualised violence. Furthermore, the work of the specialist counselling centres goes beyond general victim protection and includes, in addition to victim-oriented care and counselling, crisis intervention, support for victims seeking protection and help in coming to terms with the experience of violence, as well as networking of support services and prevention and public awareness work.

Following on from this, the model project "Emergency medical assistance after rape and domestic violence" has been in place since 2019, implemented by the supporting association Bellis e.V. The aim is to improve healthcare for adults who have been victims of rape and violence in their immediate social environment and to enable the collection of evidence and documentation of findings in a manner that is legally admissible and independent of legal proceedings in every case. The goal is to establish structures that make it easier for women, men and non-binary persons who have been raped or affected by domestic violence to access good medical care and, if desired, to have their findings documented.

The state-wide specialist and coordination centre of the State Working Group on Sexual Violence – Prevention and Intervention in Saxony (LAG SGPI e.V.) performs important coordination tasks and also acts as an interface between public administration and the specialist counselling centres for adults affected by sexual violence. In addition, the specialist and coordination centre is responsible for networking the specialist counselling centres and providing advice to specialists with expertise and specialist knowledge.
specialist counselling centres, advise professionals with expertise and specialist knowledge

and raise awareness and provide information on the subject through public relations work.

5. Saxony-Anhalt on

a)

Confidential evidence collection is carried out in seven recognised outpatient clinics in cooperation with specialist counselling centres for victims of sexual violence (four specialist counselling centres (with five branch offices). The intervention centres refer cases to this system (four intervention centres with three branch offices). Reference is also made to answers 4 and 19 (pp. 35, 208).

Regarding b)

Four specialist counselling centres for victims of sexual violence (with five branch offices) offer women and girls, and boys and men if necessary, free counselling, guidance and support across regions, as well as initial therapeutic treatment for traumatic experiences of abuse. They also provide advice to family support persons and professional support services.

Re c)

The Social Services of the Justice System in Saxony-Anhalt offer free psychosocial support for victims throughout the state. In addition, the Social Services offer psychosocial trial support , for which seven victim protection counsellors and victim protection counsellors. In addition, other externally trained counsellors also work in this capacity.

6. Schleswig-Holstein

Confidential evidence collection

In Schleswig-Holstein, confidential evidence collection is offered across the board and is easily accessible, organised centrally by the Institute of Legal Medicine at the University Medical Centre Schleswig-Holstein. There is often close cooperation with regional support structures. There are no emergency centres that offer bundled services.
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7. Thuringia

For minors, see question 26 Thuringian Child and Youth Protection Services (p. 261).

Re a)

Confidential evidence collection at the Institute of Legal Medicine at Jena University Hospital (UKJ) since 2024.

Re c)

Reference is made to the institution of psychosocial support during court proceedings in accordance with Section 406g of the Code of Criminal Procedure. For further details, see the answer to question 18 (p. 200) and the first GREVIO State Report of the Federal Republic of Germany 2020 (there IV. B. p. 31).

8. Lower Saxony

on a)

Reference to Art. 20, question 21 (p. 215)

Crisis centres for rape victims (e.g. specialised support services that offer victims of sexual violence long-term counselling, therapy and support, regardless of whether the sexual violence took place recently or in the past);

Lower Saxony has a well-functioning assistance and support system for women and girls affected by violence. The MS currently supports 46 women's shelters with 454 places for women and 900 places for children, 29 BISS, 19 branch offices and 47 violence counselling centres.

and emergency calls that offer advice and support on sexualised and other forms of violence beyond the initial intervention. For further information, see also Article 22, Question 25 a (p. 246).

Re b)

Forensic child protection clinic at the MHH, two medical child protection clinics, see section 20 (p. 212), and 22 counselling centres in the area of violence against children and young people.

See comments on Article 20 (p. 200)

Outpatient and inpatient medical and psychiatric care facilities. In addition counselling centres and trauma outpatient clinics in framework the municipal psychosocial counselling.

9. Rhineland-Palatinate

There are currently eight trauma outpatient clinics in Rhineland-Palatinate (see the answer to question 25, p. 248) that also offer help to victims of rape suffering from psychological trauma.

The clinics participating in the "Confidential Help after Violence" project (see the answer to questions 19-21, p. 208, 213) offer confidential medical care, confidential evidence collection and referral to women's support services for further psychosocial counselling and support.

10. North Rhine-Westphalia

For women and girls who have suffered sexual violence, the specialist counselling centres against sexual violence funded by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia offer concrete help in the form of acute crisis intervention, psychosocial counselling, accompaniment to doctors, the police, courts and other institutions.

11. Bremen

In 2024, an emergency clinic for victims of violence was set up in the state of Bremen, which receives approximately 500,000 euros annually. It is responsible for the legally compliant documentation of injuries in all forms of gender-based violence.

In cases of sexual violence, victims are referred to the counselling centre notruf – Psychological counselling for victims of sexual violence.

Yes. In the state of Bremen, there are specialised services that provide acute care and protection after sexual violence. Of particular note here is the child protection group at the Bremen-Mitte Clinic, which is active in medical child protection and can also carry out forensic medical assessments. In addition, the violence protection clinic at Bremen-Mitte Hospital provides forensic medical care for victims of violence, including sexual violence. Cooperation with the police, the judiciary, youth welfare services and specialised counselling centres is an integral part of the care concept.

Re c)

Yes. In addition to the services already mentioned, the youth welfare offices in Bremen and Bremerhaven also perform coordinating and protective tasks in the context of sexual violence against children and young people. They work closely with the aforementioned medical and psychosocial specialist services. In addition, there are other specific institutions, which in individual cases offer low-threshold support, transitional assistance or longer-term therapeutic support, in some cases with a special focus on trauma-informed or gender-specific needs.

12. Saarland

Re **a)**: Yes; 5 clinics, 8 gynaecological practices, which were publicised through the campaign "Sexual violence leaves traces"

Re b) Yes; Saarland Women's Emergency Hotline

c)

Yes, in the following trauma outpatient clinics:

- Trauma outpatient clinic at the MEDIAN Clinic Münchwies in Neunkirchen
- AHG Clinic Berus in Überherrn-Berus

Trauma treatment in rehabilitation clinics:

- MEDIAN Clinics Berus
- MediClin Bliestal Clinics
- MEDIAN Clinic Münchwies

13. Berlin

Currently, there is no reliable, comprehensive and easily accessible 24/7 service in Berlin for the confidential collection of evidence for victims of sexual violence. One hospital offers 24/7 medical care and confidential evidence collection, another offers confidential evidence collection depending on staff availability and in cooperation with the violence protection clinic. Police evidence collection is available 24/7, with at least three clinics involved.

The district centres for sexual health and family planning report that many victims turn to them, usually with requests for medical aftercare, as do women without insurance.

Victims of sexual violence can receive long-term or short-term psychosocial support from the following institutions:

- LARA Specialist centre against sexualised violence against women* (annual number of counselling contacts, approx. 1,500)
- MUT Centre against Sexual Violence for adults with learning difficulties who are affected by sexual violence (annual number of counselling contacts with female victims approx. 80-90)
- Self-help and counselling for women* at Wildwasser e.V. who have experienced sexual violence in childhood (annual number of counselling contacts with female victims approx. 250)
- Tauwetter und Hilfe für Jungs, which provides specialised services for the target groups of boys* and adult men*

Beyond , those affected of sexualised violence can also those to trauma clinics (see answer to 25.c, p. 254)

See also the response to question 17, p. 198 (Childhood House).

14. Brandenburg

In the state of Brandenburg, Opferhilfe Land Brandenburg e. V. offers counselling, therapy, support (including psychosocial support) and crisis intervention for victims of sexualised violence (including rape).

Re a)

- other specialised services offering short-term and/or long-term medical, forensic and psycho-social support to victims of sexual violence.

Re b)

Immediate medical assistance and confidential forensics at 13 clinics in the state of Brandenburg, coordinated by the Institute of Forensic Medicine of the State of Brandenburg (BLR)

Regarding c)

- should also include the establishment of psychosocial trial support in criminal procedure law by the Act to Strengthen Victims' Rights in Criminal Proceedings of 21 December 2015 (3rd Victims' Rights Reform Act). Since 1 January 2017, it has been possible to receive professional support during the entire criminal proceedings in certain cases (in particular children and young people who have been victims of violent or sexual offences; also particularly vulnerable adults). There are currently 11 psychosocial trial counsellors working in the state of Brandenburg.

29. Please indicate how many of these services exist and how many women and girls they support annually.

Contributions from Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Brandenburg

FA: Hamburg (reference question 28, p. 271), Schleswig-Holstein, Berlin (comparison question 28, p. 275), Baden-Württemberg

1. Hesse

Women's emergency hotlines: The number of women supported by women's emergency hotlines cannot be precisely quantified, as the Social Monitor (state statistics) records the number for all counselling facilities in the women's support system and does not differentiate between types of facilities.

Emergency medical assistance after rape (number of women treated): 2024: 290; 2023: 274; 2022: 239; 2021: 204; 2020: 145

Giessen Forensic Consultation Service (number of consultations in the area of sexual offences, no differentiation by gender): 2024: 21, 2023: 33, 2022: 31, 2021: 30

2. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

In 2022, 274 women and girls were treated at specialist counselling centres for victims of sexual violence, in 2023 there were 339, and in 2024 there were 418. Only new cases per year are shown. In some cases, women and girls receive treatment over several years.

The figures for victim support centres are as follows:

Calendar year	2022	2023	2024
Number of women and girls	226	243	264

Due to a lack of available statistical data, it is not possible to say how many women and children are supported by trauma clinics each year.

3. Saxony

As of 31 December 2024, a total of 168 family places are available in the 17 women's and children's shelters. In 2024, 557 women with a total of 642 children were admitted. This also includes the women admitted to the shelter for refugee women in Leipzig.

In 2024, a total of 5,316 people received counselling at the thirteen intervention and coordination centres, of whom 4,982 were female, 333 were male and one was non-binary. A total of 193,201 counselling sessions were conducted.

A total of eleven family places are available in the three men's shelters. In 2024, 26 people were admitted.

The specialist counselling centre for victims of human trafficking and honour-based violence, KOBRAnet, has four family places available, in which ten people were admitted in 2024. There were 91 initial contacts and a total of 132 clients were counselled. A total of 610 people were contacted as part of outreach social work.

Three family places were available at the specialised protection facility in Plauen. Six people without children were admitted.

In the nine specialist counselling centres for victims of sexualised violence that existed at the end of 2024, 468 people were counselled, of whom 418 were female, 40 were male and eight were diverse. A total of 2,550 counselling sessions were conducted.

4. Saxony-Anhalt

Confidential evidence collection is carried out by seven recognised outpatient clinics. No reliable figures are available as yet, as the outpatient clinics have only been in operation since January 2025.

In 2024, a total of 1,563 women and girls sought counselling from specialist counselling centres for victims of sexual violence (FBsG). These include both victims and relatives or multipliers. Girls and women are also supported and informed through prevention events. However, no data is available on the total number of participants.

Victim counselling, witness support and psychosocial support are offered at all six offices of the Social Services of the Justice System in the state of Saxony-Anhalt. For example, in 2023, a total of 1,558 girls and women were supported by the Social Services of the Justice System in Saxony-Anhalt, although psychosocial support during legal proceedings
has not yet been collected in detail by gender.

5. Thuringia

The Thuringian child and youth protection services also support children and young people (girls, boys and diverse) who have been victims of sexualised violence as specialised counselling centres.

One hospital (UKJ) is currently available for confidential evidence collection.

There are currently 15 women's shelters and protected apartments with integrated counselling services. However, these will be expanded to 22 by the end of 2026.

6. Bavaria

There are currently 41 women's shelters in Bavaria with 393 places for women and at least 393 places for children, as well as 36 specialist counselling centres.

In 2023, 1,422 women were accommodated in state-funded women's shelters. 12,261 people received counselling at the specialist counselling centres, 8,058 of whom were women affected by violence. (In addition to women affected by violence, the specialist counselling centres also provide counselling to specialist staff and relatives of women affected by violence).

In Bavaria, a contract between the Free State of Bavaria and the health insurance companies for the implementation of confidential evidence collection is currently in the process of being signed. As soon as this contract has been fully signed and thus entered into force, it will be possible to
Contract Service providers who are willing and able to carry out confidential evidence collection voluntarily join.

7. Lower Saxony

ProBeweis network: 2020: 169 cases, 2021: 215 cases, 2022: 160 cases, 2023: 200 cases, 2024: 228 cases for confidential documentation and evidence collection after domestic or sexual violence.

8. Rhineland-Palatinate

The "Confidential Help after Violence" project will initially be expanded to 12 hospital locations in the state. It is not yet possible to estimate how high the number of cases will be, especially as the service is being extended to other forms of physical violence (in addition to sexual violence) for the first time. In the previous project, "Emergency Medical Assistance after
Rape", which was limited to support after sexual violence, around 50 women were treated in the last project year.

9. North Rhine-Westphalia

The funding programme currently covers 57 specialist counselling centres against sexual violence in North Rhine-Westphalia. Since 2020, five new specialist counselling centres against sexual violence have been included in the funding programme.

The iGOBSIS network includes around 70 clinics that offer confidential evidence collection. No further details can be provided.

10. Bremen

In the first year, around 200 people were counselled and examined at the violence protection clinic. It is already becoming apparent that the numbers will rise sharply in 2025.

There are currently two specialised counselling centres in the state of Bremen that specifically target female children, adolescents and young adults who have been affected by sexual violence. Both centres are part of the municipal alliance for child protection and work across agencies and in a multi-professional manner.

It is currently not possible to systematically quantify the exact number of women and girls supported each year, as there is no centralised, aggregated recording of counselling figures across all agencies. However, feedback from practitioners indicates that demand remains high and that the capacities of the facilities are regularly exhausted.

In addition, the general educational counselling centres of the youth welfare offices are available in the state of Bremen. These are also easily accessible for affected children and families, especially in the context of family conflicts and experiences of violence. The two youth welfare offices in Bremen-Stadt and Bremerhaven provide
direct or mediated counselling and support in such cases.

11. Saarland

According to information from the relevant specialist department, between 10 and 15 (completed) confidential evidence collection procedures are carried out in Saarland each year. The number of police reports is taken from the PKS.

12. Brandenburg

Victim support in the federal state of Brandenburg:

	2023	2024
Total advice seekers	874	895
Women and girls	689	707
Context of domestic violence	240	307

30. Please specify the procedures and time limits for the collection and storage of forensic evidence. evidence in cases sexual violence in (e. the

Existence of protocols, use of rape kits) in the relevant departments.

Contribution: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Brandenburg

FA: Saxony, Baden-Württemberg

1. Hamburg

The Institute of Legal Medicine (IfR) offers a round-the-clock service for securing evidence in accordance with SOP. Evidence is stored centrally and secured against unauthorised access for up to 20 years, depending on the case. A so-called evidence collection kit is not explicitly used, but the essential components are kept by the UKE/IfR in the form of consumables and used as needed.

If evidence or expert reports are obtained or prepared as part of anonymous evidence collection, the injured parties themselves decide whether these are forwarded to the public prosecutor's office or remain at the Institute of Forensic Medicine at the University Medical Centre Eppendorf.

When evidence is transferred to the public prosecutor's office, its storage is governed by the limitation periods for criminal prosecution set out in the Criminal Code. As long as prosecution of the underlying offence is still possible after these periods, the relevant evidence is exempt from destruction. When expert reports are transferred to the public prosecutor's office, their storage is subject to the
the periods specified for file retention.

2. Hesse

The clinics affiliated with the "Emergency Medical Assistance after Rape" model receive a flat fee for each case treated. In return, the clinics must report the cases treated to the Frankfurt Women's Emergency Hotline. The secured findings are stored at one of the two forensic medicine institutes in Hesse (Frankfurt or Giessen). The retention period for the findings is one year. The findings are stored for one year. An extension is possible on request. If an extension of the storage period is desired, this is possible.

The Giessen Forensic Council, which is funded by the state of Hesse, reports in an annual report to the Hesse Ministry of Labour, Integration, Youth and Social Affairs on how many consultations have taken place in the area of sexual offences (no differentiation by gender). The findings are stored for one year. An extension is possible upon request.

At the Fulda protection clinic, the findings are stored for one year.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

The procedure for a forensic examination by the victim clinics of the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in Rostock [203]and Greifswald is based on the individual circumstances and needs of those affected. The body surface is examined and the findings are documented appropriately. If sexual violence is suspected, cooperating doctors from other disciplines are involved. The photographs and notes taken make it possible to prepare a report that can be used in court, including an interpretation of the findings, if this is necessary in criminal or civil proceedings and desired by the person examined. This gives the
gives those affected time to consider their options for action, e.g. the possibility of filing a criminal complaint.

[203] Victim Outpatient Clinic – Institute of Forensic Medicine

without the evidence of violence being lost "over time". The data collected is stored confidentially in the archives of the Institute of Forensic Medicine for an unlimited period of time. After the examination, those affected receive confirmation of the documentation of the findings with the file number and recommendations
for further action.

4. Saxony-Anhalt

Confidential evidence collection: The evidence and documentation from all participating hospitals in Saxony-Anhalt are stored centrally at the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Halle. There they are kept in accordance with the statute of limitations for the respective offence
(currently up to 30 years).

5. Schleswig-Holstein

Confidential evidence collection

The procedure is standardised and therefore complies with the same standards in all locations, see answer to question 20c (p. 212) and 21 (p. 215). There are kits for physical violence and extended kits for sexual violence, including corresponding documentation forms that imply an examination procedure. Evidence is stored for 20 years; for minors, 20
years from the age of majority.

6. Thuringia

Reference to uniform federal regulations for the preservation of evidence in the Guidelines for Criminal Proceedings and Administrative Offence Proceedings (RiStBV). The following generally applies here:

In proceedings against unknown perpetrators, items that are still required for the purposes of criminal proceedings must generally be retained until the statute of limitations for prosecution expires (No. 76 (1) RiStBV). Exceptions since 1 January 2023.

7. Bavaria

In Bavaria, evidence is to be collected using standardised evidence collection kits, structured questionnaires and photographic documentation as part of the confidential evidence collection process. The evidence collected in this way is to be stored for a period of two years, although victims may request that the evidence be destroyed earlier or stored for a longer period. In the case of minors, evidence may be stored until they reach the age of 20.
reaching the age of 20.

8. Lower Saxony

The ProBeweis network recommends that victims of sexual or domestic violence contact an investigation centre within 72 hours of the incident if possible so that evidence can still be secured. The investigation documents are stored centrally by the ProBeweis network for at least three years. For further information, see question 21 (p. 212).

Insofar as relevant evidence has been included in certain preliminary investigations, it must first be determined whether it consists of documents that have become part of the case file or other evidence that must be treated as exhibits. The retention and storage of files by courts and public prosecutors' offices is regulated by the Ordinance on the Retention and Storage of Judicial Files, which is an ordinance issued by the Federal Ministry of Justice. The response must be provided by that ministry. According to Section 40 (2) sentence 1 AktO, the storage of evidence in Lower Saxony is governed by the guidelines for criminal proceedings and fine proceedings (RiStBV) as well as the respective provisions on the handling of items in official custody. As these are also uniform federal guidelines of the BMJ, the response must also be provided by the BMJ.

All evidence, which forms part of the investigation file , shall be stored in accordance with

the status of the investigation at the police station handling the case, the investigating authority, the police storage facility and finally at the public prosecutor's office evidence storage facility in accordance with the applicable regulations. The public prosecutor's office decides on the duration of storage. In addition, victims of sexual or violent crimes have the option of securing evidence independently of criminal proceedings via the "ProBeweis" network and then requesting it when filing a report at a later date. The project is run by the Hannover Medical School. The evidence is stored there for three years
.

9. Rhineland-Palatinate

The Institute of Legal Medicine keeps the evidence for five years. The case documentation is kept for 30 years.

10. North Rhine-Westphalia

The collection of forensic evidence is carried out in clinics on the basis of iGOBSIS, a documentation system and information portal of the University Hospital Düsseldorf (financially supported by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia), which provides doctors in examinations of victims of violence, documenting injuries, preserving evidence and referring victims to the psychosocial support network. So-called evidence collection kits are also used for this purpose.

The examination, treatment and documentation of findings after an act of violence should take place as soon as possible. The possibility of obtaining evidence that can be used in court varies depending on the traces or injuries present. This may still be possible even after several days. However, a medical examination and treatment are still useful at a later date.

Victims can request confidential evidence collection after all forms of physical and sexualised violence, regardless of gender, age and origin. Evidence is stored for five years.

11. Bremen

Confidential evidence collection allows documentation and evidence to be stored for 10 years in a manner that is admissible in court.

12. Saarland

10 years for confidential evidence collection and also for other medical records/data created or recorded within the framework of a medical treatment contract
recorded within the framework of a medical treatment contract, Section 630f (3) BGB. Storage for longer than 10 years is possible if the person concerned so requests.

13. Berlin

The information refers to the grant-funded project of the Charité's Violence Protection Outpatient Clinic (GSA), in collaboration with the Gynaecology Department at the Charité Campus Virchow-Klinikum: the Gynaecology Department uses a standardised rape kit and provides supplementary photo documentation in cases of visible extragenital injuries. If a police report is filed, the kit is handed over to the police. In the case of confidential evidence collection (VSS), the GSA stores the kit until a report is filed, but for a maximum of one year. The forensic documentation, including photographic material, is archived at the GSA for a period of 10 years at the request of the person concerned.
the request of the person concerned for a period of 10 years in the GSA.

14. Brandenburg

Forensic evidence is evidence of criminal proceedings and is officially stored until a conviction becomes final or until the statute of limitations has expired. The statute of limitations depends on the underlying offence. Reference is made to the provisions of Section 78 et seq. of the German Criminal Code.

Forensic kits are provided at regular intervals by BLR to the partner clinics for the performance of confidential forensic analyses.

10-year storage of the secured trace material and findings sheets as part of confidential trace evidence service, storage of the evidence objects in separate rooms at the BLR, Potsdam site.

In the case of minors, the storage period of the trace evidence is extended by the difference in years up to the age of 18.

BLR employees, in particular project staff, have access to the evidence collection kits, are responsible for the transport and storage of the evidence, and no report is made to the police.

31. Please describe all applicable access criteria for using these services (e.g. membership of a health insurance fund, residence status or prior reporting of the offence to the police).

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Brandenburg

FA: Saxony, Baden-Württemberg

1. Hamburg

Access is low-threshold. Use of the service is anonymous and possible regardless of health insurance, residence status or reporting to the police.

2. Hesse

The aforementioned services can be used regardless of residence status, whether a report has been filed with the police or insurance status.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

The forensic medical examination by the victim outpatient clinics of the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
Vorpommern is free of charge and anonymous for victims of violence. [204] Please also refer to the answer to question 22 (p. 218).

4. Saxony-Anhalt

Membership of a statutory insurance scheme is a prerequisite for confidential evidence collection (in exceptional cases, other persons may also use the service). Reporting the crime to the police is not a prerequisite.

5. Schleswig-Holstein

Confidential evidence collection

There are no eligibility requirements for confidential evidence collection. Anyone can be examined regardless of their gender, age, nationality or insurance status. There must be no prior contact with any authority for confidential evidence collection. If there has been prior contact with an authority,
(forensic medical examination).

6. Thuringia

A evidence collection at report of crime to the police is in police investigation procedures.

[204] Victim Support Unit – Institute of Forensic Medicine

Confidential evidence collection is carried out on the basis of SGB V, which only contains regulations for those with statutory health insurance.

Access to violence protection facilities is open to all victims of violence, regardless of their origin or residence status.

7. Bavaria

In accordance with Sections 27 (1) sentence 6 and 132k SGB V, the federal legislature has provided for confidential evidence collection as a service covered by statutory health insurance (GKV). This means that, according to the above provision, only persons with statutory health insurance are entitled to confidential evidence collection on the body, including the necessary documentation, laboratory tests and proper storage of the secured findings, if there are indications of third-party-caused damage to health, as a result of maltreatment, sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual coercion or rape.

However, persons with statutory health insurance in Bavaria are only entitled to these services once the necessary service provision infrastructure has been established in Bavaria (see section 28).

8. Lower Saxony

A flat rate is paid for persons with statutory health insurance who make use of confidential evidence collection. The MS covers the examination costs for persons with private health insurance or without health insurance.

Insofar as the services constitute medical treatment within the meaning of Book V of the Social Code, membership of a statutory health insurance fund or a private health insurance company (plus, where applicable, an entitlement to assistance from a public employer) is required for the costs to be covered. However, medical treatment may also be provided on other legal bases, such as the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act or SGB XIV.

There are no access criteria for medical child protection outpatient clinics and violence counselling centres. For the forensic child protection outpatient clinic, counselling and referral are provided by registered doctors working in clinics and in the public health service
.

9. Rhineland-Palatinate

The service can generally be used free of charge by all victims of domestic and sexual violence.

10. North Rhine-Westphalia

- Persons with statutory health insurance
- Persons entitled under Section 264 of the German Social Code, Book V
- Soldiers of the German Armed Forces entitled to medical care under Section 69a of the Federal Remuneration Act (BBesG) in cases of sexual violence and abuse

Costs are currently **not** covered for:

- Privately insured persons
- Those eligible for subsidies
- Those without insurance.

11. Bremen

The violence protection clinic provides advice and examinations to people regardless of their residence status, insurance status or whether they have reported the incident to the police. There are no restrictive access criteria for using the service.

12. Saarland

The service is accessible to all target groups regardless of their insurance or residence status.

13. Berlin

The forensic examination and documentation at the violence protection clinic (GSA) is free of charge and can also be used without prior police report. Contact is usually made directly by the persons concerned themselves or by referrers. Children suspected of being abused or neglected are examined by forensic medicine on the initiative of the institution. As the forensic medical examination also involves statements about the origin of the injuries, reliable communication with the person concerned is necessary. In addition, identification of the person being examined is necessary due to the potential expert testimony in court.

Health insurance or cost coverage is required for medical care.

For services provided in the trauma outpatient clinic, it is sufficient to submit an application for compensation in accordance with SGB XIV after the second session. Those affected can limit their application to services provided in the trauma outpatient clinic. The simplified procedure applies, i.e. a summary review is sufficient. The facts stated in the application are to be assumed to be true.

The necessary travel costs to the nearest trauma outpatient clinic will be covered. The same applies to the necessary travel costs of an accompanying person and for children who need to be taken along because their care cannot be ensured. The necessary care costs for family members who need nursing or care will also be covered, both for the beneficiaries and for the necessary accompanying persons for children and young people.

Access to the counselling centres listed under 28 (p. 275) is possible regardless of the criteria mentioned in the question. Counselling is free of charge and
can also be provided anonymously upon request.

14. Brandenburg

No access requirements such as insurance status, notification of the offence or similar are necessary (as of now in Brandenburg) to make use of the immediate medical assistance and trace evidence services.

The offer is only accessible in partner clinics (via rescue centres).

Article 31: Custody, access rights and safety

32. Please indicate whether, under national law, acts of violence falling within the scope of the Convention must be taken into account when determining custody and access rights for children. If so, please explain the extent to which these provisions apply:

a. domestic violence is expressly listed in the applicable legislation as a criterion to be taken into account when deciding on custody and/or access rights. If so, please clarify whether this criterion is/has been applied in practice when determining custody and access rights;

b. recognise the harm caused to the child when they witness violence by one parent against the other;
c. ensure that custody is given to the non-violent parent rather than to a foster family;
d. When reviewing civil proceedings relating to the determination of custody or access rights, provide for the possibility of asking about/searching for any previous cases of domestic violence between the parties.
e. Provide for judges to carry out risk assessments or request the disclosure of risk assessments prepared by law enforcement agencies or other relevant actors for victims of domestic violence in order to take them into account and determine the best interests of the child in custody and access decisions.

Contributions: Thuringia, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony (reference to state report V. E. "care and access rights" (p. 46)), Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Bremen, Saarland

1. Thuringia

This concerns federal law for the judiciary. Acts of violence that fall within the scope of the Convention always affect the welfare of the child and must therefore be taken into account in court decisions on custody and access rights (see, inter alia, Sections 1666, 1666a, 1671, 1684 of the German Civil Code (BGB)). Specific regulations (32a. to e.) do not yet exist, but are under discussion as part of the reform process.

Implementation takes place in judicial practice. It is standard practice for domestic violence to be investigated and taken into account in terms of its impact on the welfare of the child. The fact that placement in a foster family is only considered as a last resort (Section 32c) is dictated by the constitutionally protected primacy of parental rights and the existing legal situation. In case law, there is a growing recognition that witnessing domestic violence is detrimental to the welfare of children (section 32b), that domestic violence must be clarified before an agreement can be reached (section 32d) and that risk assessment tools exist (section 32e). Individual courts have developed specific procedures for child custody proceedings in the context of domestic violence within the framework of existing local networks (e.g. the domestic violence guidelines of the working group
"Children in Separation and Divorce" at the Erfurt Local Court – known as the "Erfurt Practice"). The participation of the competent family judges is at their independent discretion.

A cross-agency high-risk management system for Thuringia is being developed by the interministerial sub-working group on high-risk management, which is also examining the extent to which the courts can be involved while maintaining the independence of the judiciary.

Re a) for the school sector:

The ThürSchulG and ThürSchulO contain provisions on custody and the legal definition of parenthood in relation to schooling, as set out in

- Section 31 ThürSchulG and Section 17 ThürSchulO
- Parents are:
  - the legal guardians of the minor pupil
  - persons to whom the upbringing of minor pupils has been partially transferred

- the school has a right to information from parents regarding legal representation / custody arrangements / access rights
- Parents must notify the school of any changes without delay
- the school has a entitled to template a proof (e. e.g. custody declarations, court orders)

Cooperation takes place with the youth welfare offices and the police.

2. Rhineland-Palatinate

According to the principle of
"official investigation" principle applicable in family court proceedings, the family court is not only entitled but even obliged to obtain the facts relevant to the decision on its own initiative. It is therefore required, also from the point of view of procedural economy, to investigate all sources of information that are suitable and available in the individual case and that may be decisive for a decision on custody and access rights. This includes, in particular, acts of violence against women in domestic relationships or gender-specific acts of violence, which are taken into account in the court's discretion when making a decision. The family courts always examine the specific individual case to determine whether such circumstances exist that could influence the decision on custody and access.

The Ministry for Women, together with the Ministry of Justice, has published guidelines on custody and access proceedings in cases of domestic violence. This interdisciplinary, standardised working aid is intended to provide systematic support to those involved in child custody proceedings and to focus on the welfare of the child and the protection of victims. The guidelines are not only intended for courts and public prosecutors. They are freely available to all institutions, organisations and individuals involved in the justice system or interested in the subject. The guidelines are
not legally binding, as this would conflict with judicial independence under Article 97 of the German Basic Law (GG).[205]

3. North Rhine-Westphalia

According to Section 1671 of the German Civil Code (BGB), parental custody may be transferred to one parent alone by the family court if the parents are not only temporarily separated. According to Section 1684 BGB, the family court may regulate access rights and restrict or exclude them if this is necessary for the welfare of the child. The welfare of the child is decisive in all decisions. When assessing the welfare of the child, both custody and access decisions take into account whether a parent has been violent towards the child or the other parent in the past.

Re a)

Domestic violence is not explicitly mentioned in the regulations, but in practice it is taken into account as a criterion in the assessment of the child's welfare.

Re b)

The assessment of the child's welfare takes into account whether a child has been a victim of domestic violence or has been affected as a witness because they have witnessed domestic violence.

Re c)

According to Section 1666 of the German Civil Code (BGB), the family court may withdraw parental custody in whole or in part from the holder of parental custody if the physical, mental or emotional well-being of the child is at risk and the parents are unwilling or unable to avert the danger.
is endangered and the parents are unwilling or unable to avert the danger

205
https://mffki.rlp.de/fileadmin/07/Bilder/Themen/Frauen/Gewalt_gegen_Frauen/Leitfaden_zuSorgeundUmgangsverfahren___bf.pdf

. Placement in a foster family requires that both parents are unwilling or unable to remedy a significant risk to the child's welfare. If the non-violent parent is able to ensure the child's welfare, placement in a foster family cannot take place. Only if both parents are unsuitable to exercise care can placement with a third party be considered, e.g. if the parents wish to remain together as a couple despite the continuing domestic violence and therefore the child is not protected even by the non-violent parent.

Re d)

Currently, there are no regulations requiring family courts to investigate whether domestic violence has occurred between the parties/parents in the past or is currently occurring in custody and access proceedings. This would have to be brought up by the victim of violence or the youth welfare office. In connection with the preparation of the state action plan mentioned under I. 3.), the possibility of including such guidelines in a handbook for family court judges should be considered.

Re e)

Standardised risk assessments are not currently carried out in family proceedings. However, the family courts have been provided with an assessment tool for official use, which was developed by the Criminalistics and Criminology Research Unit (KKF) of the North Rhine-Westphalia State Criminal Police Office (LKA NRW). Each
family court judge decides independently which files from the police or the public prosecutor's office are to be included in the proceedings.

4. Berlin

on a)

To date, domestic violence has not been explicitly listed as a decision-making criterion in the legal provisions on custody or access rights. However, as the Istanbul Convention is an international treaty and therefore directly applicable law, courts are obliged under Article 31 of the Istanbul Convention to take domestic violence into account when conducting proceedings and making decisions on access and custody rights.

In family court practice, domestic violence is now taken into account as an independent criterion in decisions on custody or access rights, e.g. in the published higher court decisions of the Berlin Court of Appeal on the termination of joint parental custody (cf. KG Berlin, decision of 19 September 2024 – 16 UF 108/24 –, juris), on a contact arrangement (cf. KG Berlin, decision of 4 August 2022 – 17 UF 6/21 –, juris) and on the exclusion of contact (cf. KG Berlin, decision of 27 January 2023 – 17 UF 150/22 –, juris).

Re b)

In the practice of the higher courts in Berlin, it is recognised that witnessing domestic violence constitutes a risk to the welfare of the child and can therefore lead, for example, to an exclusion of contact (see KG Berlin, decision of 23 December 2020 – 16 UF 10/20 –, juris). Nevertheless, each case must be considered individually, particularly with regard to the length of the exclusion of contact (see KG Berlin, decision of 12 January 2024 – 16 UF 59/22 –, juris).

Re c)

According to the case law of the Federal Constitutional Court, the substantive and procedural hurdles for removing a child from the parental household are very high due to the associated violation of parental rights under Article 6 of the Basic Law (see, for example, BVerfG, decision not to accept the case of 23 April 2018 – 1 BvR 383/18 –, juris). The placement of the child in the household of the non-violent parent therefore always takes precedence over placement in a foster family. An exception applies, among other things, if the non-violent parent is not sufficiently able to protect the child from witnessing violence.
non-violent parent is not sufficiently able to protect the child from witnessing

violence, or if the child refuses to live with this parent for (understandable) reasons.

Re d)

In family court proceedings, the principle of official investigation under Section 26 FamFG applies. This also applies to the question of whether the welfare of the child is at risk due to domestic violence. Nevertheless, no investigation "into the blue" is required, so that investigations into previous incidents of domestic violence are only carried out if this is claimed by one of the parties involved in the proceedings or if there are other indications to this effect.

Re d)

In the context of the prognostic decision required, for example, in child protection proceedings, the family court must always assess the extent of the risk of future harm to the child's welfare
, e.g. through renewed exposure to domestic violence. As part of its official investigation, the family court may request the criminal prosecution authorities to provide information on their findings, but the court must carry out the risk assessment on its own authority
.

5. Baden-Württemberg

on a)

The consideration of acts of violence falling within the scope of the Convention in decisions on custody and access rights is – although not expressly enshrined as a criterion in the law by the fact that the family courts observe the provisions of the Istanbul Convention when interpreting the available legal bases and give priority to the best interests of the child (Section 1697a of the Civil Code; BGB). Under certain conditions, this allows for the restriction or exclusion of access rights for a longer period or permanently, as well as the partial or complete withdrawal of parental custody (Sections 1684 (4) and 1666 BGB).

Re b)

In several recent rulings, German higher courts have clarified that witnessing violence also constitutes a serious threat to the welfare of the child and may justify measures such as transferring sole custody to the non-violent parent or imposing a longer period of exclusion from contact.

Re c)

Interference with parental custody and the associated placement of the child in care, as provided for in Section 1666 of the German Civil Code (BGB), are only permissible in strict compliance with the principle of proportionality and the fundamental rights of the parents (Article 6(2) sentence 1, (3) of the German Basic Law (GG)).

Re d)

The review of custody and access rights decisions takes place in a full second instance court, in which the courts are obliged to conduct the investigations necessary to establish the facts relevant to the decision ex officio (Sections 26, 58 et seq. of the Act on Proceedings in Family Matters and in Matters of Non-contentious Jurisdiction; FamFG), which may also concern previous acts of violence.

Re e)

The principle of ex officio investigation described above also entitles the courts to evaluate sources of information such as external risk assessments, which – in addition to their own assessment of the facts in the context of weighing up the interests involved – may be taken into account in decisions on
custody and access rights.

6. Brandenburg

The provision of Section 1666 BGB as a whole, as an expression of the state's guardianship under Article 6 para. 2 sentence 2 GG, implements the constitutional mandate to protect children at the level of civil law.

- Pursuant to Section 1666 (1) of the German Civil Code (BGB), the family court must take the measures necessary to avert the danger if the physical, mental or emotional well-being of the child or its assets are endangered and the parents are unwilling or unable to avert the danger. The question of whether there is a risk to the child's welfare within the meaning of paragraph 1 must always be decided by the courts of lower instances on a case-by-case basis and in delimitation of the fundamental parental right on the one hand and the state's duty to protect the child on the other; as a legal consequence, paragraph 1 authorises the family court to take the measures necessary to avert the danger (see Volke, Münchener Kommentar zum BGB, 9th edition 2024, Section 1666 marginal no. 40; cited in beck-online).
- Contact between the child and the parents is regulated in Section 1684 of the German Civil Code (BGB). According to Section 1684 (4) BGB, the family court can restrict or exclude the right of access or the enforcement of previous decisions on the right of access if this is necessary for the child's welfare. A decision that restricts or excludes access rights or their enforcement for a longer period of time or permanently can only be issued if the child's welfare would otherwise be at risk.

In detail:

- Such a determination is not necessary. The law does not have to regulate every custody and contact criterion. There are a large number of contact regulations that regulate contact as a form of supervised contact and where handover situations are regulated with particular care (via the school, the daycare centre, with the involvement of family members).
- Recognition takes place as part of the weighing up process.
- A custody arrangement is always the result of weighing up very different circumstances. In violent relationships, both parents often come from homes where they had to gain relevant experience. It must always be examined whether the parent who is actually or supposedly not a perpetrator of violence is in a position to protect the child from the other parent.
- The audit is always comprehensive.
- Law enforcement authorities are not regularly involved. Convictions are taken into account, and in some cases it is sufficient to report criminal behaviour, provided there is knowledge of it. The standard to be applied is always the best interests of the child. Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

33. Please describe the measures that ensure that judges, court-appointed experts and legal professionals:

a. have sufficient legal knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of violence in intimate relationships, including the psychological impact of violence on children;

b. take appropriate account of the complaints of victims of domestic violence and hear children who are victims or witnesses when determining custody and access rights;

c. are aware of the unfounded nature of the concept of "parental alienation" [206] and

[206] In its baseline reports, GREVIO has repeatedly referred to the December 2017 statement by the European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP), which points out that the terms

similar terms serve to obscure the violence and control exercised by perpetrators of domestic violence over women and their children.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Saxony-Anhalt, Bavaria, Saarland

1. Hamburg

on a), b)

According to Section 23b (3) GVG, working as a family court judge requires special knowledge, which explicitly includes basic knowledge of psychology. According to Section 3b HmbRiG, judges are obliged to undergo further training in order to maintain and develop their knowledge and skills.

The FHH's state-owned training programme offers family court judges a wide range of family law and interdisciplinary training courses that impart knowledge in the areas of family law, in particular child custody law, family procedural law and the parts of child and youth welfare law necessary for proceedings in family matters, as well as knowledge of psychology, in particular child developmental psychology, and communication with children. The training programme described above is supplemented by a mentoring programme for those changing departments and the "Hamburg Family Law Module Series" with modules on all areas of family law, including child custody law (e.g. modules on child welfare risks, family court reports, attachment theory, child hearings, developmental psychology requirements and the will of the child, protection against violence, and procedural law in cases of protection against violence). In addition, Hamburg judges have the opportunity to participate in courses offered by the Social Pedagogical Training Centre (SPFZ) as well as events organised by the German Judicial Academy, the North German Association and state-run supervision programmes.

The training programme thus ensures the professional development of judges at a high level and promotes professional exchange, so that all aspects of the case can always be considered and incorporated into decisions, particularly in child custody proceedings.

The qualification requirements for legal representatives are set out in Section 158a (1) FamFG and those for experts in Section 163 (1) FamFG. In this respect, there are no special features in Hamburg.

Re c)

In Hamburg, the "theory of parent-child alienation" – which is considered scientifically disproved – is not used in training courses as a basis for decisions in child custody cases.
to family court judges. In training courses, such as the online format "Good Child Protection Procedures" (see Table 2 Further Training, p. 454), it is pointed out that

"Parental Alienation Syndrome" (PAS) and "Parental Alienation" (PA) are unsuitable for use in any psychotherapeutic practice. This statement by the EAP, which comprises 128 psychotherapy organisations from 41 European countries, serves as a guiding principle for European psychotherapists. In addition, in February 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) published its new draft of the International Classification of Diseases, 11th Revision (ICD-11) and confirmed that it had removed "Parental Alienation" from the index term in the final ICD-11. See also the May 2019 statement by the Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women (EDVAW Platform): "Intimate partner violence against women is a key factor in determining custody, say women's rights experts."

Scientific refutation of the concept pointed out.

2. Hesse

In order to ensure that judges and experts have the necessary knowledge to deal with family law cases and domestic violence, the following measures in particular have been taken by the federal legislature:

The Act Amending the Law on Experts of 11 October 2016 (BGBI. I, p. 2222) established qualification requirements for experts in certain child custody proceedings (see Section 163 FamFG). They must have at least a professional qualification in psychology, psychotherapy, psychiatry, medicine or (social) education . In addition September 2019 the
"Minimum Requirements for Expert Opinions in Child Custody Cases" has been published in its second edition.

The Act to Combat Sexualised Violence against Children of 16 June 2021 (BGBI. I, p. 1810) introduced, among other things, qualification requirements for family court judges (cf. Section 23b (3) GVG). Family court judges must, among other things, have verifiable basic knowledge in the field of child developmental psychology and conversation techniques with children. In addition, professional and personal suitability requirements and a regular continuing education obligation for legal representatives were introduced (cf. Section 158a FamFG). Legal representatives must, among other things, have knowledge in the field of child development psychology and communication techniques with children. In addition, they must be able to guarantee that they can represent the interests of the child conscientiously, impartially and independently. Furthermore, the hearing of children in child custody cases has been redesigned (see Section 159 FamFG). Children must now be heard in person by the court, regardless of their age. In addition, the court must form its own impression of the child.

Further training

Reference is first made to the training events listed in Table II (p. 524). In addition, further training events are regularly offered specifically for family court judges, which also address issues such as domestic violence and the Istanbul Convention and meet the requirements of Section 23b(3)
p. 3 GVG. In addition, the division reports that several local courts participate in working groups in their respective districts (including the Darmstadt Local Court in the "Network for Protection against Violence" and the Giessen Local Court in the working groups "Women against Violence in the District of Giessen" and "No Violence against Children"), which facilitate exchange with
other institutions.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Judges and public prosecutors are offered training courses through the German Judicial Academy (DRA) (see Table 2 of the Annex, p. 535). In addition, a symposium organised by the Ministry of Justice
on IK.

4. Saxony

Judges and public prosecutors have the opportunity to participate in state-owned training events and in events organised by the German Judicial Academy.

5. Schleswig-Holstein on

a)

Family judges and Family judges are trained in Schleswig-Holstein by

training events. In training courses on the topic of "Fundamentals of Developmental Psychology", the effects of violence and neglect on the child's psyche are also regularly discussed. In addition, there are recurring specific training courses on the topic of "Domestic Violence", in which the subject is presented comprehensively, particularly in relation to children.

Re b)

According to Section 159 (1) FamFG, the family court must hear children in person in all proceedings concerning the child's person or property; in proceedings concerning the welfare of the child, the hearing is mandatory. In Schleswig-Holstein, family court judges receive special training for hearing particularly traumatised children. In addition to basic training courses on communicating with children, courses are offered on topics such as "Recognising subtle signs of stress in infants and young children" and "Communicating with highly traumatised children and adolescents – trauma-informed action in family court proceedings" (two days). This is to ensure that the courts meet the special needs of traumatised and abused children when communicating with them.

Re c)

The speakers recruited for family court training courses in Schleswig-Holstein are generally highly qualified specialists who have been working in this field for many years. They are selected by the training department of the Schleswig-Holstein Higher Regional Court in consultation with and with the support of the specialist coordinator for family law in Schleswig-Holstein, and the event is evaluated afterwards. Against this background, even if there are no specific findings on the extent to which the meaning and use of certain terms is the subject of family court training courses,
it can be assumed that the events take into account the latest findings from science and practice.

6. Thuringia

on a)

Family court judges select suitable family psychology experts who, in accordance with Section 163 (2) FamFG, must demonstrate at least one relevant professional qualification as proof of their expertise. The quality of the expert opinions is to be assessed in case law, for which reference can be made to the nationwide recommendations of the professional associations on the
"minimum requirements for the quality of expert reports in family law" can be used for this purpose. These criteria are continuously being developed.

Re b)

In family court proceedings concerning custody and access rights, the hearing of the child and the parents may only be waived for serious reasons (Sections 159, 160 FamFG); these hearings are an important basis for court decisions. Implementation in court practice is governed by this legal framework, and there is a comprehensive system of legal remedies against court decisions. There is no guarantee that victims of domestic violence will see their complaints taken into account in individual cases.

Re c)

The Federal Constitutional Court has expressly clarified that the concept of so-called parental alienation syndrome is considered scientifically refuted and may not be used as a basis for a custody decision (decision of 17 November 2023 – 1 BvR 1076/23). Family court judges must keep themselves informed about the highest court rulings and the current expert discussion; this is a fundamental part of the
judicial office.

7. Lower Saxony

Judges and public prosecutors are trained through a variety of training measures. Please refer to the response to Article 15 in this regard (p. 144). Participation in such programmes is voluntary, although judges and public prosecutors are subject to a general continuing education requirement. Comprehensive continuing education programmes are available for family court judges in Lower Saxony on the points raised.

Re c)

In Lower Saxony, there are no known cases in which family courts have based their decisions on concepts such as PAS.

8. Rhineland-Palatinate

Criminal offences against physical integrity, coercion, threats and homicides are included in the catalogue of subjects covered by the Legal Training and Examination Regulations (JAPO). These offences are dealt with comprehensively in legal training. Although the training does not make a clear distinction between who these offences were committed against or for what reason, in practice they often occur in connection with gender-specific and/or domestic violence. They are therefore also dealt with in a practical context in legal training, particularly in the legal preparatory service.

However, as in almost all federal states, offences under Section 13 of the German Criminal Code (StGB), offences against sexual self-determination, are deliberately not included in the JAPO syllabus. In the course of the harmonisation of subject matter, which was recommended by the Conference of Ministers of Justice (JuMiKo) after being drafted by the Coordination Committee, these offences were not included. A cross-state change is not being considered, as the examination material is not to be expanded.

However, law faculties offer elective courses in criminal law that also address sexualised violence and/or domestic violence. To further raise awareness among young lawyers, there are voluntary events for students and trainee lawyers, most of which are offered on an interdisciplinary basis with universities – in particular the Psychological Institute of Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz – and focus on gender-based and domestic violence. The seminars cover topics such as traumatised witnesses, sexual abuse, domestic violence, intimate partner homicide, violence against children, stalking in the context of family law and family court measures in cases where the welfare of children is at risk.

Ongoing task:

- Criminal offences against physical integrity, coercion, threats and homicides to be added to the list of subjects covered by the legal training and examination regulations

Other events include:

- The seminar "Family Law and Psychology" analyses domestic violence, intimate partner homicide and child abuse from a legal and psychological perspective.
- Criminology events focusing on criminal justice deal with the causes of gender-based violence and approaches to prevention.

In addition, there are numerous training events for judges in Rhineland-Palatinate that address the issues mentioned in questions 33 a–c.

These include, for example, the following events:

a) at the German Judicial Academy

- Violence in the family – family and criminal aspects, credibility assessment in cases of suspected sexual abuse
- Confident handling of statements and questioning
- Fundamentals of fact-finding and interrogation techniques
- The Structure of child custody proceedings in cases of parental violence in partnerships
- Psychological and social science foundations of family law
- Blended learning training Developmentally appropriate, comprehensive and non-suggestive child interviews (psychological competence)
- Psychology of statement assessment
- Practical issues in family law
- Family psychological assessments and amicable conflict resolution
- Hearing children and young people in family court proceedings
- Child protection proceedings, especially in cases of suspected sexual violence
- Solution-oriented work and consideration of the child's welfare in custody and access proceedings

b) in the state's own programme

- Learning how to deal with the particular psychological stress situations associated with interviewing victims of sexual abuse and assault
- Psychology for lawyers – reducing errors in legal decisions
- Domestic violence – violence in close social relationships
- Dealing with access
- The psychological perspective on family court Part 1 and Part 2.

The quality standards for expert reports in family law are already being continuously developed in order to take appropriate account of complaints from victims of domestic violence. At regular intervals, expert discussions on "Quality management in family court assessments" are held under the guidance of Dipl. -Psychl. Prof. Dr. jur. Kannegießer. Most recently, "minimum requirements for the quality of expert reports in child custody law" were (further) developed. This establishes standards for expert reporting practice. In addition to representatives of the judicial administrations, participants include In the past, the minimum requirements for the quality of expert opinions in family law developed by the Ministry of Justice were also distributed to the relevant departments. In addition, interdisciplinary working groups have been set up throughout the country. In the past, the minimum requirements developed for the quality of expert opinions in child custody law were also distributed by the Ministry of Justice to the relevant departments. In addition, interdisciplinary working groups have been set up throughout the state under the Rhineland-Palatinate intervention project against violence in close social relationships, which deal with access and custody rights at regular intervals. Within the framework of this committee, the Ministry of Justice, under the leadership of the Ministry of
Family, Women, Culture and Integration, representatives of youth welfare offices, solicitors, judges and women's support organisations in cases of domestic violence have produced a "Guide to custody

and access proceedings in cases of domestic violence" for representatives of youth welfare offices, lawyers, judges and women's support organisations in cases of domestic violence. This is available on the Ministry of Justice website and has been made available to the department.

9. North Rhine-Westphalia

According to Section 23b (3) sentence 3 GVG, family court judges must have verifiable knowledge in the areas of family law, in particular child custody law, family procedural law and the parts of child and youth welfare law necessary for proceedings in family matters, as well as verifiable basic knowledge of psychology, in particular child development psychology, and communication with children. According to Section 13 of *the Judges and Public Prosecutors Act for the State of North Rhine-Westphalia* (LRiStaG NRW), judges and public prosecutors are obliged to undergo further training.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, but also at the federal level, there are a variety of continuing education programmes for family judges that cover both the basics and more in-depth topics such as custody/access rights, the Istanbul Convention and protection against violence. Through the continuing education requirement, the state of North Rhine-Westphalia is working to ensure that judges also participate in these seminars. The unfounded nature of the term "parental alienation" is part of the continuing education courses.

10. Bremen

on a)

According to Section 23b of the German Court Constitution Act (GVG), probationary judges should not perform the duties of a family court judge in the first year after their appointment. In addition, family judges should have verifiable knowledge in the areas of family law, in particular child custody law, family procedural law and the parts of child and youth welfare law necessary for proceedings in family matters, as well as verifiable basic knowledge of psychology, in particular child development psychology, and communication with children. Bremen offers a wide range of training courses covering these topics and more. Issues relating to domestic violence, including the psychological consequences for children, are part of several training courses that are regularly offered to family judges. In 2022, a specialist conference on the Istanbul Convention was also held for the judiciary. As part of Bremen's state action plan for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, interdepartmental funds have been available since 2022 for interdisciplinary training courses, some of which have been and continue to be used for the training of family court judges. Due to high demand, the funds have been consolidated and increased.

Re b)

This probably refers to custody and access rights (not professional rights). The court is obliged to hear the child personally in all matters concerning the child and thus involve the child in the proceedings. As a rule, a decision can only be made if the child has been given the opportunity in the proceedings to express their personal feelings and their own opinion as an exercise of their right to self-determination.

Re c)

It is generally recognised in case law that the concept of parental alienation syndrome (PAS) is not a sufficient basis for a custody decision based on the best interests of the child. Rather, the fundamental right to parental rights and the state's duty to protect children mean that courts have an obligation to weigh up all the circumstances of each individual case and to provide detailed reasons for their decision. A blanket reference to your syndromic classification as PAS or the use of standard arguments does not meet the high constitutional requirements. This ruling by the Federal Constitutional Court is communicated to family court judges in the context of further training.

11. Berlin

In addition to self-study, judges and public prosecutors have the opportunity to participate in training courses organised by the GJPA on the above-mentioned topics. Suitable and thematically appropriate GJPA training events are open to police officers and/or youth welfare office specialists, not least with a view to the interdisciplinarity required by the Istanbul Convention, in order to promote mutual exchange. An overview of the training events can be found in Table II (p. 569).

Re a)

According to Section 23 b (2) sentences 2 to 4 GVG, judges in family matters should have verifiable knowledge in the areas of family law, in particular child law, family procedural law and the parts of child and youth welfare law necessary for proceedings in family matters, as well as verifiable basic knowledge of psychology, in particular child developmental psychology, and communication with children. Judges whose knowledge in these areas is not verifiable may only be assigned the duties of a family judge if the acquisition of such knowledge can be expected in the near future. In this respect, family judges are obliged to participate in appropriate further training courses, the topics of which are selected by the GJPA for Berlin and Brandenburg.

Re b)

Since 1 July 2021, hearing children has been mandatory in all proceedings pursuant to Section 159 FamFG, regardless of the child's age. The court may only refrain from hearing the child in person and forming a personal impression pursuant to paragraph 1 in exceptional cases. There is no evidence that family court practice in Berlin deviates from the federal legal requirements.

Re c)

There is no obligation to provide further training on the concept of "parental alienation". However, the highest court rulings are clear in this respect. For example, in its decision of 17 November 2023 – 1 BvR 1076/23 – on PAS, the Federal Constitutional Court stated: "The parent-child alienation referred to by the Higher Regional Court draws on the outdated concept of parental alienation syndrome (PAS), which has been refuted by experts. This is not a sufficiently sound basis for a decision based on the best interests of the child. As far as can be seen, there is currently no empirical evidence in the scientific literature for parental manipulation in cases of child rejection of the other parent or for the effectiveness of removing the child from the household of the allegedly manipulating parent." There is no
evidence that family court practice in Berlin deviates from the highest court's case law in this respect.

12. Baden-Württemberg

on b)

In family court proceedings, consideration of complaints by victims of domestic violence is guaranteed under constitutional law by the principle of the right to a fair hearing enshrined in Article 104(1) of the Basic Law, which is specified in various procedural provisions on rights of expression and hearing (in particular Sections 34, 44, 26, 128 FamFG). According to Section 159 FamFG, family courts must
, with exceptions being narrowly defined and conclusively laid down by law.

13. Brandenburg

Judges and public prosecutors have the opportunity to take part in training courses organised by the GJPA on the topics mentioned. Suitable and thematically appropriate training events

organised by the GJPA are open to police officers and/or specialists from the youth welfare offices, not least in view of the interdisciplinarity required by the IC, in order to promote joint exchange. An overview of the training events can be found in Table II.

Family court judges and guardians ad litem are obliged to regularly take part in appropriate training courses, although there is no review.

According to Section 23b (3) sentence 3 GVG, judges in family cases should have demonstrable knowledge in the areas of family law, in particular child custody law, family procedural law and the parts of child and youth welfare law necessary for proceedings in family cases, as well as demonstrable basic knowledge of psychology, in particular child development
psychology, and communication with children.

34. Please explain the procedures in place to ensure that the court responsible for family matters cooperates/communicates with other relevant bodies/professional groups, in particular criminal courts, law enforcement agencies, health and education authorities and specialised women's support services, when deciding on custody and access rights or offering mediation in the field of family law. Please indicate whether the law provides a legal framework for any of the existing procedures.

Contributions: Hesse, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony (reference to state report V. E. Custody and visiting rights (p. 46)), Saxony-Anhalt, Bavaria, Saarland

1. Hesse

The procedural requirements for family matters, which also include child custody and protection against violence cases, are set out in the FamFG. Depending on the type of proceedings, the FamFG regulates certain obligations of the court to participate (e.g. the youth welfare office pursuant to Section 162 FamFG). In the context of protection against violence cases, for example, Section 216a FamFG stipulates that the court must immediately notify the competent police authority and other public authorities affected by the implementation of the order of any orders issued pursuant to Sections 1 and 2 of the GewSchG (Protection Against Violence Act) and any amendments or revocations thereof, unless the interests of a party involved in the exclusion of the transmission, the need for protection of other parties involved or the public interest in the transmission outweigh the interests worthy of protection. In the absence of a special provision, cooperation with other authorities is at the discretion of the judge
in compliance with data protection principles.

2. Schleswig-Holstein

Pursuant to Section 12 of the Act on the Further Development and Improvement of the Protection of Children and Young People in Schleswig-Holstein (Child Protection Act), cooperation groups are to be formed in the districts and independent cities in Schleswig-Holstein, which are to include not only public youth welfare agencies, health authorities, schools, police and law enforcement agencies and public prosecutors' offices, but also family courts. In addition to such cooperation groups, there are often other special regional cooperation arrangements between
courts with certain professional groups (youth welfare offices, paediatricians, etc.).

3. Thuringia

The Procedural Law (FamFG) stipulates close cooperation between the family court and the youth welfare office in family court custody and access proceedings and enables the court to provide information on out-of-court counselling, conflict participation or mediation. In some cases, networks have been formed locally with representatives of relevant professional groups
which agree on procedures for cooperation, including the involvement of

family counselling centres (e.g. the so-called "Erfurt practice" at the Erfurt Magistrates' Court[207]). The participation of family judges or family court judges is the responsibility of their independent decision.
Findings from criminal proceedings and from specialised women's support services are taken into account by the family court in individual cases as part of its official investigation.

4. Lower Saxony

The legal framework for the exchange of information and cooperation is provided by the relevant federal law, in particular the KKG and FamFG. There are no special regulatory features in Lower Saxony. Whether and to what extent the existing possibilities for information exchange and cooperation are used is decided by the independent courts on a case-by-case basis. Regardless of individual cases, there are local interdisciplinary forums throughout Lower Saxony in which family court judges regularly exchange information on child protection issues with all parties involved in family court proceedings.

Section 25(3) of the Lower Saxony School Act stipulates that schools shall cooperate with public and independent youth welfare organisations and other agencies and public institutions whose activities have a significant impact on the lives of young people within the scope of their duties. According to the agreement under Section 8a (4) of SGB VIII, professionals are obliged to first subject individual indications of danger to an exploratory process in order to determine, in a professionally reconstructable manner, whether these are significant indications of a risk to the welfare of a child requiring protection. If this is confirmed, the risk of danger must be assessed by an experienced specialist (child protection specialist). The youth welfare office must always be informed in accordance with the agreement under Section 8a (4) SGB VIII if the danger cannot be averted in any other way. If it is necessary to inform the youth welfare office in order to avert danger, this must be done with the involvement of those affected. The participatory approach must always be avoided if it could lead to a further increase in the risk situation. School staff (including the school management) can be informed of indications of child endangerment with the consent of those affected or with legal authority to disclose information.

The requested procedures, which regulate judicial actions , are outside the police jurisdiction. The relevant family court is involved in case conferences or in specific individual cases.

5. Rhineland-Palatinate

The principle of official investigation applies in family court proceedings. According to Section 26 of the Act on Proceedings in Family Matters and in Matters of Non-contentious Jurisdiction (FamFG), the court must, ex officio, carry out the investigations necessary to establish the facts relevant to the decision. It is therefore not only entitled, but even obliged, to obtain on its own initiative the factual basis relevant to the decision, including the means necessary for its verification. The court has no discretion in this regard; only the manner in which the investigations are carried out is subject to its discretionary power. The court is therefore required, also from the point of view of procedural economy, to investigate all sources of information that are suitable and available in each individual case. In addition, according to Section 27 (1) FamFG, all parties involved in the proceedings should cooperate in the investigation of the facts. Which authorities these are in each specific case is always determined by the family court on a case-by-case basis, taking all circumstances into account.

[207] https://gerichte.thueringen.de/gerichte-in-thueringen/landgericht-erfurt/amtsgericht-erfurt/das-gericht-und-seine-abteilungen/familiensachen#:~:text=Die%20%E2%80%9EErfurter%20Praxis%E2%80%9C%20at%20the%20family%20court%20can%20be%20as%20follows,free%20from%20personal%20accusations

For further information, see question 32 (p. 286).

6. North Rhine-Westphalia

According to Section 26 of the Act on Proceedings in Family Matters and in Matters of Non-contentious Jurisdiction (FamFG), family court judges have a duty to investigate all relevant facts of the case. In addition to the mandatory hearing of the children, this includes the involvement of the youth welfare office and the appointment of a guardian ad litem. In addition, reference persons such as teachers, kindergarten teachers, foster parents or even employees of women's shelters must be heard. If there are indications of
violence, criminal proceedings or police investigation files may be consulted.

7. Bremen

In family court child protection proceedings, the courts are obliged to conduct official investigations in accordance with Section 26 FamFG. Due to the high level of fundamental rights involved, there is a
comprehensive duty to investigate and gather information. How this is exercised is to be decided on a case-by-case basis and is subject to judicial independence.

8. Berlin

Cooperation with the family court in family court proceedings is only mandatory with the youth welfare office. According to Section 50 of SGB VIII, the youth welfare office supports the family court in all measures concerning the care of children and young people. However, the courts require those involved in child protection proceedings in Berlin to seek counselling from specialised perpetrator and/or victim counselling centres, among other things. In Berlin, there are various working groups in which different professional groups also collaborate on the subject of access and custody rights; see the answer to question 15 (p. 186). In addition, there is regular exchange between judges, youth welfare offices, lawyers, legal representatives and experts. However, these exchange formats are not required by law and not all
judges participate in exchange formats.

9. Baden-Württemberg

In custody and access proceedings, family courts are generally obliged to conduct the investigations necessary to establish the facts relevant to the decision (Section 26 FamFG). In individual cases, this also includes investigations relating to findings by other authorities, such as law enforcement agencies or schools.
Specific regulations also govern the involvement of the youth welfare office, which must always be consulted in custody and access proceedings (Section 162 FamFG).

10. Brandenburg

Child protection proceedings pursuant to Sections 1666, 1666a BGB are subject to the official principle and must be initiated ex officio. In legal terms, "applications" are suggestions for intervention, but not substantive applications in the formal sense. The duty of the youth welfare office to report endangerment of a child's welfare arising from Section 8a Para. 3 Sentence 1 HS 1 SGB VIII also constitutes a suggestion within the meaning of Section 24 Para. 1 FamFG. The same applies if a child itself applies to the court for family court protection. A suggestion does not initiate proceedings; rather, the court must take note of it and examine whether there are grounds to initiate proceedings pursuant to Sections 1666, 1666a on the basis of the facts presented in connection with the suggestion (see Volke, Münchener Kommentar zum BGB 9th edition 2024, Section 1666 BGB para. 249).

The principle of ex officio investigation under Section 26 FamFG applies in both main and interim legal protection proceedings. The court must carry out the investigations necessary to establish the facts relevant to the decision ex officio.

With regard to the investigations to be carried out, it should be noted that the youth welfare

office has no duty to investigate. It is obliged to cooperate in accordance with Section 50(1)(1) SGB VIII; the content of this duty to cooperate is in turn regulated in Section 50(2) SGB VIII.

Whether psychologists are to be consulted as experts in order to obtain the knowledge required for the prognosis must be assessed by the court in the light of its duty to protect fundamental rights according to the circumstances of the individual case (see Volke, Münchener Kommentar zum BGB 9th edition 2024, Section 1666 BGB para. 254).

The court must hear the child in person and gain a personal impression of the child (Section 159 (1) FamFG).

According to Section 160(1) of the German Civil Code (BGB), the court should hear the parents in person in proceedings concerning the person of the child; in proceedings according to Sections 1666 BGB and
§ 1666a BGB, the parents must be heard in person.

Section 162 FamFG provides for the involvement of the youth welfare office. The court must hear the youth welfare office in proceedings concerning the person of the child.

There are training opportunities and various other formats that focus on the exchange between the aforementioned actors. A procedure to be followed that regulates cooperation with relevant bodies/professional groups is only explicitly regulated in relation to certain procedural situations.
and concerning the youth welfare office, guardian ad litem and experts.

35. Please provide detailed information on the procedures applied in the exercise of custody and access rights (including, where applicable, the staff employed and the specific infrastructure available):
- **a. to eliminate the risk of the abused parent being exposed to further violence;**
- **b. to eliminate the risk of the child witnessing or experiencing violence;**
- **c. ensuring that the relevant staff are trained and the facilities are suitable for enabling supervised contact.**

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony (reference to state report V. Custody and visiting rights (p. 46)), Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia, Bavaria, Saarland

1. Hamburg

Pursuant to Section 26 FamFG, the family court must conduct the investigations necessary to establish the facts relevant to the decision (official investigation), whereby the scope of the necessary investigations and the manner in which the facts relevant to the decision are obtained are at the discretion of the family court, which is bound by its duties. The necessary investigations may also include investigations into violence against the child or between the parents (domestic violence).

Cooperation with other relevant professional groups in cases of custody or access rights ("visitation rights") takes place by passing on information either ex officio or upon request. This is essentially based on federal law:

The competent family court receives from the public prosecutor's office, in accordance with Nos. 31 and
35 of the Order on Communications in Criminal Matters (MiStra) and Section 17 No. 5 of the Introductory Act to the Courts Constitution Act (EGGVG). The family court then initiates its own investigations by regularly asking the youth welfare office, within the framework of family court proceedings, to obtain information about the family and make it available to the court. Furthermore, the court usually appoints a guardian ad litem for the child, hears the child and the parents involved
as well as the legal representative and the youth welfare office , obtains and, if necessary,

expert opinions and, if the suspicion of child endangerment is confirmed, makes a decision to avert the danger. In parallel with the investigations, the court may also issue a temporary injunction to protect the child's welfare. The family court, the youth welfare office, the court-appointed guardian ad litem and/or the court-appointed expert may obtain information from health and education authorities. Health and education authorities can contact the youth welfare office if they suspect that a child's welfare is at risk, and the youth welfare office will then forward the information to the family court. The family court requests information from the police or public prosecutor's office if it deems this necessary within the scope of its official investigation.

The following also applies to proceedings in Hamburg:

In cases of domestic violence, the Hamburg State Criminal Police Office has a specialist unit for victim protection/domestic violence, which provides special contact services for the courts, divided according to the districts of Hamburg.

Contact with specialised women's support services is usually made through the Youth Welfare Office.

The family courts and youth welfare offices hold regular meetings to exchange information, with the aim of further improving cooperation, among other things.

Re a), b), c)

The question relates to the previous question and, in this respect, to procedures that ensure that the court responsible for family matters cooperates/communicates with other relevant bodies/professional groups when making decisions on custody and access rights or when offering mediation in the field of family lawcommunicates with other relevant bodies/professional groups, in particular criminal courts, law enforcement agencies, health and education authorities and specialised women's support services.

If this concerns supervised contact, it can be said here that the decision on the provision of supervised contact is made by the general social services department of the youth welfare office and can be transferred to independent agencies or, in individual cases, to other suitable persons. The agencies are recognised youth welfare agencies. They act on the basis of framework conditions laid down in principles. Social education workers or other suitable persons are employed for supervised contact. The agency must ensure supervision,
collegial consultation or participation in appropriate further training. All of this ensures that quality requirements are met.

2. Hesse

on a), b)

In family court proceedings concerning access rights (equivalent to visiting rights under German law), judicial decisions are based on the welfare of the child. In cases of domestic violence where children are exposed to a risk to their physical or mental integrity or to the risk of witnessing violence against a parent, the courts will give priority to excluding or restricting access for the parent who poses the risk, Section 1684 IV BGB. A decision that restricts or excludes access rights or their enforcement for a longer period of time or permanently can only be made if the welfare of the child would otherwise be endangered, Section 1684 IV sentence 2 BGB.

Physical violence by the parent with access rights towards the child will result in the exclusion of access or the ordering of supervised access in accordance with Section 1684 IV sentence 3 BGB. Supervised access will only be considered if the child is willing to this and it is certain that there is no risk of the child being retraumatised. The same applies in the case of physical violence against the parent with custody. Here, too, exclusion may be considered if the violence could continue and cause the child to become anxious or if the child is at risk of being retraumatised.
exclusion may be considered if the violence could continue and the child's fears or

the risk of retraumatisation.

Supervised or accompanied contact, the nature of which is at the heart of the issue, can only be considered if it is in the best interests of the child; otherwise, exclusion from contact must be ordered as a matter of priority.

In December 2024, the Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ) presented a draft bill for the reform of child custody law – modernisation of custody, access and adoption law (Kindschaftsrechtsmodernisierungsgesetz – KiMoG) as a discussion draft, which deals, among other things, with the issue of clearer legal provisions for cases of domestic violence. The aim of the legislative process is to further strengthen the rights of victims of domestic violence and to strengthen child protection. The aim is to create legal clarity. According to the discussion draft, established domestic violence should be taken into account in access proceedings, thereby strengthening child protection through explicit legal provisions.

Re c)

The family court may describe in more detail the person of the third party willing to cooperate within the meaning of Section 1684 IV sentence 3 and their suitability requirements, and may also designate a youth welfare agency as a third party, which then appoints a suitable individual to perform the task, Section 1684 IV sentence 4 BGB.

German law does not regulate the eligibility requirements for guardians ad litem. The family court is required to appoint a suitable guardian ad litem based on the best interests of the child. The requirements regarding the personal and professional suitability of the guardian ad litem (Section 158a (1) FamFG) may be used as a reference. A person is professionally suitable within the meaning of Section 158 (1) if they have basic knowledge of family law, in particular child custody law, procedural law in child custody matters and child and youth welfare law, as well as knowledge of child developmental psychology and child-friendly communication techniques. Paragraph 2, sentence 1 A person is personally suitable within the meaning of Section 158 (1) if they can be relied upon to
to represent the interests of the child conscientiously, impartially and independently.

3. Schleswig-Holstein

on a), b), c)

The risk to the parent affected by violence and the child can be reduced by picking up the child at neutral locations where the parents do not meet (school, daycare centre, acquaintances, etc.) or by appointing a contact supervisor. Corresponding court orders are possible under national legislation (BGB) and are
frequently issued in Schleswig-Holstein.

4. Lower Saxony

In principle, under current law, violent incidents within the family can be taken into account when deciding on access and custody rights, in particular within the framework of Section 1684 (3) and (4) of the German Civil Code (BGB) (exclusion or restriction of access), Section 1671 BGB (transfer of sole custody when parents live apart) and in proceedings under Section 1666 BGB (judicial measures in cases where the welfare of the child is at risk). The decisive factor here is usually the welfare of the child or a case-by-case assessment of whether domestic violence constitutes a risk to the welfare of the child.

This is contrasted by four basic assumptions:

- joint parental custody and the requirement to reach agreement (Sections 1626 et seq. BGB),
- the assumption that contact with both parents is in the best interests of the child (Section 1626 (3) BGB),
- the requirement for both parents to reach an agreement in the event of a dispute (Section 1627 BGB) and

- Parents should refrain from doing anything that could complicate the relationship with the other parent (Section 1684 (2) of the German Civil Code, known as the good conduct clause).

Exceptions to this rule are provided for in cases where the welfare of the child is at risk (especially in cases of domestic violence):

- In court proceedings, courts must structure their proceedings in such a way that they reveal as reliably as possible the basis for a decision oriented towards the welfare of the child, taking into account the four basic assumptions mentioned above. This is reflected in the general principles of procedure, but also in individual features (e.g. in the principle of official investigation, in the requirement for expeditious proceedings or in the hearing of parties to the proceedings).
- According to established case law, witnessing or experiencing domestic violence can also constitute a risk to the welfare of the child.

5. Rhineland-Palatinate

In principle, parents must exercise parental care on their own responsibility and by mutual agreement for the welfare of the child (cf. Section 1627 sentence 1 BGB). This equal and equitable obligation of each parent applies regardless of any separation or divorce. If the parents cannot agree on a single matter or on a specific type of parental care matter that is of considerable importance for the child, the family court may, at the request of one parent, transfer the decision to one parent (Section 1628 sentence 1 BGB).

In principle, Article 6(2) sentence 1 of the Basic Law (GG) stipulates that parents are responsible for agreeing on arrangements for contact with their child. However, if the parents cannot reach an agreement or if they disagree on the content and scope of contact, the family court will make a contact arrangement. If a contact arrangement is proposed and contact proceedings are initiated ex officio, the court must specifically regulate the scope of the right of access and its exercise in order to avoid future disagreements between the parties involved and to have a suitable basis for the application of coercive measures. This requires a precise and exhaustive determination of the nature, place and time, frequency and duration of contact. In all these decisions to be made by the family court, the welfare of the child is always the primary consideration, taking into account the specific circumstances of the individual case. In order to enforce the contact arrangements and to ensure that the child does not witness or experience violence, among other things, the family court may establish a so-called contact supervisor in accordance with Section 1684 (3) of the German Civil Code (BGB). The contact supervisor is then authorised to determine how the court-ordered contact between the child and the separated parent can be enforced. The appointment of the contact supervisor is at the discretion of the court. In this respect, the family court is also responsible for assessing the qualifications of the contact supervisor, who is usually appointed on a case-by-case basis from among (social) educators, psychologists, social workers, lawyers or professional guardians.

The draft discussion paper of the Federal Ministry of Justice on the reform of family law dated 9 December 2024 also aimed to reform custody and access rights. The new regulations were intended to ensure, in particular, that violent incidents were taken into account when deciding on access and custody rights. In addition, provisions were planned to ensure that the safety of the victim or the children was not endangered by the exercise of visiting or custody rights. This covers not only violence against the children themselves, but also violence witnessed by the child, which has an equally negative impact on the child's development. In this regard, it was planned to weigh up the fundamental rights in the triangular relationship between the parents and the child by means of practical concordance.

The draft bill also provided that the family court must take into account, when determining access arrangements, whether the parent who has committed violence has also been violent towards other persons and whether there are any relevant criminal convictions.

convictions. Nevertheless, these circumstances must already be taken into account by the family courts in accordance with the principle of official investigation (Section 26 FamFG).

Even though this reform of child custody law was subject to discontinuity, the coalition agreement between the CDU, CSU and SPD for the 21st legislative period contains the following declaration of intent: "Domestic violence constitutes a threat to the welfare of children and must therefore be taken into account in the custody and access rights of the perpetrator. In future changes to access rights, we will ensure that these do not disadvantage children
[...] [...]."

6. North Rhine-Westphalia

In court proceedings and during the hearing of the child, protective measures are agreed in advance with the victim in cases of danger. These include the accompaniment of the perpetrator or victim by police officers throughout their stay in the building, the possibility of waiting in secure areas to avoid meeting in front of the courtroom, and leaving the building through different exits. The hearing may be held separately if this is the only way to protect the victim from further violence. As part of the risk assessment, an ex ante prognosis is made as to whether joint parental custody or visiting rights are possible without exposing the abused parent or child to further violence. In addition to excluding contact, it is possible to order handovers at neutral locations and accompanied visits.

Re c)

The implementation of accompanied visitation rights does not fall within the jurisdiction of the judiciary. When ordering visitation rights, a risk assessment is carried out in consultation with the youth welfare office. The agency that accompanies the visits is usually recommended by the youth welfare office. Family court judges only become responsible again if the risk assessment proves to be incorrect and the
original custody or contact decision has to be changed.

7. Bremen

Questions regarding the ordering of supervised contact cannot be answered without compromising judicial independence.

In cases where there is a risk that children could experience violence or witness domestic violence when exercising access rights, various protective measures and procedures apply in the state of Bremen:

- Taking into care pursuant to Section 42 of Book VIII of the Social Code: If there is an acute risk to the child, the youth welfare office can take the child into temporary care in order to remove them from the context of risk of violence.
- Family court measures: The youth welfare office can apply to the family court to request decisions on custody or access arrangements, particularly if protection needs cannot be resolved by mutual agreement.
- Placement outside the family of origin: In the event of ongoing danger, the child is placed in a suitable youth welfare facility or with a foster family.
- Supervised contact: Contact with the parent who has access rights can only take place under controlled conditions, especially in cases of previous violence. Facilities and agencies specialising in supervised contact are available for this purpose in the state of Bremen. This can take place in three graduated modules.
- Standardised accompanied contact: The specialist is present throughout the entire visit and intervenes to regulate the situation if necessary.
- Structured supervised contact: The visit is prepared and followed up, and

with partial presence.

- Protected contact: This takes place under increased security measures, e.g. in specially secured rooms or with separate entrances and exits, in order to rule out any danger to the child and the caregiver.

Staff and qualifications:

Accompanied contact is carried out by trained social education workers who usually have additional qualifications in child protection, dealing with highly contentious parental conflicts and conducting discussions. The specialists not only observe the interaction, but also evaluate it with regard to the child's welfare and conduct accompanying parent discussions.

Infrastructure:

Suitable premises are available for supervised contact, which are equipped to suit children and – especially in the case of protected contact – have separate access areas or security facilities. In some cases, supervision also takes place within the framework of specialised child protection or counselling centres, which have the appropriate infrastructure and crisis intervention capabilities.

Objective:

The aim of all measures is to ensure the safety and emotional well-being of the child and to consistently rule out any risk of retraumatisation or renewed danger.

8. Berlin

SGB VIII standardises various forms of counselling as a task of child and youth welfare services:

In addition to preventive counselling services to promote family education (Section 16 of Book VIII of the Social Code) and counselling on partnership issues, separation and divorce (Section 17 of Book VIII of the Social Code), counselling and support are also provided on the exercise of custody and access rights (Section 18 of Book VIII of the Social Code). It is aimed at all mothers, fathers, children, young people and adolescents in order to clarify questions regarding the exercise of personal care and access rights.

In all counselling services pursuant to Sections 16, 17, 18 and 28 SGB VIII, the welfare of the child is paramount. The primary goal of these support services is to bring about situations at an early stage that serve the welfare of the children concerned.

Advice on parenting issues and support for visitation rights is offered, for example, by a total of 27 parenting and family counselling centres in the state of Berlin. These centres provide a total of around 285 full-time positions for counselling services. The specialists are psychologists or social workers with a licence to practise or additional therapeutic qualifications.

In cases of domestic violence, so-called protected contact can be ordered in Berlin. Protected contact usually takes place at a state education and family counselling centre or at an independent institution. Unlike accompanied contact, individual discussions with the parents and the child are initially planned, whereby it is up to the contact supervisor to assess whether and when joint discussions can be held. During these visits, care is taken to ensure that the parents do not meet when handing over the child before or after the protected visits. However, protected visits are not generally offered by all agencies and all districts in Berlin. In cases of domestic violence, ordering "normal" accompanied visits is only suitable to a limited extent, because the aim of these visits is for the parents
to work out a contact agreement together with professional support. In

Since 1 January 2023, Berlin has also been running the pilot project "Berlin Model"[208], which is based on separate, gender-specific counselling for parents, namely in the form of a fathers' programme (work with perpetrators, assumption of responsibility), counselling for mothers (protection and stabilisation of those affected by violence) and involvement of the children (support and empowerment of children, including diagnostics). The counselling sessions initially take place in parallel with specially trained counsellors, and later also jointly. The aim is to develop a sustainable, secure and child-friendly contact agreement. The counselling sessions are preceded by a clearing process to check the participation requirements (non-violence, willingness to reach an amicable contact agreement, involvement of the children). In the Berlin recommendation on the procedure for contact proceedings in cases of domestic violence, which was developed by an interdisciplinary working group with the participation of specialised women's support services, this form of counselling is recommended to the courts before ordering a contact arrangement in order to rule out the risk of the abused parent being exposed to further violence or the child witnessing or experiencing violence.

9. Baden-Württemberg

Family courts may, under the conditions set out in Section 1684(4) of the German Civil Code (BGB), order that contact between the child and the violent parent may only take place in an accompanied form. They are not responsible for organising and implementing this contact; nor can they issue instructions to the youth welfare office or other institutions.

10. Brandenburg

Please indicate whether, under national law, the deprivation of parental rights is provided for in the event of criminal convictions if the welfare of the child, which may include the safety of the victim, is not ensured.

36. Please indicate whether, under national law, criminal convictions may result in the withdrawal of parental rights if the welfare of the child, which may include the safety of the victim, cannot be ensured in any other way.

Contributions: Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony (reference to State Report V. N. "Prohibition of mandatory alternative dispute resolution procedures" (from p. 54)), Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Rhineland-Palatinate (reference to question 32, p. 286 and question 35, p. 303), Bremen, Saarland

1. Lower Saxony

Section 1671 of the German Civil Code (BGB) regulates all cases of a transfer of sole custody, whether partial or otherwise, where parents are separated on a more than temporary basis.

According to Section 1671 (1) No. 2 BGB, sole custody may be transferred to one parent upon request, provided that this is "in the best interests of the child". Here, too, the welfare of the child is decisive. See Article 31 No. 35 (p. 302).

2. North Rhine-Westphalia

The welfare of the child is the top priority in all custody decisions. According to Section 1671 (1) No. 2 of the Civil Code (BGB), either parent may apply for sole parental custody if this is expected to be in the best interests of the child. This is certainly the case if it would otherwise be expected that that the parent with custody will continue to be a victim of domestic violence in the future due to joint custody. In addition, in such a case, the minimum level of cooperation and

[208] https://skf-berlin.de/offene-sozialarbeit/anti-gewalt-bereich/berliner-modell-zur-eltern-kind-beratung/

communication skills required for joint parental custody would no longer be present, and it would be unreasonable to expect the victim to restore this, e.g. through joint parent-teacher conferences (see OLG Frankfurt, decision of 10 September 2024, FamRZ 2024, 1937).

3. Berlin

The withdrawal of parental rights on the basis of a criminal conviction is not provided for by law. The withdrawal of custody, which constitutes an infringement of the parental rights protected by the Basic Law, always requires a case-by-case assessment. In cases of domestic violence, however, joint parental custody may be revoked at the request of the victim of violence pursuant to Section 1671 of the German Civil Code (BGB) if the victim cannot reasonably be expected to make joint decisions with the perpetrator. Corresponding decisions have been made by the Berlin Court of Appeal (see, for example, KG Berlin, decision of 19 September 2024 – 16 UF 108/24 –, juris). A criminal conviction can serve as evidence of the act of violence and the unreasonableness of joint exercise of custody.

4. Baden-Württemberg

The uniform intervention standard in Section 1666 of the German Civil Code (BGB) provides for the possibility of withdrawing custody on the grounds of an otherwise unavoidable threat to the welfare of the child, which may also arise as a result of a criminal conviction of one of the parents. With the exception of the child's assets, the legislator has refrained from regulating specific cases of endangerment
.

5. Brandenburg

In this respect, reference is made to Section 1666 BGB and Section 1666b BGB.

In general, measures in accordance with Section 1666 BGB require that there is a specific risk to the child's welfare that the persons with custody are unwilling or unable to avert.

Such a risk exists if there is a present danger to such an extent that it is sufficiently likely that the child's mental or physical well-being will be significantly harmed if things continue to develop (see Federal Court of Justice ruling from 23 November 2016 – XII ZB 149/16). Any form of sexual violence towards the child constitutes a risk to the child's welfare (Federal Court of Justice, loc. cit.).

Particularly in cases of sexual crime with a family connection, the custody situation is regularly reviewed. The guiding principle for these decisions is the best interests of the child. Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

Article 48: Prohibition of mandatory alternative dispute resolution procedures or criminal convictions

Criminal law

37. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure that mandatory alternative dispute resolution procedures are prohibited in criminal proceedings relating to the various forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention.

Contributions: Rhineland-Palatinate, Bremen, Saarland, Brandenburg

FA: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony (reference to State Report V. N. "Prohibition of mandatory alternative dispute resolution procedures" (from p. 54)), Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia (reference to state report), Bavaria, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg

1. Rhineland-Palatinate

Mandatory alternative dispute resolution procedures in criminal proceedings are already prohibited.

There is no evidence to suggest that judges and public prosecutors in Rhineland-Palatinate would violate this principle
.

2. Bremen

The Code of Criminal Procedure does not provide for mandatory alternative dispute resolution procedures. According to Section 153b StPO in conjunction with Section 46a StGB, it is possible to refrain from imposing a penalty or to discontinue proceedings if the offender, in an effort to reach a settlement with the injured party (offender-victim settlement), has made full or substantial reparation for his or her actions or has seriously endeavoured to do so, or if reparation has been made that has required a considerable personal effort or personal sacrifice on the part of the offender.

In order to implement offender-victim mediation in the state of Bremen, a joint guideline has been issued by various senatorial authorities involved. According to this guideline, the direct participation of the injured party in the mediation talks is not necessary. For details, please refer to the relevant guideline dated 20 December 2022
.

3. Saarland

In the training courses at the German Judicial Academy, the coordination office points out the waiver of alternative dispute resolution in family law proceedings.
This also includes working towards settlements in family proceedings.

4. Brandenburg

The legal concept of the prohibition of mandatory alternative dispute resolution proceedings corresponds to the regulation of victim-offender mediation in Section 155a of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The suitability of reaching a settlement between the accused and the injured party may not be assumed against the express will of the injured party.

In the state of Brandenburg, a general order issued by the Minister of Justice on 2 August 2024 regulates the details.[209] According to this, the offender and victim must be willing to make a voluntary settlement. In each individual case, it must be examined whether the facts of the case are suitable. In the case of serious criminal offences (in particular offences against life, limb or sexual self-determination), victim-offender mediation is only possible at the express request of the victim, unless the victim's traumatisation prevents this anyway.

38. If there are voluntary alternative dispute resolution procedures such as conciliation or mediation for offences covered by the Istanbul Convention, please provide information on the safeguards in place to ensure the victim's free and informed consent to such alternative procedures, as well as the measures taken to prevent direct or indirect pressure being exerted on the victim. Please also indicate whether the offer of alternative dispute resolution procedures may lead to the discontinuation of criminal investigations and prosecutions or to other consequences for the victim.

Contributions: Hamburg, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Brandenburg

FA: Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony (reference to 2020 State Report V. N. "Prohibition of mandatory alternative dispute resolution procedures" (from p. 54)), Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein
Holstein, Bavaria, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg

[209] https://bravors.brandenburg.de/verwaltungsvorschriften/bverf

1. Hamburg

The only "alternative dispute resolution procedure" in the area of criminal prosecution is victim-offender mediation (TOA) in accordance with Section 46a No. 1 of the German Criminal Code (StGB). This procedure is used relatively rarely in cases falling under the jurisdiction of the IK. In the event of a mediation procedure, the expert staff of the TOA centre first hold a detailed personal meeting with the victims without the knowledge of the accused. The staff of the centre accompany the entire procedure. A joint meeting with the accused is not necessary and only takes place with the consent of the victims. The mediation procedure
is possible at any time. This ensures that the victims are kept fully and comprehensively informed and that the proceedings are only carried out with their consent.

2. Thuringia

Reference to the First Grevio State Report Federal Republic of Germany 2020 (there V. N., pp. 54-55). Furthermore, Section 153a of the Code of Criminal Procedure opens up the possibility of refraining from prosecution in the case of misdemeanours, subject to conditions and instructions. One condition or instruction that may be imposed is that the accused make a serious effort to reach a settlement with the injured party (offender-victim settlement – Section 153a (1) sentence 2 no. 5 StPO). If
the condition is fulfilled, the offence can no longer be prosecuted (Section 153a (1) sentence 5 StPO).

3. Lower Saxony

According to Section II. 2. lit. c) of the Annex to the Lower Saxony Guidelines for Offender-Victim Mediation in General Criminal Law, when assessing whether such mediation is appropriate, particular attention must be paid to the voluntary nature of the injured party's participation. The "Standards for Offender-Victim Mediation" of the TOA Service Office, which are mandatory for mediation bodies in Lower Saxony, expressly emphasise the requirement for comprehensive information about the procedure, the voluntary nature of the offer, the clarification of this voluntary nature when establishing contact, and the goal that those responsible for the offence should not exert any further pressure on the injured parties.

As the question relates to federal law, it must be answered by the Federal Ministry of Justice.

Arbitration or mediation in criminal cases is generally initiated by the competent public prosecutor's office. In appropriate cases, the police will suggest victim-offender mediation, which will be examined and arranged by the public prosecutor's office in the further course of the investigation. Within the framework of victim-offender mediation, there is the possibility of out-of-court dispute resolution and intensive counselling if all parties agree. The voluntary nature of the victim's consent is taken into account by the fact that, as a rule, all persons involved in a preliminary investigation are interviewed in person. Specialised domestic violence officers in the police force are particularly sensitive in this regard. No information is available regarding the discontinuation of criminal investigations or
prosecution on the basis of dispute resolution proceedings.

4. Rhineland-Palatinate

The aim of the voluntary alternative dispute resolution procedure for criminal offences, known as victim-offender mediation (VOM), is to eliminate or at least reduce the negative effects of a criminal offence out of court with the help of a neutral mediator. Perpetrators and victims are therefore given the opportunity to discuss the incident and seek a mutually acceptable resolution to the conflict, which involves amicable compensation for damages. The special feature of TOA is that both victims and perpetrators benefit from its successful implementation. This makes TOA an essential instrument for promoting legal peace.

In Rhineland-Palatinate, there is a comprehensive network of mediation centres for victim-offender mediation

. Coordination is carried out by independent victim and offender support organisations. The mediation centres base their work on the professional standards of the Federal Working Group on TOA and the TOA Service Office.

In addition to the reconciliation of the parties to the conflict associated with the TOA, victims of crime can also receive material benefits as compensation for damages. The offer of alternative dispute resolution procedures can lead to the discontinuation of proceedings in accordance with Section 153a of the Criminal Procedure Code . In addition, Durchführung Täter-Opfer-
compensation procedure may also lead to a reduction in sentence or to the waiver of punishment.

5. North Rhine-Westphalia

A procedure similar to arbitration or mediation can take place in criminal proceedings on the basis of victim-offender mediation. Victim-offender mediation (VOM) requires that the accused is willing to take responsibility for the offence and that both the accused and the victim are willing to reach a settlement on a voluntary basis.

To this end, the Joint Circular of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior in the version dated 13 November 2020 (MBl. NRW 2020, p. 835) stipulates that if there are indications that the offence is based on long-standing, entrenched conflicts or that there is an imbalance of power between the accused and the victim, the suitability of the procedure for a TOA must be examined in particular. Particularly in cases of conflicts in the immediate vicinity, attention must be paid to ensuring that a TOA does not give the victim the impression that the offences are being trivialised, nor that the victim feels pressured to participate.

Similarly, the circular on promoting victim-offender mediation in juvenile criminal proceedings dated 12 December 2024 (JMBl. NRW p. 149) stipulates that victims must not feel pressured to participate in victim-offender mediation or gain the impression that the offence is being trivialised. This must always be taken into account when deciding whether the specific proceedings are actually suitable for TOA.

The public prosecutor's offices ensure compliance with these standards by involving qualified mediation agencies. Depending on the individual case, these may include the outpatient social services of the judiciary, the social services of the prison system for prisoners, institutions of independent welfare organisations, public youth welfare agencies or, in the case of adults, arbitrators in accordance with the Arbitration Act of North Rhine-Westphalia.

A successfully completed TOA can lead to the discontinuation of proceedings in the case of misdemeanours in accordance with Section 153a (1) sentence 2 number 5 StPO or Section 153a (2) in conjunction with Section 153a (1) sentence 2 number 5 StPO. If the accused is charged with a crime, a TOA may be taken into account in the sentencing pursuant to Section 46a of the Criminal Code (StGB). In juvenile cases, the public prosecutor's office may, pursuant to
Section 45(2) of the Juvenile Court Act (JGG) to refrain from prosecution.

In appropriate cases, an attempt at reconciliation pursuant to Section 380 (1) StPO may be considered as a further voluntary conciliation or mediation procedure if, in the absence of public interest in prosecution, an offence is to be prosecuted by way of a private prosecution.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, the conditions for referral to private prosecution are regulated, among other things, by circular order of the Ministry of Justice dated 23 July 2021 (4100 - III. 133). According to this, injured parties are generally entitled to effective prosecution ex officio if it is obvious that they are not in a position to defend themselves against serious offences against highly personal legal interests (life, physical integrity, sexual self-determination and personal freedom). In particular, the sentencing considerations specified in Section 46 (2) of the German Criminal Code (StGB) must also be taken into account, including gender-specific, against the sexual orientation directed or other
inhuman motives. Investigations must also be geared towards this where appropriate. In such cases, charges must generally be brought or a request made for the issuance

a penalty order. A reference to a private prosecution is generally excluded.

In the case of offences covered by the Istanbul Convention, the decision as to whether the conditions of the aforementioned provisions, which are applicable as law, are met is generally made by
special investigators who have received specific training in victim protection.

6. Bremen

There are no known cases of civil mediation. Cases of violence against women are not usually dealt with in civil courts, but in family courts or criminal proceedings.

In family court, attempts to reach a settlement in cases of protection against violence are only made if the victim agrees. A corresponding settlement can be approved by the family court by order under threat of coercive measures and thus form the basis for sanctions in the event of a violation. The discussions do not take place separately, but the parties involved are usually accompanied by lawyers. Upon request, the summons can only be issued via the legal representatives without disclosing the address of the injured party.

In criminal proceedings, attempts are made in appropriate cases to bring about victim-offender mediation (via the social services of the judiciary). However, not all cases are suitable for this, e.g. in cases of serious violence or if the injured party is unwilling, the latter being more common. The court does not usually issue any specific guidelines in this regard. However, the TOA decides how to proceed with the necessary sensitivity, e.g. by first holding separate discussions with the parties involved. Where necessary and possible, the whereabouts of the injured party are also kept secret
.

7. Saarland

In training courses at the German Judicial Academy, the coordination office points out the waiver of alternative dispute resolution in family law proceedings.
This also includes mediation proposals or obligations in family law proceedings.

8. Brandenburg

See answer to question 37, p. 308.

Pursuant to sections 153a (1) sentence 1 no. 5, (2), 155a StPO and section 153b (1) StPO in conjunction with section 46a StGB, the preliminary or criminal proceedings can be discontinued. If the victim-offender mediation does not lead to discontinuation, it enables the court to mitigate the sentence in accordance with Section 46a Criminal Code or – in the case of a prison sentence of up to
one year or a fine of up to 360 daily rates – to refrain from imposing a sentence in accordance with Section 49 (1) StGB.

Civil law:

39. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure that alternative dispute resolution procedures such as mediation or procedures that can be equated with them are not used in family law proceedings such as divorce proceedings or proceedings relating to custody and access rights for children where there is a history of violence.

Contributions: Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Bavaria, Saarland

1. Schleswig-Holstein

In violence protection proceedings, when assessing whether a case is suitable for mediation, a critical examination of the protection needs of the person affected by violence is already carried out on the basis of federal law, Section 36a (1) sentence 2 FamFG. No other state-specific measures to prevent mediation or other alternative dispute resolution procedures in cases of suspected violence are known, including in relation to other family law proceedings.

2. Thuringia

With regard to federal law, reforms are under discussion that are aimed at legal exceptions to the principle of working towards an agreement in child custody proceedings (cf. BMJ draft bill from 2014 for a law to improve the protection of persons affected by violence in family court proceedings with special provisions on family court proceedings at indications of domestic violence, Section 156a (2) FamFG-E).

3. Lower Saxony

It is up to the independent courts to assess the suitability of alternative dispute resolution procedures in each individual case within the framework of the existing (federal) regulations. The question of how domestic violence can be detected at an early stage is the subject of the training courses regularly offered to family court judges in Lower Saxony.

4. Rhineland-Palatinate

In civil proceedings, Section 278(1) of the Code of Civil Procedure (ZPO) encourages the courts to seek an amicable settlement at every stage of the proceedings. However, the parties are not obliged to do so. In family law proceedings, cases concerning protection against violence, such as applications for protection orders, are expressly excluded from attempts at conciliation (see Section 36 (1) sentence 2 FamFG and Section 36a (1) sentence 2 FamFG).

5. North Rhine-Westphalia

There is no provision stipulating that mediation is always excluded in cases where there is a history of violence. According to Section 36a FamFG, the family court may propose mediation or another form of out-of-court dispute resolution in all proceedings, but in cases involving protection against violence, the interests of the victim worthy of protection must be safeguarded. According to Section 156 FamFG, in child custody cases, the court shall work towards an amicable solution at every stage of the proceedings if this is not contrary to the welfare of the child .

6. Bremen

The court shall only work towards reaching an agreement between the parties in accordance with Section 156 FamFG if this is not contrary to the welfare of the child. Such a conflict with the welfare of the child is seen in the literature, in particular in cases of domestic violence, but However, the decision is to be made by the judge within the framework of judicial independence.

7. Berlin

Alternative dispute resolution procedures can only be used in civil law with the consent of the parties involved, i.e. not if the victim of violence rejects them. In protection against violence proceedings, the court should not work towards a settlement in accordance with Section 36 (1) sentence 2 FamFG. In In access and custody proceedings, counselling centres in Berlin do not usually accept families

in which there is a history of violence. Exceptions are the aforementioned specialised agencies such as the pilot project "Berlin Model" (see answer to question 35). However, there are no specific legal measures to prevent courts from requiring parties with a history of violence to attend counselling sessions if, for example, the
allegation of violence has not been clarified, and that counselling centres carry out these counselling sessions.

8. Baden-Württemberg

The key criterion for the use of alternative dispute resolution procedures in family law disputes, in accordance with the relevant provisions of family procedural law (in particular Sections 36, 135 and 156(1) of the Family Procedure Act (FamFG)), is suitability. In child custody proceedings, the court's efforts to reach an agreement between the parents are expressly limited to ensuring that it is "not contrary to the welfare of the child" (Section 156
(1) FamFG).

9. Brandenburg

Arbitration boards can conduct both voluntary and compulsory arbitration proceedings in civil disputes, with the exception of family matters and matters of voluntary jurisdiction (Section 7 (2) No. 2 BbgSchGG).

Mediation procedures are not intended to mediate in family relationships where violence has occurred.

Articles 49 and 50: General obligations and emergency assistance, prevention and protection

40. Please describe the human, financial and technical resources made available to law enforcement authorities to respond to and investigate all cases of violence against women, including its digital dimension, in a thorough manner.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

1. Hamburg

The Ministry of the Interior and Sport uses its financial, technical and human resources in a targeted manner to combat and prevent gender-based violence against women and girls, among other things. This commitment is reflected in a wide range of measures in the areas of law enforcement, public relations, crime counselling and prevention, and direct interaction with the population. It is not possible to provide a detailed breakdown of the resources of the Ministry of the Interior and Sport that are used for official prevention and intervention in cases of violence against women, as these resources are linked together in a multi-module security concept. This also applies to the Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection. For further information, please refer to the answer to question 4 (p. 34).

In addition, €253,000 was spent on equipping the criminal justice building with video interrogation technology during the period covered by the inquiry. €58,000 was spent on the design and installation of a video interrogation system at the Childhood House in Hamburg, where minors who are victims of violent or sexual offences are interviewed.
58,000 euros was spent on the design and installation of a video interrogation system at the Childhood House in Hamburg, where minors who have been victims of violent or sexual offences are interviewed. Video interrogation is used in criminal proceedings for witnesses who are particularly vulnerable. This means that it is not used exclusively, but to a
play a significant role in crimes that fall within the scope of the IK.

2. Hesse

The procedural requirements for family matters, which also include child custody and protection from violence cases, are set out in the FamFG. Depending on the type of proceedings, the FamFG regulates certain obligations of the court to participate (e.g. the youth welfare office pursuant to Section 162 FamFG). In the context of protection against violence cases, for example, Section 216a FamFG stipulates that the court must immediately notify the competent police authority and other public authorities affected by the implementation of the order of any orders issued pursuant to Sections 1 and 2 of the GewSchG (Protection Against Violence Act) and any amendments or revocations thereof, unless the interests of a party involved in the exclusion of the transmission, the need for protection of other parties involved or the public interest in the transmission outweigh the interests worthy of protection. In the absence of a special regulation, cooperation with other authorities is at the discretion of the judge, taking into account data protection principles.

Human resources

In Hesse, special departments for the prosecution of domestic violence have been set up in public prosecutor's offices throughout the state. No separate positions are designated for the special departments. The number of public prosecutors and the allocation of staff to the special departments are determined by the management of the individual public prosecutor's offices as part of the annual distribution of work.

Technical resources

The public prosecutor's offices have the technical facilities to conduct audiovisual interviews, insofar as these are legally permissible or necessary.

Since 2011, as part of the supervision of certain groups of offenders, a court order may be issued requiring them to carry the technical equipment necessary for electronic monitoring of their whereabouts in a constantly operational condition and not to impair its functionality (electronic tagging). Identical provisions have since been incorporated into a number of state police laws (e.g. restraining orders) and are currently being incorporated into a draft law to amend the Protection Against Violence Act by the federal legislature. In addition to the ankle bracelet for the perpetrator, the so-called domestic violence technology (DV technology) can be used here, in which the person to be protected (the victim) also receives a tracking device with mobile zones, which are monitored by the joint electronic monitoring centre (GÜL) in Hesse. In the event of an approach between the perpetrator and the victim, a technical and professional assessment is made as to whether the approach is continuing and whether and how intervention is necessary.

By way of administrative assistance, residence monitoring using DV technology can also be used on the basis of Section 31a HSOG for hazard prevention, for example in cases of domestic violence.

Financial resources

In order to ensure that they are adequately equipped, also with regard to cases of violence against women, the public prosecutor's offices in Hesse and the public prosecutor's office as part of the law enforcement authorities have been continuously strengthened with personnel and financial resources in the past.

The public prosecutor's offices and the district attorney's office in Hesse recorded an increase of around 20 per cent in material and investment resources between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2024. During the same period, there was an increase of 206.5 positions for public prosecutors and the public prosecutor's office, of which 77 permanent positions were allocated to the public prosecutor's service.

Particularly noteworthy is the "Marburg model," which has since been introduced throughout Hesse and for which twelve additional permanent positions in the higher civil service were created in the area of social services for the justice system between 2020 and 2024, eight of which were originally at public prosecutor's offices and four at ordinary courts.
in the field of social services in the justice system, eight of which were originally in the public prosecutor's offices and four in the ordinary courts.

In addition, it should be noted that, as a result of the expansion of the "Marburg model", the available funds of €250,000 will be increased by €100,000 to
350,000 euros.

In order to combat cases of violence against women effectively, a so-called violence protection unit was set up as part of a pilot project in a Hesse police headquarters, and the police handling of domestic violence cases was centralised. The violence protection unit has specialised personnel for this purpose. In addition, close integration with threat management (risk management) is intended to help respond to specific threats to women affected by violence in a coordinated and appropriate manner.

In Hesse, risk management (GLM) has been restructured and a standardised process for dealing with risk situations has been established. High-risk cases, particularly those involving violence against women, are handled by specially trained staff in dedicated risk management units set up in all police headquarters. A standardised assessment of risk situations is carried out on the basis of specified parameters. The staff of the specialist departments are available to women at risk as contact persons and act as an interface with victim protection institutions outside the police force. In addition, a central office for GLM has been set up at the Hesse State Criminal Police Office. The Hessian State Criminal Police Office is responsible for coordinating and advising on the handling of high-risk cases and ensures appropriate process control and quality assurance through defined reporting channels.

With regard to technical resources, it should be noted that the Hessian state government passed the so-called Women's Safety Package in November 2024. A key element of this is the intensification of measures to monitor violent individuals.

The instruments available to the Hesse police for protecting victims in high-risk cases of domestic violence and stalking were already significantly expanded in December 2024 with the Act on the Modernisation of Police Law, the extension of the possibilities for the use of electronic ankle tags (Section 31a HSOG) and the option of using cover identities/witness protection programmes for victim protection (Section 43 c HSOG). witness protection programmes (§ 43 c HSOG). The Hesse police thus have the option of applying for a court order for the so-called ankle bracelet (electronic residence monitoring/EAÜ) for up to four months in the event of current threats. It is also possible to combine this with an additional transmitter worn by the victim, which signals when the perpetrator approaches without being bound to specific prohibited zones (the so-called "Spanish model").
being bound to certain prohibited zones (the so-called "Spanish model").

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

The law enforcement authorities of the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania are provided with the necessary human, financial and technical resources as required. The above-mentioned resources are generally determined holistically within the framework of budget applications and allocations and cannot be broken down individually for the investigation/response to cases of violence against women. In this regard, it should be noted
that the protection of highly personal legal interests such as life and health is a very high priority.

4. Saxony

No information or no detailed information can be provided regarding criminal prosecution by the judiciary or the police. The police are equipped to fulfil their
law enforcement duties.

5. Saxony-Anhalt

Police victim protection has been significantly expanded, particularly for victims of crime and traffic accidents.

From 2020 onwards, a full-time victim protection officer was appointed in every local police station. From 2022, a full-time victim protection officer will also take up their duties in every police station in the state of Saxony-Anhalt. This officer will also act as the central point of contact for the victim protection officers of the respective police station, as well as for the state and independent victim protection agencies, victim support services and other external network partners at the municipal level.

The human resources of law enforcement agencies are being continuously expanded in order to ensure effective prosecution and strengthen the rights of victims in criminal proceedings.

6. Schleswig-Holstein

The 2025 budget has created a total of 13 new R 1 positions for public prosecutors and two so-called A 13 positions for local prosecutors. In addition, ten positions for service units, one judicial officer position and one court assistant position have been created in the subordinate services.

With regard to the prosecution of domestic violence, it should also be noted that specialisation within the country's four public prosecutor's offices is being further expanded by increasing the staffing levels of the special departments set up in the early 2000s to deal with investigations into domestic violence, or by planning to do so.

No details are provided on technical resources, as hardware, software and forensic equipment for investigating criminal offences are generally available within the remit of the police.

High-risk management

State police

It is not possible to quantify the resources precisely, as human resources in particular are usually also available for other tasks.

However, the Schleswig-Holstein State Police is adequately equipped with the necessary resources, and personnel in the area of high-risk management are currently being increased.

7. Thuringia

The Thuringian police force has established specialised units within its personnel to deal with specific phenomena and areas of crime, such as domestic violence, sexual violence and cybercrime. Please refer to the comments on question 42 in this regard. Furthermore, six part-time victim protection officers have been appointed within the Thuringian State Police to ensure that victim protection issues are taken into account both internally and externally.

Among other things, there are regional evidence preservation units that are equipped with technical means for comprehensive evidence preservation, including in cases of violence against women. Please refer to the answer to question 45. Technical equipment for audiovisual interrogations is also available in the police stations. In addition, the operational forces are equipped with service telephones, enabling them to efficiently transfer information to and from police systems, e.g. in the context of securing evidence.

In accordance with the Königstein Key, the Thuringian police contribute financially and in terms of personnel to the production and subsequent distribution of prevention materials as part of the Federal and State Police Crime Prevention Programme (ProPK).

All four public prosecutor's offices in Thuringia continue to have special departments in which

Responsibility also includes significant involvement in the investigation and prosecution of violence against women. For further details on this, I refer to the answer to question 42 (p. 327).

The law enforcement authorities, in this case the public prosecutors' offices and criminal courts in Thuringia, are provided with the technical equipment they need to perform their statutory duties. These duties also include the prosecution of violent crimes against women. To the best of our knowledge, there is no technical equipment available to law enforcement agencies that is exclusively intended for the prosecution of violent crimes against women. We are also not aware of any requirements for technical resources that exceed the quality or quantity of the equipment generally available and that could arise from the need to prosecute violent crimes specifically violent crimes against women, are also not known.

8. Bavaria

Since 2020, 221 positions for public prosecutors have been created in Bavaria, increasing the overall human resources of the law enforcement authorities and thus also serving the investigation of cases of violence against women. It is not possible to specify the individual areas of law enforcement to which the positions are assigned.

Reference is also made to the First State Report of 2020, Annex 3.4, Bavaria, lit. B, and in particular to the comments on the principle of acceleration (p. 66).

The standardised federal victim information sheet, which informs victims of crime about their rights and opportunities to participate in proceedings, was revised in 2022, translated into 30 languages and made available to the police and judiciary nationwide so that the information materials can be provided to all victims. In addition, the victim information sheet is also available online to all those affected.

Reference is also made to the First State Report of 2020, in particular Annex 3.3, Bavaria lit. A; Annex 3.4, Bavaria, lit. B; Annex 3.5 Bavaria lit. I.

The budgetary and human resources available to the Bavarian police are generally sufficient to fulfil all tasks assigned by law and within the administration. This naturally includes police measures against violence against women, including prevention and education. It is not possible to calculate specific figures for individual areas. Specific budgetary resources cannot be specified.

The Bavarian police take all legally and practically possible measures to combat and prevent violence against women, in particular domestic violence. In addition to comprehensive repression, they also rely on targeted prevention measures. Vor diesem Hintergrund wurde auch die ganzheitliche
"framework guidelines for police action against domestic violence and related stalking cases" was issued and is continuously updated. This aims to promote networking with other authorities and institutions and provides police officers with both legal and practical guidance on how to intervene at the scene of a crime and on the possible police measures that can be taken to protect people affected by domestic violence.

In addition, all police headquarters in Bavaria have "police officers for victims of crime" (BPfK) who provide information and support to victims of violent crimes in their immediate social environment and of crimes against sexual self-determination, regardless of whether they are threatened or have already been injured.

With the exception of the Munich police headquarters, all police stations in Bavaria have "domestic violence case officers" who are responsible for all matters relating to the phenomenon of "domestic violence".
issues relating to domestic violence and are appropriately trained.

are sensitised. The Munich Police Headquarters has a special unit (Kommissariat 22) dealing with domestic violence, abuse of dependants and AIDS-related offences, which centrally handles all cases of domestic violence.

The issue of granting renewable residence permits to migrant women who have been victims of violence against women or domestic violence if their stay is necessary for their participation in an investigation or criminal proceedings is regulated in Article 59(3b) of the Istanbul Convention (IC). (Among other things) this provision was still subject to reservations at the time of the 2020 State Report. As Germany did not extend the reservations after they expired, Art. 59 (3b) of the IC, among other things, has been directly applicable law since 1 February 2023. In order to comply with the requirements of Article 59(3b) of the IC, the Federal Government was asked in March 2024, also on the initiative of the IntMK, to review the relevant residence regulations for possible reform. Under current law, persons whose presence and statements are deemed appropriate for criminal proceedings by the public prosecutor's office or the criminal court may be granted temporary leave to remain in accordance with Section
60a (2) sentence 2 of the Residence Act. Victims of criminal offences can also obtain a temporary suspension of deportation under Section 60a (2) sentence 3 of the Residence Act.

9. L o w e r **Saxony**

All personnel, financial and technical resources are available within the framework of the comprehensive police task management.

10. Rhineland-Palatinate

Cases involving domestic violence are generally handled by the district police stations in the form of a specialised unit. The police guidelines
"Violence in close social relationships and stalking"[210] provides for the establishment of a coordination office to coordinate these cases, with a focus on the respective department. Depending on the size of the department and the number of cases, cases are also processed in a more centralised manner by one or, in some cases, several employees of the district service. In the area of high-risk management, a coordinating office has also been set up with a focus on the police headquarters level.

Specialised departments have been set up in the criminal investigation departments to deal with sexual violence offences. Employees of the specialised departments, the district service, the coordination offices, the shift service and the two coordination offices have the opportunity to participate in specific training courses.

In the area of digital investigations, all police employees can draw on the expertise of the IUK Forensics department.

11. North Rhine-Westphalia

The North Rhine-Westphalia police force has a wide range of resources at its disposal to effectively combat violence against women. Both the guard service and the criminal investigation department are staffed in such a way that they can take reports, provide immediate assistance, conduct investigations and initiate victim protection measures at any time. In addition, the police work closely with the judiciary, women's shelters, counselling centres and other support services to further strengthen victim protection and prevention. At the state level, the North Rhine-Westphalia State Criminal Police Office coordinates the recording and evaluation of cases as well as the development and review of police measures. In addition, police officers receive regular training on the specifics of gender-based violence and victim protection. These comprehensive personnel, organisational and technical resources
enable the North Rhine-Westphalia police force to combat violence against women in a structured, preventive and effective manner.

[210] The guideline is currently being revised – but is still valid and applicable at present.

encounter.

12. Bremen

See special responsibilities in question 42 (p. 329).

With regard to financial and human resources, please refer to partial answer 15 d (p. 183). With regard to technical resources, the police in the state of Bremen use all means at their disposal to respond adequately to cases of gender-based violence. To this end, all available hardware and software solutions are used to evaluate digital evidence and means of committing the offence. This includes specialised programmes for analysing electronic devices and data, which are particularly essential for processing cases of digital violence.

Another example of the improved technical resources in the state of Bremen is the introduction of special audio and video interpreting services specifically provided for the target group of the Istanbul Convention. Within a few minutes, an interpreter can be called in for many different languages, enabling effective and rapid communication with those affected. The police in the state of Bremen are currently in the process of introducing the software for these translation services. This measure will not only help to explain police measures to victims in a more understandable way, but will also enable the available support services to be communicated in a targeted manner and improve the recording of facts, especially in cases where a language barrier is identified.

In addition, work is underway nationwide to introduce electronic tagging based on the Spanish model, which has been welcomed by the Bremen police and the local police authority in Bremerhaven. This measure represents an important improvement in victim protection and helps
to reducing the risk of danger to those affected.

13. Saarland

The State Police Headquarters has a crime-specific department, LPD 213 (crimes against life and sexual self-determination), which deals with sexual offences against all groups of people and prosecutes the crimes. In addition, other departments deal with violence against women in their everyday work. There is no gender-specific recording of data. Therefore, no information can be provided on the human, financial and technical resources available exclusively for the area of violence against women.

Funds for the public prosecutor's offices are estimated in the Saarland budget, and digitisation funds are included in a separate chapter. No differentiation can be made with regard to financial resources for the prosecution of cases of violence against women. Nor is there any specific designation of the technical resources of the public prosecutor's offices
specific allocation.

14. Berlin

Law enforcement agencies in Berlin have generally been strengthened in terms of personnel since 2020. The number of R-positions assigned to them has increased from 410 in 2020 to 476 in 2025. They are provided with adequate resources to carry out their tasks, including the prosecution of violence against women.

The financial resources for police measures are provided from the police budget. There is no separate allocation for cases of violence against women.

15. Baden-Württemberg

Reference can be made here to the answer to question 4 – the creation of new positions for victim advocates in public prosecutor's offices (p. 46).

The issue of preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence cannot generally be assigned to individual areas of responsibility within the Baden-Württemberg police force, either in terms of personnel, financial resources or technical resources. Rather, it should be understood as a task for the entire police force, across all departments.

Police stations and law enforcement agencies are involved in the prevention and combating of violence against women and domestic violence to varying degrees, from police crime prevention and patrol services for initial attacks to specialist units for processing cases and domestic violence coordination centres. Against this background, it is not possible to clearly quantify the scope of the resources requested to combat violence against women and domestic violence.

Baden-Württemberg regularly ranks among the top states in Germany in terms of internal security. In order to maintain the high level of security throughout the state in the coming years, the state government launched the largest recruitment campaign in the history of the Baden-Württemberg state police during the last legislative period. As a result, Baden-Württemberg already has an average of 500 more police officers today than it did at the start of the recruitment drive in 2016. By 2026, the annual average increase in personnel is expected to exceed 1,000 fully trained police officers. All police stations and law enforcement agencies will benefit from this noticeable increase in state police personnel.

In terms of financial resources, decentralised budgets will be made available to police stations and law enforcement agencies from the funds allocated in the state budget. The individual measures to combat violence against women and domestic violence are not shown separately in the state budget. These measures are financed on a needs-oriented basis within the framework of budget implementation from the available decentralised budgets and therefore cannot be quantified in detail. This also applies to the area of technical resources.

For measures to prevent crime (police crime prevention) alone, the Baden-Württemberg police force has
, but the measures are not specified in detail and are implemented on a needs-based basis.

16. Brandenburg

In order to be able to carefully investigate and effectively prosecute cases of violence against women, including its digital dimensions, the police headquarters has appropriately trained staff, particularly in the police inspectorates, but also in the criminal investigation departments of the police directorates.

There are no separate applications at police headquarters that relate specifically to the police response to cases of violence against women or that support investigations in this context.

For the implementation of the "Act on the Prevention of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence", additional expenditure estimates have also been included at police headquarters as part of the preparation process (2025: EUR 185,000, 2026: EUR 210,000).

All public prosecutor's offices have special departments for proceedings relating to crimes against sexual self-determination and domestic violence (not exclusively violence against women), unless the department is responsible for capital and corpse cases, as well as other criminal cases involving death. There are four to five officers responsible for domestic violence in the relevant departments. However, they are also responsible for dealing with sexual offences.

Otherwise, proceedings that do not fall under the above definition of domestic violence are dealt with in the departments for general criminal matters of the public prosecutor or the public

prosecutor's office.

Apart from the considerable and specialised expertise acquired through further training, their own studies or practical experience, the department heads have no special personnel or technical resources for prosecuting cases of violence against women.

41. What measures have been taken to ensure that police stations have rooms where they can receive victims of violence, talk to them in an appropriate environment and maintain confidentiality? Can cases of violence against women be reported in ways other than at a police station, for example digitally?

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Bavaria (reference question 40, p. 317)

1. Hamburg

Appropriate premises are generally available at police stations. In addition, the video interview room (including its own waiting area) at the State Criminal Police Office's Crime-Oriented Crime Department (LKA 4) and (in relation to underage victims of violence) the Childhood Haus Hamburg (CHH) can be used.

The website and the "online police station" are also available for contacting the police, reporting incidents or filing criminal charges.

2. Hesse

Police stations have interrogation rooms that meet the above conditions. It is also possible to file a report online. However, this is followed by a further interview, which then takes place in a secure room, the
interrogation room at the police station.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Every police station in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania has so-called "interrogation rooms" where a personal conversation can be held without other listeners and injuries can be documented. In addition, there are specially equipped rooms for children. It is possible to file a report online. However, if immediate measures are necessary,
a personal report is necessary, as the online police station is not staffed 24/7.

4. Saxony

All police headquarters and police stations have appropriate interview rooms for appropriate confidential reporting of offences or for further law enforcement measures. It is possible to file a report digitally via the police online station.

5. Saxony-Anhalt

Police stations and police inspectorates are equipped with appropriate premises that enable reports to be taken and witnesses to be interviewed in a calm atmosphere. In addition, the state police offer the option of filing reports digitally
via the E-Revier.

6. Schleswig-Holstein

[211] https://www.polizei.hamburg/kontakt

It is possible to file reports online.

7. Thuringia

With the introduction of the online police station, victims of crime also have the option of filing a report online with the Thuringian police.

8. Lower Saxony

There are no specially equipped victim protection rooms for recording crimes exclusively against women. However, the existing premises are suitable for recording the crimes in question throughout the region. In the specialist police stations, interviews are conducted in a specially designed interview room or, if space permits, in the officer's own office. All rooms have sufficient space to allow victims to be accompanied by trusted persons or interpreters, for example, or to ensure spatial separation. Some police stations have interrogation rooms equipped with audiovisual interrogation facilities. Where possible, female victims are also offered a female officer as an interviewer. Criminal complaints can be filed in any form. Digital access is also possible via the online police station Reports via Legal assistance and/or
Victim support services/counselling centres are also available.

9. Rhineland-Palatinate

No specific measures have been taken in this regard. In principle
it is possible to report such an offence to the Rhineland-Palatinate police via the online police station, by email or by telephone.

10. North Rhine-Westphalia

The 16 district police authorities which, pursuant to Section 2 of the Ordinance on the Designation of Police Headquarters as Criminal Investigation Departments, are primarily responsible for investigating and prosecuting offences against the sexual self-determination of children and young people in cases covered by Sections 174 to 180 and 182 of the Criminal Code (criminal investigation departments) all have premises specially equipped for interviewing children and young people. Of the other 31 district police authorities, 30 also have such premises.

All 47 district police authorities have the technical capabilities to conduct audiovisual interviews or hearings and can also use these capabilities regardless of location. Furthermore, police stations in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) do not have any premises explicitly provided for victims of violence (protective premises). In North Rhine-Westphalia, cases of violence against women can also be reported via the NRW police's Internet police station as a so-called online report.[212] The Internet police station also links to
the services offered by the police forces of other federal states. Online reports are entered as criminal complaints into the NRW police's case management system and are processed there.

11. Bremen

The Bremen police and the Bremerhaven local police authority attach great importance to the protection and sensitive care of victims of gender-based violence. All reports made at the police station are taken in secure rooms that are suitable for confidential conversations in a dignified environment.

In addition, the police departments specialising in sexual offences (K 32) have a newly designed video interrogation room according to standards of the so-called

[212] https://internetwache.polizei.nrw/

'Childhood houses'. These are outpatient facilities for children and young people who have been victims of sexualised or severe physical violence. In order to provide the best possible care for those affected, various disciplines work together on an interdisciplinary basis. Following this model, the video interview room in the local K 32 does not look like an office, but radiates calm and security in order to make stressful video interviews and extensive questioning as pleasant as possible. The room can also be booked and used by police investigators from other departments. This ensures that women and children who have been harmed in other types of offences that also fall under the basic obligations of the Istanbul Convention can also be interviewed in accordance with their need for protection.

Other departments that conduct investigations involving women and children are also equipped with separate interview rooms, although some interviews also take place in the offices of the case workers. In such cases, individual offices that are not visible to third parties are used.

Violent crimes against women and children can be reported at any police station in the state of Bremen. If direct contact with the specialist departments (in particular K 32 – Sexual Offences, K 33 – Capital Offences, K 41 – Human Trafficking, or the criminal investigation departments of Division K 7 – Domestic Violence and Stalking), appointments for questioning the complainants are arranged and carried out promptly. In principle, it is also possible to report such incidents digitally – either via the online police station or the central email inbox of the Bremen police. In the case of offences that are not listed in the final list of offences on the online police station (fraud, theft, damage to property, online hate speech) or where there is a recognisable individual threat, the police will always make personal contact once the facts of the case have become known. This ensures that a formal report is filed, a risk assessment is carried out and, if necessary,
immediate measures to avert danger are initiated.

12. Saarland

Police work involving contact with victims is always designed to avoid secondary victimisation. This also applies to the design of police premises.

In addition, the State Police Headquarters' online police station, which is available around the clock, offers the option of filing criminal complaints online with minimal effort.

13. Berlin

The Berlin Police currently has 27 so-called victim protection rooms, which are located throughout the city in police headquarters, police stations and the State Criminal Police Office departments.

The rooms have been designed to differ from the usual character of an office and offer a pleasant, undisturbed atmosphere. Here, victims are given the opportunity to retreat for the first time to come to terms with a crime or a traumatic event and find some peace and quiet.

The room can be used for difficult interviews or questioning of victims and witnesses, as well as by counsellors from various victim support organisations.

Cases of violence against women can be reported in person, digitally (online police station), in writing (e.g. by letter or fax) or by telephone.

14. Baden-Württemberg

The police stations of the Baden-Württemberg Police are available to victims with their organisational units, such as police posts, police stations or criminal investigation departments, directly and throughout the state for reporting crimes. Police stations and a few police posts are open around the clock for
. Reports are always taken

in private and in separate offices.

The spatial design of the offices and facilities of the Baden-Württemberg Police is linked to the state guidelines for the construction of police buildings (LRL-P) – classified information – for official use only.

These internal administrative regulations define, among other things, so-called model room programmes (MRP) for police buildings, which serve as a basis for determining the respective space requirements and the resulting room concepts. According to the MRP for police stations, each police station has a separate interrogation room that can be used as a secure space for confidential conversations. In addition, the MRP for police stations stipulates a discreet area in the form of a separate waiting area in new buildings. This room also offers the opportunity to meet with victims of violence in an appropriate, trusting atmosphere.

The Baden-Württemberg police force has 53 permanently installed video interview rooms at 42 locations, which can be used to conduct audiovisual interviews. Of the 53 video interview rooms mentioned, 28 are designed to be child-friendly. In order to be able to conduct audiovisual interviews flexibly, a further 55 interview kits are available, which can be used on a mobile basis if necessary.

Since 31 January 2023, criminal complaints in Baden-Württemberg can be filed via the nationwide online police station. The online police station was designed to enable citizens to quickly report simple crimes to police stations without having to go to a police station in person. This makes it easy and quick for citizens with limited mobility in particular to contact law enforcement agencies.

The intuitive and modular structure allows users to communicate their concerns precisely according to the type of offence. The following categories currently exist in connection with the filing of criminal charges:

- Theft offences
- Fraud offences
- Property damage offences
- Hate speech and incitement on the internet
- Other criminal complaints (other offences)

Note

Complex matters should not and cannot be reported via the online platform, as immediate police action is usually necessary in such cases. For this reason, persons reporting crimes involving threats or use of violence are also requested to appear in person at a police station or dial the emergency number 110 directly, as in these cases in particular, immediate measures must usually be taken to avert danger, secure evidence or conduct a search. If such a case is only reported via the online police station, the success of the investigation or the protection of significant legal interests (e.g. physical integrity) could be significantly jeopardised by the resulting delay.

Taking into account the broad interpretation of the term "violence", in appropriate cases where there has been no direct threat or use of violence (e.g.
stalking, insults), a report can be made via the online police station under the category "Other criminal reports (other offences)".

15. Brandenburg

Every police station has rooms in which a discreet conversation between the victim of violence and the officer taking the report is ensured. Interrogation rooms were modernised in connection with the introduction of audiovisual interrogation within the scope of financial possibilities. Persons making a report/witnesses/injured parties have the option of making a report on site, filing a
written report or submitting a report via the Brandenburg Police Internet Watch. It is planned to replace the previous Internet police station with another software product.

42. Please indicate whether there are specialised police/prosecutor's office units for investigating and prosecuting violence against women and specify:
a. the forms of violence against women for which these units are responsible;
b. whether such units exist in all police districts/prosecutor's office districts in the country.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Bavaria (reference question 40, p. 317)

1. Hamburg

on a)

The public prosecutor's office has special departments for the prosecution of domestic violence, sexual offences and homicides.

Regarding b)

The special departments have jurisdiction throughout the state.

When intervening in cases of violence, the police generally use all the means at their disposal to avert danger and prosecute offences, regardless of the gender of the victims of violence.

The crime phenomena of "domestic violence" (also: domestic abuse; family violence)
"sexualised violence" and "hate crime" (also "prejudice-motivated crime") are dealt with by specially trained officers in the respective specialist departments of the LKA.

Police intervention in cases of relationship violence is characterised by:

- consistently breaking the cycle of violence; "whoever hits must leave!"
- The deployment of specially trained relationship violence case workers (BGSB). There are currently over 80 of these case workers available, decentralised across a total of eight locations in the city in accordance with the "victim's place of residence principle". Their main task is to assess the risk of further acts of violence or escalation and to intervene accordingly.
- Support options for assessing the potential for escalation by the specialist departments "Risk Assessment" and "Criminal Psychology" at the State Criminal Police Office.
- A proactive approach to referring victims of violence to the support system.
- Ensuring the needs of affected minors are met within the framework of the relevant reporting obligations.
- Close cooperation with the judiciary and networking with other authorities and institutions (round tables, working groups).
- Comprehensive implementation of the topic in training and further education measures.

2. Hesse

In Hesse, special departments for the prosecution of domestic violence have been set up in public prosecutor's offices throughout the state. These departments handle cases with the additional case classification "KAIP" (Cooperative Violence Intervention Programme). Cases with the additional classification "KAIP" include investigations into: 1. bodily harm (including grievous bodily harm), 2. false imprisonment, 3. coercion, 4. threats,
5. stalking, 6. Section 4 of the Protection Against Violence Act in existing (including same-sex) partnerships or partnerships that have been dissolved within the past two years. Crimes of the aforementioned type against children living in the same household, whether they are the children of both partners or of one of the partners, are also recorded.

Cases of domestic violence and violence against women are handled in a standardised manner at the respective police headquarters in accordance with the current version of the guidelines for dealing with domestic violence. Three police headquarters have centralised the handling of domestic violence cases. In addition, in recent years, two police headquarters have set up departments to combat domestic violence, which specialise in crimes of domestic violence and violence in the immediate social environment. These departments are responsible
for sexual offences against adults and crimes in the area of domestic violence.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

The investigation of domestic violence by the police is carried out by the criminal investigation department. Depending on the severity of the offence, the relevant organisational units are criminal investigation departments or criminal investigation offices. There are no specialised police organisational units in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania that deal exclusively with the various forms of domestic violence against women. In the public prosecutor's offices of the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, special departments or special divisions have been set up in all four public prosecutor's offices of the state, which
are responsible for crimes of domestic violence and stalking as well as sexual offences.

4. Saxony

Depending on the structure of the authorities, the public prosecutor's offices in Saxony have appointed contact persons for violence in the social environment, victim protection, offender-victim mediation, human trafficking and exploitation in the context of prostitution and forced prostitution.

5. Saxony-Anhalt re

a)

The victim protection officers are particularly active in cases of domestic violence and gender-based violence against women.

Re b)

Please refer to the answer to question 40 (p. 315).

The work of the public prosecutor's offices is regulated by the respective case allocation plan, which is drawn up by the respective head of the authority for the individual authorities. The public prosecutor's offices in Stendal, Halle (Saale) and Dessau/Roßlau have special departments for violent crimes within the domestic
community and for all sexual offences.

6. Schleswig-Holstein

The public prosecutor's offices in the state of Schleswig-Holstein have set up special departments for capital offences, sexual offences and domestic violence, which conduct investigations regardless of the gender of the victim.

Re b)

Public prosecutors' offices

The special departments exist in all public prosecutor's offices in the state. State police

The Schleswig-Holstein state police force has specially trained investigators for domestic violence and intimate partner violence. These investigators are available in all police departments in the state.

7. Thuringia

Most police stations in Thuringia have officers who specialise in domestic violence cases. In addition, all criminal investigation departments are divided into specialised units for dealing with serious offences. Offences relevant to the Istanbul Convention are dealt with in particular by Unit 1 (offences against life and limb, offences against women and children, and sexual offences).

All four public prosecutor's offices in Thuringia, located at the regional courts, continue to have special departments whose responsibilities include a significant proportion of the investigation and prosecution of violence against women. Currently, the distribution of responsibilities is as follows:

Erfurt Public Prosecutor's Office:

- Offences against sexual self-determination pursuant to Sections 174 to 179, 182 of the German Criminal Code (StGB)
- Proceedings for domestic violence

Gera Public Prosecutor's Office:

- Offences against sexual self-determination
- Violent offences within the family or same-sex partnerships, including stalking

Meiningen Public Prosecutor's Office:

- Domestic violence and stalking of adults, juveniles and young adults
- Offences against sexual self-determination
- Promotion of prostitution, pimping and human trafficking

Mühlhausen Public Prosecutor's Office:

- Proceedings for violations of Sections 180a to 181a of the German Criminal Code (StGB)
- Offences against sexual self-determination (Sections 177, 178, 184i, 184j of the German Criminal Code)
- Violence in families and partnerships, stalking (Section 238 StGB), violations of the Protection Against Violence Act

8. Lower Saxony

There are no specific contact persons for violence against women within the police force in Lower Saxony; however, there are contact persons for domestic violence, as this is where the majority of violence against women occurs.

In principle, cases of domestic violence are mainly dealt with – depending on the offence – in the specialist police stations 1 or the working areas 1 of a criminal investigation department according to the principle of the scene of the crime or place of residence (victim). Exceptions in individual cases or where special knowledge is required in other areas of investigation are always possible. When processing an offence, the protection of the victim is always the primary concern.
The guidelines for domestic violence stipulate a system for the provision of multipliers for cases of domestic violence in all service areas, among other things.

The guidelines for domestic violence stipulate, among other things, that multipliers for cases of domestic violence must be available in all service areas.

In addition, when processing high-risk cases, a domestic violence coordinator is involved in an advisory capacity in the respective department.

According to our current knowledge, there are also special departments in the local public prosecutor's offices for preliminary investigations in the context of "domestic violence".

It should be noted, however, that the police definition of domestic violence (see question 2, p. 21) differs from the legal definition that has been in force since 2018.

All public prosecutor's offices in Lower Saxony have special investigators and
for domestic violence offences. In this regard, reference is made to the response to Article 15 (p. 144).

9. Rhineland-Palatinate

There are no special departments for crimes of violence against women in the public prosecutor's offices in Rhineland-Palatinate. However, proceedings for crimes that fall under the definition of domestic violence are handled in certain special departments for violence in close social relationships. In some cases, these departments are integrated into the departments responsible for dealing with offences against sexual self-determination due to their factual proximity. This special jurisdiction exists in all eight public prosecutor's offices in Rhineland-Palatinate.

In the public prosecutors' offices' case distribution plans, violence in close social relationships (GeSB) is often defined as including proceedings for intentional bodily harm offences (Sections 223 et seq. of the German Criminal Code (StGB)) as well as for insult, coercion, threats, stalking and deprivation of liberty, as well as violations of the Protection Against Violence Act pursuant to Section 4 of the Protection Against Violence Act, against the background of a previous or ongoing partnership, regardless of the duration of the relationship or the gender of the partners. Furthermore, these departments generally handle proceedings for child abuse.

Cases of sexual violence are always recorded by the public prosecutor's offices in Rhineland-Palatinate in the special departments responsible for handling proceedings for offences against sexual self-determination.

Re a) and b)

Please refer to the answer to question 40 (p. 318). The extent to which a case is finally processed by employees of the district service or the specialist police department is governed by the circular from the Ministry of the Interior and Sport dated 3 June 2024 on tasks and responsibilities within police headquarters and the guidelines
"Violence in close social relationships and stalking". Police case processing generally includes all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention, provided that they are relevant under criminal law or are related to a criminally relevant case of domestic
violence.

10. North Rhine-Westphalia

There are no specialised units within the North Rhine-Westphalia police force for investigating and prosecuting violent crimes against women. For certain offences, such as sexual offences, homicides or human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, specialist police stations have been set up, whose staff receive specialised training. However, these departments do not focus specifically on women or girls as victims, but on all victim groups. The Cologne Police Headquarters has also set up an investigation team that deals exclusively with domestic violence cases.

Special departments for proceedings relating to offences against sexual self-determination, which

are classified as gender-based violence under the Istanbul Convention, exist in North Rhine-Westphalia in accordance with the Order on the Organisation and Operation of the Public Prosecutor's Office (No. 17 (1) d OrgStA, AV d. JM of 1 November 2023 [3262 – III. 5] - JMBl. NRW p. 929).

Special departments for the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence (cf. No. 17 (2) a) OrgStA) exist in 18 of the 19 public prosecutor's offices. One public prosecutor's office has instead set up contact persons for combating domestic violence in the general departments that deal with domestic violence cases.

Criminal offences against female minors in connection with (domestic) violence are concentrated in so-called youth protection departments due to the specific characteristics of young people. Here, the various youth welfare institutions and the youth welfare office are also involved in the network.

The exact structure of the special departments is the responsibility of the authorities within the scope of their organisational authority. In doing so, they take into account the local characteristics of their district. In addition, individual assignments are made on the basis of generous criteria. The responsible department heads regularly have a wealth of experience in handling such cases and pay particular attention to regulations designed to protect victims, such as the possibility of
appointing psychosocial support or a legal representative during the preliminary proceedings.

11. Bremen

The Bremen Public Prosecutor's Office has established the following special responsibilities for various areas of violence against women and domestic violence:

1. Proceedings against adults under Sections 174-174c, 177-180, 182-183a, 184i, j, k of the German Criminal Code (StGB), provided that the injured person is 16 years of age or older, except in cases under Section 74 (2) of the German Court Constitution Act (GVG).
2. Proceedings against adults for violent crimes and for offences under Sections 238-241 of the Criminal Code and Section 4 of the Protection Against Violence Act in connection with a marriage or cohabitation, even if this no longer exists, except in cases under Section 74(2) of the Administration of Justice Act.

This jurisdiction covers the aforementioned offences insofar as an intimate relationship existed and/or was developing between the parties involved. A domestic partnership is not required to establish special jurisdiction.

Offences between family members who do not have such a relationship (e.g. siblings, aunt and niece, etc.) are not covered by special jurisdiction.

If the perpetrators of the aforementioned offences were still juveniles or young adults at the time of the offence, jurisdiction lies with the general youth departments.

Furthermore, the following special jurisdiction applies:

- "Youth protection matters against juveniles and young adults
  a. Offences under Sections 171, 176-176e, 180 of the German Criminal Code
  b. Offences under Sections 174-174c, 177-180, 182-183a, 184i, j, k, 235, 236 StGB, provided that the injured person was not yet 16 years of age at the time of the offence
  c. Other offences and administrative offences relating to the protection of minors
  d. Proceedings for breach of duty of care pursuant to Section 171 of the German Criminal Code (StGB) and other offences in connection with the social distress of children.
- Femicide falls under the special jurisdiction for capital offences.

Re a) and b)

At the Bremen Police, specialised departments deal with different areas of crime. These include Department K 32, which deals with sexual offences, and Department K 7, which deals with cases of domestic violence and stalking. Department K 7 also has specially trained stalking officers who deal intensively with these cases. In addition, there is a specialist unit for forced prostitution and human trafficking (K 44). The aforementioned specialist units do not deal with these offences exclusively with regard to violence against women, but these are violent crimes that disproportionately affect women. The specialist units handle all cases in the city of Bremen and ensure that the relevant cases are dealt with in a targeted and competent manner.

In Bremerhaven, too, the local police authority has specialised areas of responsibility: Specialist Unit 34 is responsible for violent crimes, Specialist Unit
32 is responsible for sexual offences, and Department 22 is responsible for forced prostitution. The responsibilities are thus
comparable to those in Bremen, ensuring that the respective offences are dealt with in a specialised and competent manner here as well.

12. Saarland

The criminal investigation departments of the twelve police stations in Saarland and the specialised investigation departments of the LPD 2 State Criminal Police Office (e.g. the department for crimes against life and sexual self-determination or the department for arson investigations) employ case officers who specialise in domestic violence.

Re a)

Offences that fall under the category of domestic violence are handled by the State Police Directorate on the basis of the "Guidelines for the Police Handling of Domestic Violence Cases" (RiLi HG). In accordance with the RiLi HG, cases of domestic violence were handled in accordance with the following definition:

Domestic violence refers to (violent) crimes between persons

- in a partnership that currently exists, is in the process of dissolution or has been dissolved (regardless of the scene of the crime, even without a shared residence, regardless of age) or
- who are related to each other and have a common place of residence, unless the offences are exclusively to the detriment of children and young people.

This was a working definition used by the Saarland police. The definition also included cases of violence between adult siblings, violence against parents and violence against elderly and/or dependent relatives. Cases of violence by parents against their minor children were excluded.

In the past, police definitions and terminology relating to
"domestic violence" sometimes differed from state to state, and there was no uniform understanding of this phenomenon of violence. Therefore, a federal-state working group agreed on a uniform nationwide definition:

Domestic violence includes all forms of physical, sexual or psychological violence and encompasses violence within families and partnerships. Domestic violence occurs when violence takes place between people who live together in a family or partnership relationship. It also occurs when it takes place within the family or in current or former partnerships, regardless of whether they live in the same household.

There is a specialised public prosecutor's office in Saarbrücken dealing with domestic violence. It

deals with investigations into physical, psychological and sexual violence

Re b)

Yes, in all police stations and also in specialised investigation departments of the LPD 2 State Criminal Police Office.

Yes, there are only public prosecutors' offices in Saarbrücken.

13. Berlin

All police departments have full-time domestic violence coordinators and victim protection officers who are specially trained and sensitised to deal with the needs of victims of gender-based violence.

Sexual violence, offences related to human trafficking and cases of hate crime are handled centrally by specialised departments of the Berlin State Criminal Police Office (LKA Berlin).

Criminal complaints relating to domestic violence are not handled by specialised police stations/departments, but the officers dealing with domestic violence cases generally have extensive specialist knowledge and are particularly sensitive in their dealings with those affected.

The prosecution of domestic violence is primarily the responsibility of two special departments at the Berlin Public Prosecutor's Office. These departments also handle cases of stalking and violations of the Protection Against Violence Act.

The Berlin Public Prosecutor's Office has two specialist departments exclusively responsible for prosecuting sexual offences.

14. Baden-Württemberg

Reference can be made to the answer to question 8 (p. 67), according to which the majority of public prosecutor's offices in Baden-Württemberg have special departments for the prosecution of criminal offences in the area of domestic violence, as specified in their respective case distribution plans. In smaller public prosecutor's offices, concentrated and thus effective processing is ensured by assigning the cases to a specific investigation department.

Re a) and b)

The Baden-Württemberg police do not have specialised police units that are exclusively responsible for investigating and prosecuting violence against women. However, they do have specially trained police officers who deal with cases of domestic violence, human trafficking, forced prostitution, etc.

With the introduction of the Ministry of the Interior's Domestic Violence Management and Deployment Order (FEA hG, issued on 31 May 2021, extended on 17 March 2023, ref.: IM3-1212-43), uniform framework conditions and procedures for the prevention and prosecution of domestic violence were created throughout the state and are to be applied in all cases of domestic violence. According to the Baden-Württemberg Police Crime Statistics (PKS), domestic violence is defined as partner violence (see also section 56). This refers to direct physical or psychological influence of a certain significance on spouses or equivalent partners in a relationship, whereby the relationship may already have been dissolved. Furthermore, partner violence is not limited to criminal acts in the home, but encompasses all areas of life and society in which the (former) partners interact.

The FEA hG provides for the final processing of domestic violence cases under criminal law
. In addition, domestic violence coordination units (KoSt hG) have been set up in the management and operations teams of the regional police headquarters to

advice, review and coordination of measures. In the Baden-Württemberg State Criminal Police Office, the Domestic Violence Risk Management Unit (GM hG) was implemented in 2023 as an extension of the FEA hG. The GM hG is the central point of contact for the KoSt hG in general and operational matters and, upon request, prepares specific risk assessments for cases with particular risk potential. As a statewide operational coordination centre, it contributes to further harmonisation and standardisation in the handling of domestic violence cases.

To combat human smuggling and trafficking, the Baden-Württemberg State Criminal Police Office has set up the Joint Investigation Team on Human Smuggling (GES). The GES conducts important investigations into organised human smuggling and human trafficking offences, which also include forced prostitution, for example. Police officers from the Baden-Württemberg State Criminal Police Office and the Stuttgart Federal Police Headquarters work together in the investigation group. In addition, all regional police headquarters police headquarters conduct investigations in connection with
Human trafficking, forced prostitution and pimping dealt with during specialist inspections.

15. Brandenburg

Neither the public prosecutor's offices nor the responsible police departments have specialised units for the investigation and prosecution of crimes against women. There is no gender-specific differentiation. Proceedings involving violent crimes are generally conducted by the general department heads for the underlying offences of the respective court districts, unless they fall under the special jurisdiction of other departments, such as those for offences against sexual self-determination, domestic violence, capital and corpse cases or serious manifestations of crime.

There were no changes to the previous processing responsibilities and structures.

43. Please describe any measures taken to ensure the prompt investigation and effective prosecution of cases of violence against women and domestic violence, such as prioritisation through fast-track procedures, benchmarking or other initiatives, without compromising the thoroughness of the investigation.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Saxony-Anhalt (reference to state concept question 1, 5), Bavaria (reference to question 40, p. 317)

1. Hamburg

Reference to question 42 (p. 325).

The public prosecutor's office considers the establishment of the aforementioned special departments, in which department heads with special knowledge and, in some cases, many years of experience in the respective areas of crime work, to be an essential factor for swift and effective prosecution. The courts with special jurisdiction for so-called youth protection matters (cf.
Section 74b (1) GVG) offer specialist training for particularly sensitive areas of criminal prosecution (see also questions 11 and 12, pp. 128, 141) and control
human resources in such a way that tasks are completed quickly.

2. Hesse

From a law enforcement perspective, reference should be made to the specialised handling of domestic violence cases in special departments, with all the associated advantages.

Family courts can issue measures to protect against violence and stalking, particularly in cases involving protection against violence (see Section 1 f. GewSchG). Decisions in this regard

are given priority treatment in the courts.

On the initiative of Hesse, the Bundesrat also decided at its 1050th meeting on 20 December 2024 to adopt the resolution "Stronger protection against domestic violence through electronic residence monitoring" (BR-Drs. 344/24; see Annex 1). Against this background, it is considered necessary to expand the existing protection options for victims of domestic violence, in particular by anchoring the possibility of electronically monitoring restraining orders and contact bans in the Protection Against Violence Act.

The Hesse police force takes a proactive approach to combating domestic violence in order to prevent further crimes. In this context, those affected agree to the police forwarding their data to an intervention centre. The intervention centre then contacts the women concerned. If the victims of domestic violence agree to such contact by the counselling or intervention centre, the police will forward the data to the responsible institution using the form "Domestic Violence/Declaration of Consent". It is of central importance that an offer of help is made as soon as possible. The aid organisation then contacts the victim free of charge and without obligation to offer individual support. The lasting effect of an intervention process to prevent domestic violence, which often begins after police intervention, requires close cooperation and the timely implementation of coordinated measures. The police, the judiciary, municipal and general social services, counselling and support organisations, and other local institutions must all be involved. Women who are particularly at risk or who need psychosocial support in a protected environment due to their experience of violence receive professional help and protection in women's shelters and violence counselling centres. Medium to long-term support measures are required for victims and perpetrators and their minor children, who are always affected. There are various types of counselling and support services for this important work.

In addition, Hesse has adopted the Marburg Model approach. The core of the Marburg Model (in place since 2011 in the Marburg district court district and now extended to all district court districts) is to optimise and accelerate cooperation between the police, public prosecutors and courts in cases of domestic violence. In addition,
counselling services are provided at an early stage for victims, as well as training courses for perpetrators.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

The issue of violence against women and the prevention of femicide is a key criminological focus of police work in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. In addition to criminal proceedings to secure the criminal case, i.e. the preservation of evidence that can be used in court, standard measures such as expulsion, notification of intervention agencies and, if necessary, the youth welfare office, transfer to protective facilities, etc. must be examined and initiated in the processing of domestic violence cases. This is to ensure both immediate protective measures for the victim and space for a restructuring of personal circumstances. With regard to criminal proceedings against the perpetrator and measures to expedite proceedings, the public prosecutor's office or the court has the authority to issue orders; in this respect, please refer to the answer to question 8 (p. 65). In the case of repeated
violent crimes, an assessment must be carried out to classify the perpetrator as a repeat offender.

4. Saxony

The police have developed internal guidelines on domestic violence and stalking. The framework concept for the management of high-risk cases of domestic
violence and stalking, as well as in the area of operational victim protection, there are special

instructions and guidance.

The public prosecutor's offices are not currently prioritising cases involving violence in the social sphere. In individual cases, however, special circumstances – such as the issuance of a remand order or the existence of a
particular risk situation – may be given priority.

5. Schleswig-Holstein

High-risk management

In cases of domestic violence and intimate partner violence, the police assess whether the case is high-risk during their initial contact with the victim. These cases are given priority, which is ensured by the case workers and those responsible for high-risk management. They ensure that
the necessary measures to avert danger are taken immediately and case conferences with other involved agencies and authorities are held promptly.

6. Thuringia

According to Section 48a of the Code of Criminal Procedure, hearings, interrogations or other investigative measures involving witnesses who are particularly vulnerable must always be conducted taking into account the special vulnerability of the witness (paragraph 1). In the case of offences to the detriment of a minor victim, the hearings, interrogations or other investigative measures concerning the minor must be carried out with particular urgency (para. 2). This provision applies to all witnesses in particular need of protection, including women affected by violent crime and domestic violence.

Separate forms and procedures (guidelines) for dealing with domestic violence in the police sector and for victim protection by the Thuringian police.

7. Lower Saxony

Domestic violence is handled in a standardised manner in accordance with the "Guidelines for the police on dealing with domestic violence" using the "Danger Assessment Scale" (DAS). Further details can be found in the answer to question 48 a-j (p. 362).

The emergency and patrol services note that the case in question involves domestic violence and requires priority handling.

One requirement of the guidelines is that the accused must be interviewed as soon as possible (within one to three days, depending on the circumstances) and, if necessary, an assessment of whether they should be removed from their home must be carried out.

If a case of domestic violence is identified as a (high) risk case, it is dealt with immediately, making use of all the measures listed in the guidelines on a case-by-case basis. It is the task of the police to examine all incriminating and exonerating factors. The thoroughness of the investigation must not be restricted by this professional
police work.

8. Rhineland-Palatinate

In order to be able to prioritise cases as potential high-risk cases in the context of domestic violence as soon as they become known, suitable analysis tools are used during the initial attack to identify a possible increased risk potential. This allows targeted and timely measures to be taken in an appropriate manner to reduce the risk. Furthermore, the process of identifying a case as high-risk triggers certain mechanisms, such as the convening of an interdisciplinary case conference.

By processing cases of violence in close social relationships in
Special departments within public prosecutor's offices ensure that cases are handled by officers who are familiar with the subject matter. In addition,

processing in special departments enables close cooperation with police officers dealing with domestic violence and promotes a rapid flow of information, particularly in cases where risk assessments need to be carried out. In individual cases, the public prosecutors responsible also participate in so-called high-risk case conferences on violence in close social relationships and stalking. Court assistance, as part of the social services of the judiciary, also plays a particularly important role in proceedings concerning violence in close social relationships. This is regularly used by public prosecutors in this area, in particular to shed light on the social and personal background of those involved
and to provide information about counselling and support services.

9. North Rhine-Westphalia

In North Rhine-Westphalia, the updated circular "Police action in cases of domestic violence" from the Ministry of the Interior – 426-22.62.03.06 VS-NfD dated 16 February 2024 – has come into force. It outlines all police measures relevant to the police for hazard prevention, criminal prosecution and victim protection, as well as references to work with perpetrators. Consistent police intervention and the exhaustion of all police and criminal procedural measures are intended to break up entrenched violent relationships in cases of domestic violence, protect victims, prevent further offences and enable conclusive criminal prosecution.

Furthermore, the investigation of sexual offences, other violent crimes and human trafficking to the detriment of women and girls is a high priority for the North Rhine-Westphalia police. The decree "Investigation of crimes against sexual self-determination RdErl.
d. Innenministeriums v. 3.2.2004 - 42 – 6503" (Processing of crimes against sexual self-determination) and the concept for "Combating human trafficking" are also being updated or revised and are intended to ensure consistent intervention and the exhaustion of all measures.

The principle of expediency applies in all investigations and criminal proceedings. Furthermore, the establishment of special departments and the associated specialisation of department heads ensures the swift and effective prosecution of cases of domestic violence and violence against women.

The specialisation of the department heads enables the development, transfer and preservation of specialist expertise, regardless of personnel changes, as well as the establishment of a goal-oriented network with the police, the courts and the relevant actors in civil society that goes beyond the individual case.

The special department heads also ensure that the women affected, as victims within the meaning of the Code of Criminal Procedure, are informed at an early stage and in full about their rights and powers within and outside criminal proceedings in accordance with Sections 406j and k of the Code of Criminal Procedure – such as the possibility of receiving psychosocial support during the proceedings or assistance or representation in a joint action, support and assistance from victim protection institutions, the provision of accommodation or therapeutic services. In this respect, the institution of psychosocial support during proceedings (Section 406g StPO)
, which aims to provide emotional support, particularly to women who have been harmed by sexual offences, and to reduce their individual stress during criminal proceedings.

10. Bremen

Cases involving violence are given priority if the subject of the proceedings is protection from violence, particularly in proceedings under the Protection Against Violence Act. Priority is given regardless of the gender of the person claiming to have experienced violence. In other cases, priority is given according to how urgent judicial intervention appears to be in the individual case.

Public prosecution

Special responsibilities:

Firstly, the establishment of special departments (see question 42, p. 329) contributes to more effective case processing. Such special responsibilities enable greater specialisation among the public prosecutors dealing with the respective cases. Specialisation, in turn, helps to ensure that the aforementioned proceedings can generally be processed more quickly, as – except for beginners in the departments – no separate training in the subject matter, including the relevant case law, is required.

Depending on the general workload at the public prosecutor's office, special requirements can be taken into account when setting up and assessing such special departments, regardless of a departmental calculation based exclusively on Pebb§y (e.g. due to the requirements of the RiStBV, the information and participation rights of the persons concerned under Sections 406d ff. StPO, participation in judicial video hearings pursuant to § 58a StPO, participation in information, special training and cooperation events).

Further measures:

Forms and sample orders for eDAP are being developed gradually and made available to all departments, enabling faster processing of files dealing with recurring case scenarios. These are predominantly cases in which the person concerned is not cooperating.

Cooperation:

There is good cooperation with other institutions in the areas mentioned, in particular victim-offender mediation and court assistance. Depending on the individual case, these are commissioned by the public prosecutor's office to handle the case. Cooperation with court assistance in particular has proven to be beneficial in preliminary investigations in which the persons concerned have shown little willingness to cooperate.

The police also have special responsibilities in the areas of sexual offences and domestic violence. Regular meetings are held between the public prosecutor's office and the police to optimise case processing. However, the public prosecutor's office has only limited influence on the length of time it takes the police to process cases.

As part of their training, police officers learn basic standards for handling offences that are in line with the obligations of the Istanbul Convention. These include domestic violence, sexual violence, forced marriage, genital mutilation, stalking and other relevant offences. In addition, employees of the permanent criminal investigation service in particular are specifically sensitised to ensure that evidence-securing measures are carried out in full even outside regular business hours.

From the moment they deal with victims of crime, all police officers bear

- their early intervention when taking action,
- an empathetic, neutral and non-discriminatory approach,
- creating transparency in the proceedings for the victims,
- providing information and education about their rights and options for defending themselves,
- referral counselling to the appropriate contact and counselling centre tailored to their needs.

make a significant contribution to stabilising victims and increasing their ability to defend themselves . This can not ultimately to an increase in the willingness to report crimes and

willingness to testify and contribute to a successful reappraisal of the experience.

The Bremen Police and the Bremerhaven Local Police Authority attach particular importance to the consistent and swift prosecution of cases of violence against women and children. This is reflected in a structured and prioritised approach that operates on several interlinked levels. The aim is to ensure both the safety of the victims and the comprehensive and reliable preservation of evidence.

As soon as the first intervention takes place and the report is received in cases of domestic violence, the first essential parameters are examined, which influence the prioritisation and further course of action. These include:

- police and judicial findings as well as previous offences committed by the accused person,
- the perpetrator-victim relationship, including shared living arrangements and family ties,
- the risk assessment by the police risk management unit, which takes into account risk and protection factors and from which, among other things, measures targeting the perpetrator and the victim are derived,
- the severity of the offence and the extent of physical and psychological violence,
- the type and presence of evidence that can be forensically secured and evaluated.

Various criminal investigation measures are used to speed up prosecution. These include the prompt questioning of victims by trained case workers, documentation, immediate visits to crime scenes and the involvement of other specialist criminal investigation departments, such as forensics or IT analysis in the case of digital evidence. Specialist cooperation helps to pursue investigative approaches at an early stage and in a targeted manner. In addition, as already described, close psychosocial support is provided to victims, particularly in cases of domestic or sexual violence, with the involvement of counselling centres where necessary. Despite the potentially high pressure of investigation, the impartiality of law enforcement remains guaranteed. Intensive and rapid processing does not serve to prejudge the case, but rather to fulfil the constitutional requirement to secure evidence at an early stage, accurately assess the risk situation and take targeted measures to ensure both effective prosecution and victim protection.

The Bremen Model is also used to supplement this approach. The Bremen Model is a nationally recognised, interdisciplinary intervention concept used to combat sexual violence. It is based on structured and binding cooperation between the police, the judiciary, specialist counselling centres, medical facilities and other institutions in the support system. The aim is to provide early, low-threshold and professional support to those affected – with a consistently victim-centred and protection-oriented approach. A central element of the model is proactive contact: after a police operation or the reporting of a sexual assault, the counselling centres listed in the aforementioned victim protection guide are informed, provided the victim agrees. The counselling centre then usually contacts the victim within 24 hours, offering psychosocial counselling, legal information and support with further steps such as reporting the crime or protective measures. This is to prevent victims from being left alone after a traumatic experience or from refraining from reporting the crime or seeking help out of fear, shame or uncertainty. The Bremen model relies on
binding cooperation between all agencies involved, regular training and clear procedures to ensure high-quality support.

11. Saarland

The police's duty to prosecute crimes is set out in the Code of Criminal Procedure.

To ensure efficient investigation procedures, the State Police Headquarters has taken the following measures, among others:

- Establishment of a central HG office (including for quality assurance in case processing (technical supervision))
- Appointment and training of case officers
- Standardised processing of domestic violence cases in accordance with the domestic violence guidelines
- Topic-related training and further education for the

police See question 42, p. 330.

12. Berlin

In 2023, a "committee for the harmonisation of work processes and quality standards in cases of domestic violence, victim protection and individual threats and stalking in the Berlin Police" was formed within the State Police Directorate (LPD). This serves the overarching goal of reviewing and optimising work processes and procedures within the LPD in order to effectively prevent the escalation of violence in cases of domestic violence, including homicides, by exhausting all legally possible hazard prevention and criminal proceedings measures.

Victims of violent and sexual crimes are always informed by the Berlin Police about the possibility of psychosocial support during legal proceedings. If requested, psychosocial support can accompany victims from the initial interrogation to the court proceedings and prepare them for the individual steps in the process. Furthermore, advice is provided on the possibility of bringing a civil action and on further counselling by NGOs.

n Verfahren in Fällen Häuslicher Gewalt ist in den Dienstvorschriften "Quality standard in cases of domestic violence" and "Quality standard for police measures in cases of individual endangerment and stalking" are binding.

In the case of sexual offences, once a report has been filed, each case is referred to the criminal investigation department for immediate processing, which decides on and initiates the initial measures, such as investigations, crime scene work, etc. Further processing, in particular the detailed questioning of those affected, is then carried out in the departments of the Berlin State Criminal Police Office (LKA Berlin) that specialise in sexual offences. These are staffed 24/7 on call.
departments of the Berlin State Criminal Police Office (LKA Berlin). These departments are on call 24/7.

13. Baden-Württemberg

In order to ensure the swift investigation and effective prosecution of cases of human trafficking and forced prostitution, case workers specialising in human trafficking receive special training. In addition to legal expertise and the development of new phenomena, they are also trained in recommended procedures for dealing with traumatised victims, intercultural competence and victim protection.

Close interdisciplinary cooperation is also strengthened through participation in conferences and networks. Here, information is exchanged with other authorities and specialist services, and joint measures are coordinated. In particularly acute cases, this close cooperation with other authorities and victim protection agencies enables urgent protective measures to be taken and accelerated.

Participation in projects such as THB LIBERI II also supports measures to combat human trafficking and the exploitation of children, adolescents and young adults up to the age of 21. This includes the use of innovative
technologies, such as the use of WebCrawler software and the use of

so-called evaluation kiosk.

The systematic recording and statistical evaluation of cases, in particular through the creation of situation reports, contributes to the prioritisation and quality assurance of the fight against human trafficking in Baden-Württemberg. The findings derived from this are used to develop recommendations for action that contribute to the fight against these forms of crime. Most recently, for example, recommendations for action and legal assessments were issued on operations involving "fake clients". This instrument is becoming increasingly important in view of the shift of prostitution into the private sphere.

In addition, reference is made here to the comments on questions 42, 48 and 50 (pp. 331, 366, 374).

14. Brandenburg

The proceedings are prioritised – without disregarding the thoroughness of the investigative measures – in particular on the basis of the underlying allegation, any measures involving deprivation of liberty and other urgent decisions. In light of Article 3 (1) of the Basic Law, however, there is no prioritisation based solely on gender. The proceedings mentioned in the questionnaire (summary penalty order proceedings in accordance with Sections 407 et seq. of the Code of Criminal Procedure or accelerated proceedings in accordance with Sections 417 et seq. of the Code of Criminal Procedure) are generally not suitable for the "fast-track proceedings" mentioned in the questionnaire, in particular because the evidence is not straightforward.

There have been no changes to the previous processing responsibilities and structures at police headquarters. The aim is to conclude police investigations as quickly as possible, but this depends on the underlying offence and the complexity of the investigation.

In addition, police headquarters is currently coordinating the contents of evidence collection kits after sexual offences with the Brandenburg State Institute for Forensic Medicine.

44. Are measures being taken to encourage women and girls who experience any of the forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention to report incidents of violence to the authorities? Please provide examples of measures taken to strengthen trust in law enforcement officials, including those aimed at overcoming linguistic or procedural difficulties they encounter when filing complaints, in particular for migrant women, women seeking asylum, women with disabilities, women with addiction problems and other women and girls who are at risk of intersectional discrimination.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Saxony-Anhalt (reference question 9, p. 73), Bavaria (reference question 40, p. 317)

1. Hamburg

The following measures have been taken by the police to encourage victims to report incidents of violence to the authorities:

- Online information on victims' rights and support options;
- Posting an animation on the Hamburg police website providing information about police intervention options in cases of domestic violence and stalking[213] ;

[213] See https://www.polizei.hamburg/haeusliche-gewalt-beziehungsgewalt-787216

- Interview with Hubertus Meyer-Burckhardt (popular host of the NDR talk show and author) on the subject of domestic violence, with reference to sources of help, published via streaming services and the websites of the Hamburg police and social services;
- Bilateral exchange with support and counselling centres for victims of violence with a migrant background and victims of violence with disabilities;
- Lectures on police intervention options for external target groups;
- Participation in the Federal Helpline's participatory campaign by publishing photos of Hamburg police officers in uniform promoting the availability of the helpline;
- Participation in a five-part podcast series by ZONTA[214] , which is available on the Hamburg Police website, among other places. [215] Interview partners: woman affected by violence, women's shelter employee, criminal investigator, family court judge and professor at the University of Applied Sciences (HAW). Topics covered in the interview with the Hamburg police: tasks involved in dealing with domestic violence, the "cycle of violence", police measures for intervening in cases of domestic violence, and victim support services (Intervento, Institute of Legal Medicine; StoP – Neighbourhoods without Partner Violence);
- Participation in the United Nations' "Orange the World" campaign [216]by permanently installing an orange bench in front of the police headquarters with a statement from the police president for a future without violence against women and girls;
- Measures to overcome language difficulties:
- Regular information about the multilingual nature of the helpline;
- As part of their training and continuing education, police officers are informed about the helpline for violence against women and the possibility of contacting it by telephone in acute situations involving domestic and sexual violence in order to overcome language barriers with the help of interpreters;
- Interrogations are conducted with the participation of interpreters; free of charge for those affected;
- Measures to overcome procedural difficulties:
- Active interdisciplinary networking through participation in round tables, working groups and expert dialogues in the victim support network with binding agreements to improve procedures.
- Offer to establish contact with police liaison officers for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people;
- Regular exchange with intervento (intervention centre for domestic violence and stalking) to ensure the transfer of information on those affected for the purpose of proactive contact by intervento after acute incidents of violence;
- As part of an event organised by the Hamburg State Working Group for People with Disabilities, the Hamburg Police informed participants in 2022 about options for telephony, emergency SMS and fax, and the NORA app (official emergency app of the federal states);
- Hamburg operates the Childhood House Hamburg as an outpatient interdisciplinary competence and care centre for minors who have been sexually abused,

[214] ZONTA is an international service club for professional women that works to improve the lives of women and girls.
[215] https://www.polizei.hamburg/podcast-jede-dritte-frau-791778
https://unwomen.de/orange-the-world/

neglect or severe violence. In the interests of minors, the various disciplines/professions have established access and procedural channels that also enable rapid case assessment so that therapy processes can be initiated as quickly as possible.

See also the commentary on Article 8 (p. 34).

The Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection has set up a reporting portal to increase the willingness to report hate speech offences, which disproportionately affect women. Since December 2022, all citizens in Hamburg have been able to report online hate speech directly to the State Security Department of the
Hamburg Public Prosecutor's Office. The website "Hamburg gegen Hass" (Hamburg against hate) [217] offers the possibility of filing a criminal complaint digitally with the option of uploading image files

2. Hesse

According to the framework concept for victim protection, one of the central tasks of all victim protection officers in Hesse is to provide information about police victim protection options in close coordination with the local "Press and Public Relations" organisational unit. In this context, various media are developed and used to inform potential victims, always emphasising the importance and significance of reporting crimes. It is also possible to seek help anonymously. The nationwide helpline "Violence against Women" offers low-threshold anonymous counselling by telephone, chat or email. Its constant availability, high security standards, multilingual counselling and barrier-free access are designed to encourage all women affected by violence to contact the helpline in confidence and receive further support.

The Hesse police force has contributed to the creation of various information materials as part of a federal-state project group.
This material has been published in cooperation with the helpline. [218]

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

As part of police prevention efforts, victims are informed about domestic violence through the flyer published by the Criminal Investigation Department of the Federal States and the Federal Government (ProPk) (see appendix). The helpline "Violence against Women" is referred to as a concrete measure. Using this support service is often a step that precedes reporting the crime. Within the State Council for Crime Prevention (LfK), there is also a working group on victim protection, which organises regular conferences on domestic violence issues, thereby reducing the inhibitions of the population to go to the police (see above).

Interpreters are used during the questioning of the respective victim to overcome language barriers. In addition, the institutions of legal assistance in preliminary proceedings, psychosocial support during the trial and the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania victim support officer are also available to provide support and advice. In this context, the multilingual information material in the area of psychosocial support during court proceedings is to be revised and updated by the Ministry of Justice of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in order to provide improved information for vulnerable groups
.

4. Saxony

The police refer victims in the above-mentioned cases to specialised counselling centres. In addition, reference is made to the answer to question 23 (p. 218).

[217] https://serviceportal.hamburg.de/HamburgGateway/Service/Entry/AFM_OhneHa
[218] www.polizei-beratung.de

5. Schleswig-Holstein

Project Suse – safe and self-determined

Suse networks contribute to a nationwide protection system that supports women* with disabilities in their safety and self-determination. They improve the living conditions of women* with disabilities who are affected by violence and create a space where women* with and without disabilities can meet, interact and learn from each other.

The networks work together with women's organisations, integration assistance specialists, women's representatives from workshops and equal opportunities officers. Suse networks promote the regional implementation of the UN CRPD and the Istanbul Convention in the area of violence protection and prevention. In addition, there is close cooperation and exchange with the Federal Association of Women's Counselling Centres and Women's Emergency Hotlines as the initiator of the Suse projects.

State network of Mixed Pickles e.V.

The state network of Mixed Pickles e.V. is a specialist and coordination centre dedicated to improving the lives of girls* and women* with disabilities in Schleswig-Holstein. Its focus is on developing prevention and education programmes that raise awareness of the specific challenges faced by women* with disabilities among those affected, their relatives and specialist staff, and promote violence prevention. Another focus is on training and supporting women's representatives and specialists in integration assistance facilities, networking and providing expert advice on the topics of protection against violence and sexual harassment in the workplace.

Myriam project

Counselling for refugee women who are threatened by or affected by violence, particularly on issues relating to asylum and immigration law, provided by a state-funded specialist centre. Implementation of improved individual protection against violence for refugee women from the day of their arrival through information and counselling in all state accommodation facilities and at the counselling centre.

State police

Suitable language mediators can be called upon to overcome language barriers. In addition, there is close networking with other authorities (e.g. the youth welfare office) and non-governmental agencies (e.g. women's counselling centres), which are proactively informed by the state police within the scope of their respective responsibilities and
be consulted.

6. Thuringia

The Thuringian State Police encourages the population to report criminal offences as part of its general reporting and public relations work and specific prevention work. Internal awareness-raising measures on specific victim groups and crime dynamics are designed to ensure professional and trustworthy treatment of victims. This also includes the use of interpreters to break down barriers caused by language. An essential means of ensuring that vulnerable victim groups in particular receive appropriate treatment is for police officers to refer them to and connect them with suitable support and victim assistance services.

Cooperation and collaboration between the Thuringian police and intervention centres, women's shelters and child and youth protection facilities.

The SAIDA projects mentioned above and the specialist counselling centre for victims of human trafficking provide advice on how to report incidents of violence against women to the

competent authorities. If necessary, the projects provide counselling with the help of language and cultural mediators or with the support of the state interpreting programme.

The state interpreting programme has been implemented in Thuringia since the beginning of May 2019. It was the first of its kind in Germany. A large number of agencies that advise immigrants in their daily work are entitled to use the audio and video interpreting services financed by the Thuringian Ministry of Justice, Migration and Consumer Protection free of charge. In addition to public authorities and offices, these agencies include, in particular, counselling centres, doctors, midwives, hospitals, women's shelters, intervention centres, initial reception facilities and municipal shared accommodation, as well as state-funded projects.

Interpreting services can be used via video call with internet-enabled devices (desktop computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone) or by telephone call. Interpreters for over 50 different languages are available in the state programme
. In addition to frequently used languages (Arabic, Dari/Farsi, etc.), the programme also covers rare languages (Oromo, Urdu).

7. Lower Saxony

In order to strengthen trust-based cooperation with counselling centres and other network partners and to encourage affected women to report incidents to the police, it is extremely important for the police to carry out appropriate public relations work to make this position known both internally and externally and to publicise values and attitudes ("zero tolerance") among public authorities. Among other things, nationwide participation in and initiation of high-profile campaigns and initiatives is an effective measure. The participation of local police stations in campaigns and initiatives organised by network partners on 25 November each year is also publicised in the media. In addition, some police departments have migration officers who can facilitate a trusting dialogue between the police and those affected with a migration background and also provide additional support in the form of interpreters in cases of language barriers. As part of their training and further education, police officers are also made aware of the particular challenges
when dealing with so-called "vulnerable groups".

8. Rhineland-Palatinate

In the past, the Rhineland-Palatinate police force has participated in various high-profile campaigns, such as the "Red Line Against Domestic Violence" campaign in Ludwigshafen in cooperation with support organisations and the Eulen Ludwigshafen handball club, action days in the context of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, and joint regional networking events in pedestrian zones. Participation in the "Rhineland-Palatinate Intervention Project against Violence in Close Social Relationships" (RIGG) has also helped to fundamentally reduce reservations towards law enforcement agencies and strengthen trust both within the support system and among the population.

Since its establishment, the interministerial Intervention Expert Group, a sub-working group of the RIGG, has also been dealing with problems and issues that arise in the course of its work. The solutions proposed by the expert group are widely accepted and are being implemented.

An investigation group on migration has been set up at all AfA locations, which carries out prevention work and confidence-building, among other things.

In addition, a code of conduct applies in the reception facilities for asylum seekers. This also includes a mission statement and is part of the "Concept for the protection against violence and the
Identification of Vulnerable Persons in Initial Reception Facilities in Rhineland-Palatinate". The mission statement and code of conduct define the principles and rules of non-violent and equal coexistence for both employees

and residents of the AfA. Educational work is carried out by the social services and counselling centres.

9. North Rhine-Westphalia

The multilingualism of information and prevention advice is also becoming increasingly important for the North Rhine-Westphalia police force. Until now, information from the North Rhine-Westphalia police force has been provided in German. Efforts have been made to provide police advice in easily understandable language, but not yet in "easy language". The LKA NRW has recognised the problem and translated several prevention advice on the subject of violence in public spaces and on the subject of child and youth protection into nine languages and made it available to the public on its website (North Rhine-Westphalia Police) and to the 47 district police authorities in North Rhine-Westphalia for their regional crime prevention work.

For victims of crime, the Police Crime Prevention Programme (ProPK) offers a flyer entitled "How the police help victims of crime" (victim protection brochures) in German, English, Arabic, Ukrainian and Russian.

When reporting a crime to the NRW police, victims/injured parties are given a standardised judicial "Information sheet for victims of crime", which is available in 29 languages in addition to German, as well as in easy-to-read language in the integrated case processing and information system (ViVA). Furthermore, initial information for victims of crime has been compiled, which contains the most important initial rights of victims and will be issued to those affected before the interrogation or when reporting the crime. The initial information will also be available in English and French.

Since 13 June 2024, it has been possible to submit evidence directly to the North Rhine-Westphalia police with the online report, in German and English. This is made possible by using a transfer portal. Citizens can add a total of ten file attachments with a total size of one gigabyte of data to an online report. The online report supports a wide range of different audio, video and document formats to enable as many file uploads as possible.

On behalf of all federal states, the Ministry of the Interior of North Rhine-Westphalia (IM NRW) developed the "nora emergency app".[219] The emergency app can be used by anyone who is in Germany and needs help quickly in an emergency situation. nora is particularly helpful for people who are unable to make phone calls or have difficulty doing so because, for example, they have a speech or hearing impairment or do not speak German well enough to communicate effectively on the phone. The nora app is designed so that even people with limited language skills can make an emergency call with the most important information without having to speak. Symbols, clear texts and intuitive user guidance help with this.

The police in North Rhine-Westphalia are taking various measures to prevent violence against women and girls and to encourage those affected to seek help. One approach is the targeted recruitment of people with a migrant background into the police service. Through intercultural openness and diverse teams, the police can better respond to the different realities and needs of the population and strengthen the trust of migrant women in particular. In addition, the North Rhine-Westphalia police force attaches great importance to prevention work in schools. Projects and programmes are implemented to promote social interaction, counteract exclusion and sensitise pupils to the issue of violence. Guidance counsellors, school social work and initiatives such as
"School without Racism – School with Courage" helps to identify and prevent violence at an early stage.

Through these measures, the North Rhine-Westphalia police force aims to reduce violence against women and

[219] https://www.nora-notruf.de/de-as

girls in all social groups, empower those affected and reduce inhibitions about reporting incidents of violence.

Violence protection coordinators are currently being introduced in the state reception centres for refugees. Among other things, these coordinators will be the point of contact for residents of the facility with regard to violence prevention/dealing with incidents of violence and will establish and maintain network structures with counselling and support services, specialist advice centres and security authorities.

In facilities for people with disabilities, awareness of violence against women is being raised and affected women are being encouraged to report incidents and, for example, to file complaints about physical assaults. Possible language barriers are to be overcome by bringing in native-speaking experts or using technical aids. The primary goal here is to enable individuals to describe their experiences in their own language and to ensure that information and support services are understood.

Counselling and support can also take the form of anonymous counselling, so that women with disabilities can talk about incidents of violence in a protected environment without having to reveal their identity. In suspected cases, cooperation between the police, social services and integration assistance is ensured in order to guarantee comprehensive support.

The establishment in 2024 of the State Working Group of Women's Representatives in Workshops for People with Disabilities also contributes significantly to the achievement of this goal. The establishment was part of the "NRW inclusive" action plan. The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia provided financial support for the establishment process
in 2022 and 2023.

10. Bremen

The specialist counselling centres dealing with the forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention always provide advice on legal options such as protection orders or reporting incidents to the police.

In protection orders proceedings, applicants often state that they were advised by the police to file an application when reporting the crime.

The police forces in the state of Bremen are actively committed to breaking down existing prejudices against the police and promoting trusting cooperation with all governmental and non-governmental institutions. This is achieved in particular by proactively approaching victim support organisations and participating in interdepartmental working groups, including within the framework of the state action plan. The Central Office for Victim Protection, as well as specialist police departments dealing with domestic or sexual violence and experts in the field of risk management, are actively represented in these groups.

The police forces in the state of Bremen act empathetically and without influence, attempting to involve language mediators, interpreters and, where possible, trusted persons. The available support services are presented to the individuals concerned on an individual basis. If necessary, close coordination with the aforementioned specialist police departments also takes place. One example of this approach is the care provided to 37 refugee women and their children in a residential accommodation in the Bremen Walle district. Many of them have experienced violence in their countries of origin, which has continued even after their flight. In order to deal with these women appropriately and avoid re-traumatisation or revictimisation, a special arrangement was made regarding the responsibilities of the contact service (KoP): the district is originally looked after by a male colleague from the contact service. However, the property in question is looked after specifically and exclusively by a female contact police officer.

In addition, the neighbourhood management in the WIN neighbourhoods (Wohnen in der Nachbarschaft, or Living in the Neighbourhood) regularly organises WIN forums or workshops in which citizens can participate

. Here they have the opportunity to submit requests or make contact with the liaison officers present. In Vegesack, for example, there are language mediators who cover seven different languages in order to overcome language barriers. Here, too, assistance is provided for those affected or low-threshold referral to the responsible liaison service is organised.

The police liaison service and the staff of the prevention centre also regularly visit places where members of relevant groups can be found, such as daycare centres, schools or refugee accommodation. Regular, informal discussions continuously strengthen trust in the police. This lays the foundation for those affected to turn to the police with confidence in cases of violence. Language barriers are overcome with the help of the aforementioned services. In addition, information materials are provided in various languages.

If necessary, the "social crisis" form is sent to the social services office so that the persons concerned can receive support. In cases of domestic violence, the data is always transferred to counselling centres in accordance with Section 55 (5) of the Bremen Police Act (BremPolG).

The legal requirement to appoint women's representatives in facilities for women with disabilities or those in need of care means that women have a confidential contact person. See also the answer to question 23 (p. 230).

DiBS! has been a ReBUZ service since 1 November 2022 and stands for discrimination protection and counselling for pupils in Bremen and Bremerhaven who experience (sometimes intersectional) discrimination at school. The counselling also includes the parents concerned or other trusted persons and the specialist staff at the schools. DiBS! is a low-threshold counselling service that supports those affected in taking the relevant steps to address their concerns. If the incidents are relevant under criminal law, DiBS! also encourages those affected to report the incidents to the authorities. DiBS! also accompanies and supports those affected in taking possible next steps, if they so wish.

In addition, Bremen is participating in the implementation of the "School against Sexual Violence" initiative, which aims to ensure that all schools develop a school-specific protection concept against sexual violence. Since 2019, Bremen's schools have been accompanied and supported in this process by specialist conferences, (digital) consultation hours and other formats organised by the specialist counselling centres Schattenriss, Bremer JungenBüro, Kinderschutzzentrum and praksys EMP, as well as the regional counselling and support centres. Key elements of school protection concepts include the establishment of school contact points and complaint structures, as well as constellation-specific intervention plans.

The measures taken by the State Institute for Schools (LIS) primarily refer to relevant counselling centres such as DiBS or Schattenriss, or to the procedural information on the
emergency folder, part 2. The involvement of law enforcement officers is then usually only the second step, with the relevant counselling centres also being involved

11. Saarland

The State Police Directorate and the MIBS publish event-related posts on their social media channels (e.g. Instagram, Facebook, X) in connection with International Women's Day or the Day Against Violence Against Women, among other things.

In addition, campaigns by the Police Crime Prevention Programme of the Federal States and the Federal Government (ProPK) in connection with violence against women are supported.

One of the goals of these campaigns is to build trust in the police.

For information on the work of the Intervention Centre for Victims of Domestic Violence, please refer to the previous data collection.

12. Berlin

As part of the police's networking activities, a wide variety of institutions and organisations (e.g. other authorities and agencies, victim support organisations, counselling centres, neighbourhood mothers) are being made aware of the importance of encouraging victims of gender-based violence to report incidents to the police. The way in which the police can act and respond is presented transparently. Information stands and/or public consultation hours and meetings are offered, and appropriate posters and other information materials are used in selected public places to draw attention to the issue and encourage people to contact the Berlin police or a counselling centre.

The domestic violence coordinators and victim protection officers offer low-threshold, gender-sensitive counselling, which also aims to increase the willingness to report incidents. In cases of language barriers, the expertise of native-speaking language mediators from the police and civil society (e.g. integration guidance service, neighbourhood mothers, nationwide helpline) can be called upon. The commissioner and contact persons for group-focused enmity at the Berlin State Criminal Police Office provide advice on the phenomenon of misogyny and, if necessary, refer victims to appropriate NGOs and external counselling centres. In this context, active networking with NGOs and civil society actors is carried out.

Investigations into domestic violence are carried out by trained officers at police stations. This ensures that questioning is conducted in a victim-sensitive manner that avoids retraumatisation and is likely to strengthen trust in the investigating authorities. There is regular exchange on fundamental issues between the police officers and the Berlin public prosecutor's office.

At the Berlin Public Prosecutor's Office, two public prosecutors hold the position of victim protection coordinators. They are the contact persons for civil society, affected victims and victim associations on fundamental issues of victim protection, including in the context of investigations and criminal proceedings, but without providing advice in individual cases, which is not the legal mandate of the public prosecutor's office.

Furthermore, the specialist departments of the Berlin Public Prosecutor's Office responsible for sexual offences regularly participate in the "Fachaustausch Opferbeauftragter Land Berlin" (Berlin Victim Support Officer Expert Exchange), which is organised by the LKA 1. Regular exchanges at the working level between the heads of the relevant departments of the public prosecutor's office and the police ensure that victims of sexual violence are informed of their rights and can already apply during the investigation for the appointment of psychosocial support during the trial in accordance with Section 406g of the Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO) and for legal assistance in accordance with Sections 397a (1) and 406h StPO. This enables victims to better exercise their rights, particularly in cases of mandatory defence.

Since 2022, the Berlin Public Prosecutor's Office has been increasingly focusing on the instrument of victim reporting in accordance with
Section 160 (3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Here, too, victims have the opportunity to discuss the overall situation beyond the specific offence that is the subject of the proceedings in a protected setting with trained social workers.

Both the police and the Berlin Public Prosecutor's Office have specialised contact persons for LGBTIQ+ people. Numerous measures in the Berlin Senate's LGBTIQ+ Action Plan 2023 aim, among other things, to improve trust in state institutions and law enforcement and investigative authorities, generally due to the historical persecution of queer
existence in the Federal Republic of Germany, aim to improve trust in state institutions and law enforcement and investigative authorities.

13. Baden-Württemberg

In Baden-Württemberg, women affected by violence receive a leaflet for victims of crime from the police. This was revised by the Federal Ministry of Justice in 2024 and translated into 30 foreign languages with the participation of the federal states. The leaflet
contains, in particular for women affected by violence, a reference and a link to the

leaflet "More protection in cases of domestic violence", which is also available in several languages and contains detailed information on the Protection Against Violence Act.

Under the principle of legality applicable in Germany, police officers are generally obliged to intervene in all prosecutable offences, provided there is sufficient factual evidence. The Baden-Württemberg police force sees itself as a community police force and is expressly open to being contacted outside of police premises. In its programmes and measures, the Baden-Württemberg police force generally encourages citizens to contact the police if they need help, whether as victims of crime or as witnesses to a crime. The police regularly communicate this self-image, for example in press releases. With regard to possible language barriers, it should be noted that, if no police officers with the relevant foreign language skills are available, the police can call on suitable interpreters if necessary. An initial language barrier is therefore not an obstacle to filing a report. Victims' concerns can also be taken into account accordingly.

Police officers receive ongoing special training in dealing with particularly vulnerable groups so that they can respond appropriately to the needs of victims. If necessary, multilingual information materials are used in addition to interpreting services to overcome language barriers. For victims with addictions or mental illnesses, appropriate specialist services are consulted.

The prevention programme "Safe. On the move. – Violence against women in public spaces" is aimed primarily at young women aged 16 and over. In addition to strengthening their sense of security, the programme also provides information about the work of the police and the investigation process, thereby reducing barriers to reporting crimes.

Another example is the design of a public awareness campaign for people who have fled Ukraine in 2022. A poster and a leaflet (in German and Ukrainian) were aimed specifically at female refugees and were displayed and distributed at train stations and refugee shelters, among other places. The media drew particular attention to the police as the first point of contact and to the Violence Against Women Helpline as a support service for women affected by violence.

Information on forced marriage is provided by the Baden-Württemberg police on their internet advice page. In order to encourage people affected by forced prostitution and human trafficking to report incidents, trust in the work of the police must be strengthened. To this end, there is regular cooperation with victim protection organisations and counselling services that offer legal and psychological support. These measures are intended not only to strengthen trust in law enforcement, but also to help stabilise the victims.

To initiate investigations, the state of Baden-Württemberg offers low-threshold reporting options, such as anonymous reporting portals or online contact points. In addition, special search and investigation tools, such as the "WebCrawler" and "Auswertekiosk" tools mentioned in the answer to question 43 (p. 338), are used to check initial suspicions and initiate investigations if there is sufficient concrete suspicion of a crime.

In the area of "violence in the social sphere", specific tips are given to migrants with residence status to prevent them from refraining from reporting crimes and seeking support for fear of losing their residence status. ProPK also provides information in the form of media packages on the topics of femicide and forced marriage.

In order to counteract the worrying development in the area of hate and incitement even more decisively, the state government established the cabinet committee in 2021.
"Resolute against hatred and incitement" chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior Thomas Strobl. In addition to the Ministry of the Interior,

Digitalisation and Municipalities, the State Ministry, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Integration, and the Ministry of Justice and Migration. Under the leadership of the Baden-Württemberg State Criminal Police Office, the Task Force against Hate and Incitement has begun its work. Its purpose is to identify and counter relevant threats in the area of hate and incitement.

The task force is made up of partners from within the police force, but also from the education, culture, social affairs and security sectors. It also cooperates with partners from civil society and networks across different media as the "Initiative Tolerance on the Internet".[220] At the heart of its work is the online portal of the same name, where those affected and interested parties can find strategies for dealing with hate and incitement, as well as overviews of appropriate reporting centres, offers of help and support, and educational opportunities. The cooperation partners, such as Hate Aid, Weißer Ring, the REspect reporting centre, the Violence Against Women Helpline, telephone counselling, trauma therapy, Hilfe-Info, and many more, are organisations for all those in need, including women and girls. The website is also available in easy-to-read language and includes an FAQ section that answers the most important and frequently asked questions.

The task force has already initiated or implemented numerous measures/campaigns/media (e.g. video clips, pocket cards, flyers) and action days to prevent and combat hate crime directed against vulnerable groups (e.g. on the basis of gender) on the basis of prejudice. In addition to these and all police officers, the task force's measures are also aimed at internet users, victims of hate and incitement, but also haters, who are shown the consequences and given a change of perspective to see things from the perspective of those affected.

14. Brandenburg

The department heads do not take any measures to directly promote the willingness to report a crime. In view of Section 152 (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, this should not be part of the original remit of the public prosecutor's office.

However, the police are doing more to raise awareness in this area of crime. Potential victims of both genders in the area of domestic violence and sexual offences are informed about the possibilities of accessory prosecution (Section 395 StPO) and psychosocial trial support (Section 406 g StPO). If information in this regard has not been provided according to the files, this will usually be provided by the responsible department heads of the public prosecutor's offices. If necessary, affected women and, if applicable, their children will be given a place in a women's shelter. Interpreters are also called in for victims who do not speak the language.

In some cases, after the investigation proceedings have been initiated, the responsible department heads obtain an interim report from the social services in accordance with Section 160 (3) sentence 2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. They can then make contact with the victimised women at an early stage and make them aware of the possibility of contacting the relevant victim support services, such as Victim Support or the Weissen Ring, or consulting a solicitor. In this way, an attempt is made to support the women and take away their fear of a possible trial.

In a public prosecutor's office, it is common practice that victims are regularly informed in the notice of discontinuation, stating the specific date, that the investigation can be resumed until the statute of limitations for criminal prosecution has expired and that all that is required is an informal notification to the police or public prosecutor's office in cases where the victim is unwilling to cooperate in the long term, namely in the case of subsequent invocation of the right to refuse to testify under Section 52 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Victims are encouraged to report violence through public education, multilingual information services and anonymised reporting systems (internet watch). Police officers are trained in dealing with victims. There are specialised contact points and cooperation with women's advice centres.

[220] https://www.initiative-toleranz-im-netz.de

The aim is to strengthen trust and lower the barriers to reporting violence.

45. Please indicate whether there are protocols/standard operating procedures or guidelines for police officers that provide guidance on receiving reports, interviewing victims, conducting investigations and collecting evidence in cases of rape and sexual violence, domestic violence, psychological violence, stalking, sexual harassment (including online), forced marriage, female genital mutilation and forced sterilisation/abortion. Please indicate how the authorities ensure the comprehensive collection of evidence beyond the victim's statement.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Saxony-Anhalt (reference to state concept, question 1, p. 5), Bavaria (reference to question 40, p. 317)

1. Hamburg

Relevant service instructions or regulations, as well as handouts and guidelines from specialised departments, are generally part of internal police service regulations and are classified as confidential – for official use only.

The "comprehensive collection of evidence beyond the victim's statement" is achieved through the use of all available and, in each individual case, possible
criminal proceedings.

2. Hesse

In Hesse, there are guidelines for combating domestic violence. These guidelines inform police officers in the difficult field of combating domestic violence about

- intervention and investigation,
- legal regulations, in particular the HSOG and GewSchG,
- Prevention of (further) violence,
- ensuring criminal prosecution,
- assistance for victims, and
- Coordination of police measures and civil court assistance.

In addition, they raise awareness of how to deal professionally with victims and witnesses and offer targeted assistance as a basis for effective action in the event of an incident. The victim protection officers and victim protection coordinators also hold information events on the subject of domestic violence and inform
police case officers, partly via newsletters.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

In order to carry out a risk analysis, police officers in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania have access to the ODARA form when taking statements. The public prosecutor's office and the police, as its investigators, are legally obliged to record all incriminating and exonerating evidence. This is done in accordance with the basic guidelines of forensic work. If physical injuries are to be secured as evidence on the victim and the perpetrator, a forensic medical examination is carried out to ensure that the documentation is admissible in court
o f injuries. In individual cases, assessors and experts

. Depending on the individual measure, the public prosecutor's office also has the authority to issue orders in this regard.

4. Saxony

The police have developed internal guidelines for dealing with domestic violence and stalking. The framework concept for the management of high-risk cases of domestic violence and stalking, as well as in the area of operational victim protection, contains specific
instructions and guidelines.

5. Schleswig-Holstein

The Schleswig-Holstein state police force has a decree governing the handling of cases of domestic violence and intimate partner violence. This decree comprehensively regulates the treatment of victims and accused persons, for example, as well as responsibilities and cooperation relationships.

Within the framework of constitutional proceedings, the officers assigned to the case are obliged to collect all incriminating and exonerating evidence.

6. Thuringia

The Thuringian police force has guidelines on how to deal with cases of domestic violence, which cover the above-mentioned content. The basics of securing evidence are taught in training and further education courses. The Thuringian police force has special regional evidence-securing units as well as other specially qualified officers in the criminal investigation department and the State Criminal Police Office, who take on the task of securing evidence for particularly serious offences and extensive case constellations.
offences and complex cases.

7. Lower Saxony

The state-wide "Police Guidelines for Dealing with Domestic Violence" and the associated implementation orders of the individual police departments contain comprehensive information for all police officers in Lower Saxony.

In order to ensure reliable information transfer, all multipliers in the police departments were informed about the entire content of the guidelines and entrusted with passing on the information.

The guidelines include protocols and checklists that are used by all police officers.
police officers. Protocols are also available for the documentation and reporting of high-risk cases and case conferences.

8. Rhineland-Palatinate

Within the Rhineland-Palatinate police force, there are various framework service instructions, police service regulations, concepts, guidelines and regionally developed network specifications. Due to the large number of these, it is not possible to list them all here. Some of these also contain information and guidelines that go beyond the instructions, for example on dealing with victims of crime. Against this background, only those guidelines that are relevant to the area of domestic violence and apply to the whole of Rhineland-Palatinate are listed here:

- Guidelines on violence in close social relationships and stalking
- Framework service instruction Highrisk[222]
- Framework guideline on police victim counselling
- Forms to be used, e.g. the domestic violence checklist

[221] www.polizei.thueringen.de/landespolizeidirektion/praevention/haeusliche-gewalt

[222] The framework service instruction is currently being revised.

9. North Rhine-Westphalia

Orders from the LKA NRW to the district police authorities and decrees from the IM NRW, for example on the topics of "domestic violence" or "handling sexual offences", apply. In addition, the State Office for Training, Further Education and Personnel Matters of the Police of North Rhine-Westphalia (LAFP NRW) offers further training courses on related topics, e.g. the "Central introductory training course for criminal investigation case processing" or "Domestic violence – dealing with dangerous situations", "Conducting witness interviews and hearings".

10. Bremen

There is no reliable means of determining the "normal level of stress associated with proceedings" and the extent to which and how individuals are "worn down" beyond this, so that this question cannot be answered with certainty.

In principle, the following guidelines apply to police officers in the state of Bremen (list not exhaustive):

- Joint guideline of the SJV, SSJIS, SIS and SKB on the implementation of victim-offender mediation in Bremen
- Procedural instructions for dealing with domestic violence
- Procedural instructions for dealing with address and identity protection in accordance with Sections 2-4 of the German Code of Criminal Procedure
- Procedural instructions for mandatory disclosure of witness and victim protection information
- Service instruction "Risk assessment for individual threats (VS-nfD)"
- Joint circular from the BMI and the BMFSJ on residence regulations pursuant to Section 12a of the Residence Act in cases of protection against violence

For sexual offences, the Bremen model described in the answer to question 43 also applies, which means, among other things, that victims of sexual offences are only interviewed in detail once by the specialist police unit. The initial officers on duty generally only record the basic facts of the case. This is done for legal classification purposes and to enable initial evidence-securing measures (by a doctor) to be taken. The detailed interview is then conducted once by the specialist police unit (usually as an audio or video interview). This is intended to avoid multiple interviews and the associated stress for victims and to provide the basis for criminal proceedings. The protection of victims of sexual offences is the focus of the Bremen model. Another part of the Bremen model is the possibility of anonymous evidence collection for victims of sexual violence. This takes place at the Bremen Mitte Clinic, in the violence protection outpatient clinic there. The entire process takes place without the involvement of the police. The secured evidence is then stored anonymously for ten years. If the victim decides to report the crime to the police, the police can easily access the legally documented evidence and use it in the proceedings.

With regard to proceedings relating to forced prostitution, a questionnaire has been developed independently for K 44 (specialist unit for human trafficking) staff for use in interrogations relating to human trafficking and forced prostitution.

All employees of the Bremen and Bremerhaven police forces are also offered regular seminars on topics such as victim protection, victim rights, risk management, domestic violence and stalking, and the handling of sexual offences. These seminars provide additional knowledge and raise awareness of the correct way to deal with
victims of these offences.

11. Saarland

As already described in question 42 a (p. 330), crimes classified as domestic violence are handled on the basis of the
"Guidelines for the police handling of cases of domestic violence".

The RiLi HG lists and regulates all criminal procedural and hazard prevention measures as well as work instructions. The guidelines are available to police officers during
on the intranet and as a printed version.

12. Berlin

Instructions on procedures can be found in the following police documents:

- Business instructions on reporting within the police authority and to other authorities and institutions.
- Quality standard on police summons and questioning.
- Operating instructions on the handling of minor offences.
- Police service regulation (PDV) 382 Handling of juvenile cases (nationwide regulation).
- Quality standard for police measures in individual threats and stalking.
- Quality standards in cases of domestic violence.
- Information sheets and specialist letters in the context of sexual offences.

13. Baden-Württemberg

IM: According to the principle of legality applicable in Germany, police officers are generally obliged to intervene in all prosecutable offences, provided that there are sufficient factual indications. It sees itself as a community police force and is expressly open to being contacted outside of police premises (see question 44, p. 347).

These reports are accepted in accordance with general standards/procedures and training. Evidence is also collected and secured in accordance with these standards/procedures to support the statements. Investigations are conducted on a case-by-case basis in accordance with general standards for handling violent crime cases or specific management and operational orders. Examples of this are:

The "Ministry of the Interior's Management and Operational Directive on Victim Protection" (FEA Victim Protection of 19 December 2024, Ref.: IM3-1212-58) contains general information and principles on police victim protection.

Measures in the area of domestic violence are based on the "Ministry of the Interior's Domestic Violence Management and Operational Directive" (FEA hG dated 17 March 2023, ref.: IM3-1212-43).

Checklists and guidelines have been developed for case workers dealing with human trafficking and prostitution. These include, among other things, guidelines for
identifying victims during interviews and phenomenon-specific features that must be taken into account when processing cases.

14. Brandenburg

A digitalised victim protection compass is available to all police officers in the police headquarters as a guideline for action, which provides certainty when making reports and for further investigations.

In addition, investigations in this area of phenomena are based on the respective

investigation standards. In this context, appropriate documentation is carried out in the course of police investigations, evidence is secured digitally or objectively and forwarded for investigation or evaluation.

There are currently offence-specific checklists in the "ComVor" case processing system as well as the "Domestic Violence - Operations Report", among others. A standardised high-risk management system is currently being developed.

46. Please describe the efforts that have been made to identify and combat all factors that contribute to attrition (the process by which cases fall out of the criminal justice system) in cases of violence against women and domestic violence.

Contributions: Hamburg, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saarland, Berlin, Brandenburg

FA: Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony (reference to State Report 2020, VI. H. to K. (from p. 64) and question 11 (p. 129)), Bavaria (reference to question 40, p. 317), Lower Saxony (reference to question 45, p. 351), Bremen, Baden-Württemberg

1. Hamburg

The Hamburg Regional Court has set up a witness support centre staffed by social workers, which provides free support to all witnesses, explains the proceedings to them and addresses their fears and concerns in connection with the ongoing criminal proceedings. The staff are always available to talk to, even in cases involving lengthy proceedings. They are also trained as psychosocial support workers. In addition, staff at NOTRUF für vergewaltigte Frauen und Mädchen e.V. (Emergency Hotline for Raped Women and Girls) have completed training as psychosocial support workers and accompany victims in court proceedings.

As part of a pilot project, victims of serious sexual offences are specifically informed about the availability of free psychosocial support during court proceedings. An easy-to-understand letter to this effect is enclosed with the criminal investigation department's witness summons. The support provided by a psychosocial support worker is particularly suitable for the in the question addressed
attempted to counteract the demoralising effects mentioned in xml-ph-0007@deepl.internal.

2. Saxony-Anhalt

In Saxony-Anhalt, a complaint and support management system has been introduced which enables institutions within the protection and support system to report problems that (may) contribute to the demoralisation of those seeking help and of employees within the system to the supervisory authority of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Equality. The supervisory authority then enters into a higher-level clarification process with the responsible authorities and institutions or their supervisory authorities. Within the framework of case discussions or interministerial talks (and working meetings with the actors in the protection and support system), solution strategies are developed and procedures between the institutions are adjusted. These reports also serve as an indication of problems to be solved at the administrative or criminal law level.

With regard to the special protection needs of people who are dependent on care
preserving their self-determination, reference is made to Resolution 5.18 of the 2022 Conference of Labour and Social Affairs Ministers (Annex 5).

3. Schleswig-Holstein

Psychosocial support during legal proceedings

Beyond the cases required by law, psychosocial support during legal proceedings is ensured, particularly in cases of domestic violence, stalking and in cases of hardship where no court appointment has been made

, psychosocial support during legal proceedings is ensured. This means that women affected by violence or persons affected by domestic violence also receive qualified psychosocial support in criminal proceedings.

State police

In cases of domestic violence and intimate partner violence, the Schleswig-Holstein State Police also takes action to avert danger. The existence of a criminal offence is not a prerequisite for the State Police to take action. The task of averting danger is regulated by law,
The exact form of action is described in the aforementioned decree.

4. Thuringia

Officers of the Thuringian police inform victims of violence against women and domestic violence of their rights as victims and of access to appropriate victim support services when they file a report or are interviewed by the police, in order to alleviate the burden on victims and ensure a quick transition into the support system. They are required to avoid multiple interviews where possible
and to encourage victims to file criminal charges for offences that are prosecuted only upon complaint when taking statements.

5. Rhineland-Palatinate

In accordance with the principle of legality, all matters of criminal relevance are reported and submitted to the competent public prosecutor's office. The further course of action is
to be assessed by the judiciary.

6. North Rhine-Westphalia

Employees of the 47 district police authorities in North Rhine-Westphalia initiate and support regional networks with help and support organisations such as women's shelters, women's counselling centres, social welfare offices, specialist therapeutic counselling centres, trauma centres, WEISSER RING e.V. and support organisations within the justice system or the church, and contribute their expertise in crime prevention to networks, round tables and other actors responsible for prevention and victim protection. This type of network cooperation can also help to reach affected women and girls so that they can confide in others or reveal their situation, enabling them to receive help.

Furthermore, so-called dark field surveys are an essential part of efforts to improve the prevention of violence against women and domestic violence. In addition to the crimes recorded in the known cases, surveys of unreported cases also serve to record crimes that are not known to the police for various reasons. Surveys of unreported cases therefore offer the opportunity to gain a more comprehensive picture of the crime situation and trends in the area of gender-based and domestic violence, as well as its manifestations and conditions of origin. The survey data provide important insights into, among other things, reporting behaviour and risk factors for victimisation, thereby contributing to a better understanding of victimisation and, as a result, improving services for those affected.

Against this backdrop, North Rhine-Westphalia is actively participating in the nationwide, periodic victimisation survey "Security and Crime in Germany" (SKiD), which is co-financed by the European Security Fund.[223] Among other things, SKiD records experiences of violence in (former) partnerships and experiences of violence based on gender or gender identity. It is also planned for the future
that NRW will continue to participate in SKiD in order to continuously provide up-to-date and differentiated

[223] Information on the study can be found on the Federal Criminal Police Office's project homepage: https://www.bka.de/DE/UnsereAufgaben/Forschung/ForschungsprojekteUndErgebnisse/Dunkelfeldforschung/SKiD/skid_node.html

. The findings from the first wave of the survey (2020) have already been published[224]. The data from the second wave of the survey (2024) is currently awaited. A report on this is expected to be published later this year. The next wave of the survey will then take place in 2026. Previously, the study "Security and Violence in North Rhine-Westphalia" was conducted in North Rhine-Westphalia, in which around 60,000 North Rhine-Westphalian citizens were surveyed.[225]

At the request of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Federal Council, in its 1038th session on On 24 November 2023, it was decided to call on the federal government in a resolution entitled "Empowering victims, promoting truth-finding and shedding light on blind spots – Expanding psychosocial support during legal proceedings in a practical manner" to call on the Federal Government to enable victims of serious domestic violence to access psychosocial support during legal proceedings, even in cases of offences against physical integrity or personal freedom (BR printed paper 464/23).

The resolution states, among other things: "Convictions in the area of 'domestic violence' offences are difficult to achieve without the cooperation of the victims. In its latest report for 2022, the GREVIO expert group, which monitors the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, has urged the German authorities to investigate the causes of the 'wear and tear' on victims along the criminal justice chain, from the prosecution authorities to the courts, to analyse weaknesses and to close systemic gaps in the judicial response. According to the findings of the counselling centres, the lack of the possibility of appointing a legal representative to accompany victims in serious cases of domestic violence is clearly one of these weaknesses. This regulatory gap must be closed quickly in order to implement Germany's obligations under European law."

If psychosocial support cannot yet be provided to the injured party, public prosecutors in North Rhine-Westphalia may, pursuant to Section 160(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, make use of court assistance for the time being to request a victim report and obtain information about the family circumstances of the injured party. This can also clarify, among other things, whether the injured party is willing to testify, whether there is contact with the youth welfare office or support services, and whether it makes sense to impose conditions on the accused within the framework of a discontinuation of proceedings pursuant to Section 153a
of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Sample orders have been developed for this purpose in some special departments.

7. Saarland

The aforementioned police guidelines also contain information on the characteristics and mechanisms of domestic violence in the chapter "Basics of assessing the facts".

8. Berlin

Victims of violent and sexual crimes are always informed by the Berlin police about the possibility of psychosocial support during legal proceedings. If requested, psychosocial support can accompany victims from the initial interview to the court proceedings and prepare them for the individual steps in the proceedings. In addition, advice is provided on the possibility of bringing a civil action and on further counselling by NGOs.

The Berlin police are in constant contact with the two special public prosecutor's offices regarding sexual offences against minors. For example, the reasons for dismissing criminal charges are evaluated. When interviewing potentially (severely) traumatised victims, the psychologist working in the department is consulted as a matter of course in order to stabilise the victim and improve their ability to testify and the consistency of their testimony.

Appropriate interviews are conducted as video or audio interviews.

[224] https://lka.polizei.nrw/artikel/sicherheit-und-kriminalitaet-in-deutschland
[225] https://polizei.nrw/artikel/sicherheit-und-gewalt-in-nrw

9. Brandenburg

Police officers are sensitised to the topic of "violence against women" in order to prosecute all cases appropriately and consistently. Specialised police officers, in this case police victim protection officers, support victims by providing advice and pointing out protective measures to avoid contact with perpetrators. Proceedings are processed as quickly as possible in order to reduce the burden on those affected. In addition, cooperation between the police, judiciary and victim support services is strengthened in order to prevent cases from being abandoned and to stabilise those affected.

Insofar as the question is aimed at the extent to which victims receive psychological support during ongoing criminal proceedings, reference is made to the answer to question 44 (p. 349). In addition, efforts are always made to avoid multiple interrogations. Insofar as the question is directed at any action taken by the public prosecutor's office in the event of pressure exerted on potential victims, which is not subject to criminal liability according to the specific question
alone, the public prosecutor's office should also not be authorised to intervene by law.

47. Please indicate whether legal or other measures have been taken to grant migrant women who have been victims of any of the forms of violence referred to in the Istanbul Convention a renewable residence permit if the competent authority considers that their stay is necessary for cooperation in investigations or criminal proceedings. [226]

Contributions: Hesse, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, Berlin, Brandenburg

FA: Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony (reference to State Report 2020 VII. A. "Residence status" (p. 67)), Thuringia (reference to State Report 2020 VII. p. 67 ff.)), Bavaria (reference to question 40, p. 317), North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Baden-Württemberg

1. Hesse

In these cases, Section 25 (4) sentence 1 of the Residence Act applies, which allows foreigners who are not required to leave the country to stay temporarily for urgent humanitarian or personal reasons or for significant public interests.

Significant public interests exist if the foreign national is required as a witness in court proceedings or is temporarily cooperating with German authorities in the investigation of criminal offences. This corresponds to the
purpose of residence described in question 47.

2. Saxony-Anhalt

In view of the existing possibilities under residence law (e.g. Sections 25, 31 of the Residence Act), corresponding legal additions do not appear to be necessary at present from the perspective of foreign nationals law. The personal situation of a victim of violence is assessed in the context of the respective individual case examination to determine whether the granting of a residence permit on humanitarian grounds or the granting of a temporary suspension of deportation is appropriate.

The obligation under Article 59(4) of the Convention was fulfilled by the Forced Marriage Prevention Act, which came into force on 1 July 2011. Section 37(2a) of the Residence Act gives victims of forced marriage who have been taken to another country an improved right of return. Since then, those affected can return to Germany up to ten years after their departure and obtain a residence permit if they were prevented from returning earlier due to the forced marriage.

In addition, in agreement with the MS and MJ, the RdErl. of the MI on measures

[226] This question relates to the obligation under Article 59(3). Contracting States that have made a reservation to Article 59 may answer this question, but are not required to do so.

against human trafficking and forced prostitution (Annex 3). The provisions therein regulate the cooperation between the authorities involved and the measures to be taken by them, as well as cooperation with the specialist agency Vera against trafficking in women and forced marriage. In particular, the fight against human trafficking
and supporting victims.

3. Schleswig-Holstein

Guidelines for the protection of women affected by violence

The guidelines referred to in the answer to question 1 do indeed contain a provision on this matter (p. 6).

4. Lower Saxony

A foreign national who is not subject to an enforceable obligation to leave the country may, in principle, be granted a temporary residence permit in accordance with Section 25 (4) sentence 1 of the Residence Act (AufenthG) if urgent humanitarian or personal reasons or significant public interests require her to remain in Germany for the time being. Significant public interests may exist, for example, if the foreign national is needed as a witness in criminal proceedings or in other court or administrative proceedings, or if she is temporarily cooperating with German authorities in the investigation of criminal offences.

The scope of application of Section 25 (4) sentence 1 of the Residence Act is broad due to the individual and specific circumstances of each case that must be presented, and a permit may be granted for a variety of reasons. Against this background, there is no information available on how many foreign women who have been victims of one of the forms of violence mentioned in the Istanbul Convention have been granted a corresponding residence permit in individual cases.

Various efforts have been made to identify and combat the factors that lead to the demoralisation of victims of violence against women and domestic violence who were originally willing to report the crime. These efforts aim to strengthen the criminal justice system, gain the trust of victims and improve the social framework conditions. Some of the key measures are listed below:

Awareness-raising and training:

Training of law enforcement agencies (see comments on Article 15, p. 144): Prosecutors and judicial personnel receive special training to better understand gender-based violence and respond appropriately. This also includes dealing with victims and recognising signs of domestic violence:

Public awareness campaigns (see comments on Article 12, p. 80):

Information campaigns aim to raise awareness in society and break down prejudices that can make victims reluctant to seek help or report incidents.

Interdisciplinary cooperation (see comments on Article 7, pp. 11, 21, 27):

Coordinated approaches: Different institutions (police, judiciary, social services, health services) work together to create a comprehensive support network for victims. Interdisciplinary teams can ensure that all aspects of support are covered.

Networks of NGOs: Cooperation with non-governmental organisations that contribute expertise and resources to improve assistance for victims.

5. Rhineland-Palatinate

When migrant women are affected, there is always close communication with the relevant
immigration authorities . These check their
their responsibility the

options under foreign nationals law with regard to the respective residence permit.

6. Saarland

In 2025, hazard prevention was strengthened. Electronic residence monitoring was incorporated into Saarland police law to enforce evictions and return bans. If there is a risk that the eviction order will not be complied with, the order can be enforced with an ankle bracelet.

Otherwise, the state is not responsible for legislation under the Criminal Code (StGB) and Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO).

7. Berlin

According to Section 31 (2) of the Residence Act, the requirement of three years of lawful cohabitation may be waived if this is necessary to avoid particular hardship. The procedural guidelines for residence in Berlin (VAB) issued by the State Office for Immigration (see supplement to the basic report) stipulate that it is unreasonable to expect the couple to remain together if the spouse has been the victim of domestic violence. In principle, those who wish to derive an independent right of residence in accordance with Section 31 (2) of the Residence Act must prove that they have been victims of domestic violence (demonstration of hardship). To this end, it is sufficient for the person concerned to first present plausible reasons for hardship and later provide evidence in the form of medical certificates. Furthermore, there must be a temporal connection between the assertion of the hardship and the actual abuse.

In implementation of the Istanbul Convention, the LEA, on the instructions of the SenInnSport dated 6 August 2024, now grants an independent right of residence regardless of who terminates the cohabitation. Even if the person who committed the abuse
does not prevent the residence permit from being granted.

8. Brandenburg

The Brandenburg State Reception Act provides for the possibility of relocation to another municipality in order to eliminate a dangerous situation, in particular from family members or other persons from the personal environment (Section 7 (1) LAufnG).

Article 51: Risk assessment and risk management

48. Please describe all standardised and mandatory risk assessment tools used by all competent authorities in all regions for forms of violence against women such as stalking, honour-based violence and domestic violence. Please indicate the extent to which these tools are used in practice to evaluate the risk of killing, the severity of the situation and the risk of recurrence in order to prevent new acts of violence. Are the following elements considered "red flags"/warning signs in risk assessment?

- **a. the offender's possession of or access to firearms;**
- **b. the victim filing for separation/divorce or ending the relationship;**
- **c. Pregnancy;**
- **d. Previous acts of violence;**
- **e. prior enactment of a restrictive measure;**
- **f. threats by the perpetrator to take away joint children;**
- **g. acts of sexual violence;**
- **h. threats to kill the victim and their children;**
- **i. threats of suicide;**
- **j. compulsive and controlling behaviour.**

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt,

Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

1. Hamburg

In the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, the concept of "Offender-oriented prevention" involves cross-agency cooperation between judicial and security authorities to develop individually tailored risk management measures within the framework of supervisory control for offenders who are released after serving their full prison sentence and who are considered to pose a significant potential risk. The aim of the concept is to prevent repeat serious sexual and/or violent offences. Depending on the case, the interests of relatives/children and previous or potential new victims are also taken into account.

For this purpose, different risk assessment tools are used in the case evaluation, depending on the individual case:

- VRAG (Violence Risk Appraisal Guide) and HCR-20, Version 3 (Historical Clinical Risk Management) for predicting violent offences,
- SORAG (Sex Offender Risk Appraisal Guide) and RSVP (Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol) to predict sexual offences,
- ODARA (Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment) and SARA (Spousal Assault Risk Assessment) to predict intimate partner violence

All of the so-called "red flags" listed in question 48 are taken into account in the risk assessment.

2. Hesse

In Hesse, the assessment tool for relationship violence is already being used by the police departments that are initially involved in assessing the risk. The following factors are taken into account and incorporated into the assessment of high-risk cases. High-risk cases are then assessed using a standardised risk assessment of various risk factors. In special cases, an additional risk assessment is carried out by specialist staff from the Centre for Police Psychological Services
The factors are those listed under a) to j).

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Reference is made to the answer to question 45 (p. 350) with the following additions:

Re a), b), i)

- Not decisive in the ODARA analysis

Regarding c), d), e), f), g), h), j)

- Yes, seen as a warning sign

4. Saxony

The framework concept for the management of high-risk cases (HGW) specifies the use of the ODARA risk assessment tool. This includes the elements mentioned
.

5. Saxony-Anhalt

Reference is made to the answer to question 1 (p. 5) regarding the measures described in the state police concept measures including the review procedure of the weapons authorities,
referred to. The provincial police use the ODARA (Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment) analysis tool to predict the likelihood of recidivism by perpetrators. The aim is to

improve high-risk management through the rapid, reliable and secure identification of high-risk cases.

6. Schleswig-Holstein

The Schleswig-Holstein state police use the Danger Assessment risk analysis form. All of the elements mentioned are queried using this form and assigned a predetermined point value. The form is completed by the officers on duty
during the initial police contact, if possible.

7. Thuringia

The Thuringian police force has tested the standardised risk assessment procedure for cases of domestic violence on a regional basis and plans to establish it nationwide. It includes
1. the use of the ODARA risk assessment tool in every case of intimate partner violence, and 2. the assessment of additional risk and protective factors with regard to serious/fatal escalations of violence if ODARA indicates an increased risk of repeat offences or other circumstances indicate an increased risk. In the interaction of both levels of risk assessment, all elements listed under a to j are generally considered.

Reference to the aforementioned High-Risk Management Working Group of the Free State of Thuringia, which is currently developing a framework concept for high-risk management in cases of domestic violence and stalking for the Free State of Thuringia, in which structured and
interdisciplinary case management of high-risk cases is a central component.

8. Bavaria

The Munich Questionnaire is used for risk analysis and risk management within the meaning of Article 51 of the Istanbul Convention. It is intended to ensure that information about domestic violence or other risks to the welfare of children is reliably forwarded to the competent authority and can be included in the risk assessment. Specialist agencies such as the police, solicitors and women's shelters use the questionnaire to make informed assessments and prepare written submissions and statements. The woman affected by violence remains the owner of the document and decides for herself whether to pass it on.

A new case conference has been introduced in Munich to improve risk assessment in accordance with the Istanbul Convention. The basic concept, which was developed in collaboration with the family court, has been presented in a first draft and will serve as the basis for the future structure and implementation of further case conferences. The aim is to ensure close coordination in order to guarantee effective protection for those affected and to improve the quality of support and intervention. The case conference takes place in a multi-professional setting – with the participation of the public prosecutor's office, the police, the youth welfare office, counselling centres, KIKS (child protection in schools), women's shelters and aid organisations. Family courts do not participate in case conferences on specific cases in order to avoid bias in later proceedings.

When dealing with cases of domestic violence, the Bavarian police rely on the above-mentioned Bavaria-wide "Framework guidelines for police action against domestic violence and related stalking cases".

The Bavarian police always carry out a risk assessment in every case of domestic violence, as this forms the essential basis for further police action. In connection with the above-mentioned framework, a questionnaire was developed as a basis for assessing the risk situation in domestic violence cases, taking into account the latest findings from research and
"best practice". The result of this risk assessment forms the essential basis for further police intervention.

If the initial risk assessment indicates a high-risk case,

a more in-depth assessment of the risk situation is carried out by specially trained police officers with the involvement of their superiors. The "Guidelines for assessing the risk situation in high-risk cases of domestic violence/stalking" provide guidance for this. Since a one-time assessment of the situation is often not sufficient, the risk assessment must be reviewed and, if necessary, updated if the circumstances change.

If there are indications of a high-risk case or another serious (violent
), the department handling the case will also consider convening an internal police or interdisciplinary case review. This serves to gain further insights and to define and assign specific measures to avert danger and protect the victim. If necessary, appropriate arrangements must also be made with the competent public prosecutor's office. "High-risk case conferences" are convened depending on the situation and in accordance with the respective requirements of the individual case.

If the existing concept is not sufficient to deal with the case, high-risk cases can also be included in a so-called threat management system. This structure, which has been set up at all police headquarters, enables the operational process of early detection, risk assessment and evaluation, and the subsequent handling of individuals who have the potential for violent escalation. In addition, it is possible to have an individual risk analysis carried out for high-risk cases
. The Bavarian State Criminal Police Office has a service centre for risk analysis and assessment for this purpose.

9. Lower Saxony

Due to the guidelines that have already been discussed several times, police authorities in Lower Saxony use the German translation of Campbell's "Danger Assessment Scale" (DAS). This checklist can be used flexibly in various contexts. It can therefore also be used in the context of interdisciplinary risk management. The DAS focuses on acute and immediate risk factors. These include, for example, factors that exacerbate conflict, such as intentions to kill the victim or third parties (children), previous incidents of violence, threats, psychological instability of the perpetrator, access to weapons, and current conflicts or separations.

No standardised analysis tools are currently available for other phenomena (e.g. genital mutilation, human trafficking, sexual abuse of children). However, if the acts occur in the context of domestic violence, the above-mentioned regulations apply.

In Lower Saxony's prison system, pursuant to Section 9 (2) of the NJVollzG, after admission, the data necessary for preparing the prison plan is collected on the prisoner's personality and living conditions, and the causes and consequences of their offence are investigated (diagnostic procedure). When conducting the diagnostic procedure, scientifically based, structured, clinical-idiographic and actuarial prognosis instruments are used, insofar as standardised and binding risk assessment instruments are employed, such as: the
Historical-Clinical-Risk Management-20 Violence Risk Assessment Scheme (HCR-20), the Sexual Offender Risk Appraisal Guide (SORAG) or Static 99.

10. Rhineland-Palatinate

The identification and handling of high-risk cases is based on the interministerial framework concept "High-risk management in cases of violence in close social relationships and stalking" (led by the Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration), which describes the interdisciplinary procedure and is implemented within the police force with the framework service instruction Highrisk. The procedure provides for the identification of relevant cases using the scientifically validated analysis tools ODARA or Danger Assessment Scale (DA). These tools include almost all of the above parameters from a to j. Their scientific validation confirms their usefulness and applicability for the identification
relevant cases.

Cases identified as high risk are handled in cooperation with various parties, with each case being considered individually. In principle, a case conference is convened and a safety plan is drawn up. If there are children in the family concerned, they are also taken into account
.

11. North Rhine-Westphalia

It should be noted that the following response is based on the decree "Police action in cases of domestic violence". It also contains information from the attached assessment guide for evaluating the risk situation in cases of domestic violence. However, both documents are classified as "confidential – for official use only" and are therefore not publicly accessible.

Since 17 February 2024, a standardised assessment tool for predicting the risk of domestic violence has been in use in North Rhine-Westphalia, which must be used by district police authorities in all cases of domestic violence. Domestic violence is defined as physical or psychological violence between persons who voluntarily live together in a family, partnership or other form of cohabitation. If the cohabitation has ended, domestic violence can be assumed if the violence is related to the former relationship. In cases of doubt, domestic violence is to be assumed. With the aid of the assessment tool, an initial risk assessment must be carried out at the time of the operation or when the report is taken. This risk assessment is continuously reviewed and, if necessary, updated at every stage of the police investigation, and police measures are adjusted as necessary.

The assessment tool was developed on the basis of scientific literature and forensic risk assessment instruments for cases of domestic violence. It includes factors for assessing the risk of future serious violence or intimate partner homicide in the context of domestic violence. With the exception of elements e., f., and j., the elements mentioned are taken into account in the risk assessment. Instead of the previous imposition of a restrictive measure (e.), questions have been included in the assessment tool as to whether the perpetrator has already come to the attention of the police and whether the perpetrator has violated conditions (restraining orders, contact bans, probation conditions) in the past. Compulsive behaviour on the part of the perpetrator (j.) is not recorded, but controlling behaviour is.

The assessment tool does not identify specific "red flags" because there is currently no reliable scientific evidence in North Rhine-Westphalia on cases of serious domestic violence and intimate partner homicides that would enable the statistical
identification and weighting of specific risk factors.

12. Bremen

As already stated in the answer to question 8 (p. 66), in 2022 the Bremen police introduced the service instruction "Risk assessment in cases of individual danger (VS-nfD)", which regulates the relevant procedures in the sense of this question.

As already described, cases of violence against women are handled in accordance with the procedures laid down in the existing service instruction. Within the risk management system of the Bremen police, the risk is assessed and evaluated in several stages immediately after a risk situation becomes known.

The following distinctions are made:

I. Situational risk analysis

- Risk assessment
- Initial risk assessment

- Risk assessment

II. Standardised hazard analysis

It should be noted that human behaviour in complex situations is based on the multi-layered interaction of complex emotional, cognitive and motivational processes. A reliable prognosis in individual cases is dependent on the above-mentioned points.

(I) Situational risk analysis

For the risk assessment of the first responders, all findings obtained during the investigation of the facts (clues, observations, interviews, research) as well as the overall socio-cultural situation of the persons involved are taken into account in the situational risk analysis.

To support the risk assessment, the scientifically based risk analysis questionnaire "Domestic Violence" according to J.C. Campbell ("Danger Assessment") is used for corresponding perpetrator/victim constellations.

The risk analysis questionnaire, which consists of 20 questions, is completed by interviewing the person at risk and serves to predict the basic dangerousness of the perpetrator. The elements mentioned in the question are asked in this checklist, placed in context and taken into account in the risk assessment.

The risk assessment must be communicated to the responsible security and operations management (or the responsible department management) immediately, before the facts have been established or measures taken on site, in order to agree on how to proceed. Necessary immediate measures to protect the victim(s) must be taken without delay.

After becoming aware of a hazardous situation, WEL (or the RED department head, in the case of indications of an individual hazard in the central reporting office during business hours) carries out an initial risk assessment using a traffic light system (green, yellow or red).

The initial risk assessment should take into account, in particular, the risk assessments (including the evaluation of the risk analysis questionnaire) of the first police officers to respond and the overall socio-cultural situation of the persons involved.

If a dangerous event is "unlikely" (yellow case) or "at least likely" (red case), the case is submitted to the next higher level of management for risk assessment (police station management, department management, police commander on duty). The assessment of the risk situation and the measures to be taken is carried out on an ongoing basis. The investigation is then taken over by the K/LKA directorate. The findings of the investigation are incorporated into the assessment process.

Depending on the situation and the assessment of the individual case, various immediate measures can be taken to protect the victim. These include, among other things, talking to the perpetrator and the victim, eviction orders or accommodation in a women's shelter. Furthermore, in cases of domestic violence, the personal details of both parties involved are forwarded to a counselling centre and information is provided on the possibility of applying for a temporary injunction.

(II) Standardised risk analysis

The subsequent standardised risk analysis is the second level of assessment. In justified individual cases, this involves assessing the existing conflict dynamics and psychological stability of the perpetrator. The relevant process is currently being developed.

At the Bremerhaven local police authority, the multi-stage risk assessment procedure is described in the service instruction referred to in the answer to question 8
. In cases of domestic violence, the emergency services

An initial assessment of the risk is carried out on site using screening questions. These are a selection of questions that can be answered despite the highly emotional nature of the situation and any language barriers that may exist. If a high-risk situation is identified, the specialist police unit responsible for handling such cases is immediately involved in further processing. If the police become aware of the situation outside of business hours, further measures are covered by the permanent criminal investigation service.

If immediate action is not necessary based on the initial assessment, the case is handed over to the relevant specialist unit. All of the steps outlined below are carried out in all cases of intimate partner violence/domestic violence.

The relevant specialist unit or the criminal investigation department will question the victim(s) about the exact circumstances of the violence they have experienced, involving an interpreter if necessary. The assessment is supported by the use of the DAS (Danger Assessment Scale according to J.C. Campbell). If a dangerous event is then considered likely or somewhat likely, the specialist police department will initiate a case conference via the Istanbul Convention Coordination Office. This case conference is also initiated in cases outside the scope of domestic violence, e.g. in cases of violence between parents and children, if the responsible specialist police department issues a corresponding risk assessment.

The "Istanbul Convention Coordination Office" of the Bremerhaven police then invites all the institutions necessary for the respective individual case to a case conference. In a joint exchange, possible measures and offers are to be decided upon, which are then presented to those involved or affected by domestic violence. Depending on the individual case, the Bremerhaven police, the youth welfare office, the social welfare office, the school authority, the Regional Advice and Support Centres Bremen (ReBUZ), the Society for Integrative Social Advice and Support mbH (GISBU), a women's shelter or even the immigration office have participated.

Regardless of when the specialist police unit/criminal investigation department is involved, the emergency services will already have taken all necessary immediate measures to protect the victim
. These include, among other things, talking to those who pose a threat and those who are at risk, issuing restraining orders or placing victims in a women's shelter

13. Saarland

The "Guidelines for Police Handling of Domestic Violence Cases" regulate binding risk assessment instruments in the chapter "Assessment of the Risk Situation". According to these guidelines, both a general risk assessment and an assessment of the risk situation with regard to the danger of homicide are carried out. The assessment of the risk situation with regard to the risk of homicide is based on the so-called "Campbell criteria".

It should be noted that the "Guidelines for Police Handling of Domestic Violence Cases" are currently being revised by an interministerial working group with a focus on optimising high-risk management in the form of a structured, three-stage approach based on scientific findings.

The three-stage concept provides for police officers to carry out an initial risk assessment (stage 1 ("screening")) and an "extended risk and hazard analysis" (stage 2) during the investigation of the facts and subsequent follow-up processing, and that initial hazard prevention measures should be initiated on this basis. Based on the threat assessments of the stages 1 and 2 , is an "in-depth risk and
risk assessment" is planned for stage 3, which will provide further information on the existence

a high-risk case of domestic violence.

Re a)-j): Yes.

14. Berlin

In all of the above cases, Berlin police officers must check, in accordance with the regulations, whether the measures required under criminal procedure law could also be used to deal with an existing threat or whether the measures taken on site in accordance with hazard prevention law (usually expulsion and prohibition of entry pursuant to Section 29a ASOG Berlin) are suitable for permanently preventing a threat.

If the officers come to the conclusion that a risk continues to exist, they are required to create an entry in the police information and communication system, the "risk assessment". Guidance on the degree of risk is provided by the risk indicators set out in the regulations, which include both conflict-exacerbating and conflict-reducing indicators. These have been compiled on the basis of an evaluation of current scientific forecasting tools for domestic violence, intimate partner homicide and stalking, checked for topicality and correspond to the current state of scientific research. The "red flags" listed in the question are part of the risk factors. The risk situations are continuously monitored and the assessments and police measures are adjusted accordingly.
measures are adjusted accordingly.

15. Baden-Württemberg

In all cases of domestic violence (see question 42, p. 331 for definition), a risk assessment is carried out using the ODARA (Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment) prognosis tool. The ODARA results allow an assessment of the risk of recidivism for renewed intimate partner violence within a period of five years. The number of dichotomous items to be recorded amounts to 13 risk factors relating to static information. The results are characterised by a classification into risk groups (RG) 1 to 3. An increase in this RG classification by the domestic violence case worker is possible under the following circumstances. From RG 3 onwards, the existence of a high-risk case must be checked on the basis of the definition of "high-risk case" and documented in the ODARA form.

The 13 items are defined as risk factors and differ in content from the above list a) to j). ODARA takes the following risk factors into account:

- previous domestic violence,
- previous non-domestic violence,
- previous prison sentence (>30 days),
- violations of probation conditions or instructions (including restraining orders),
- threats of injury or death,
- imprisonment of the victim during the index offence (most recent incident known to the police),
- victim's concern about future assaults,
- Number of children shared by the perpetrator and victim,
- biological children of the victim from a previous partner,
- violence against others (except partner),
- presence of more than one indicator of substance abuse,
- assault against a pregnant victim, and
- obstacles to victim support.

Risk factors that are not assessed by ODARA in a standardised manner may lead to an increase in the risk group by domestic violence case workers based on their criminal investigation experience and an assessment of the overall circumstances in each individual case. Examples of this could include behaviours that initially appear uncritical ("red flags") or critical changes in behaviour and thinking that may signal a developing or increasing willingness to kill (so-called warning signs).

In addition, in cases with a particular risk potential, the GM hG can, upon request, prepare specific risk assessments based on the SPJ (Structured Professional Judgement) approach, which capture highly specific risk characteristics and take into account the above-mentioned points (a-j). In the context of continuous optimisation and further development , alternative risk assessment tools are currently being tested .
risk assessment tools are being tested.

16. Brandenburg

Due to the police officers' professional experience, points a)-j) are also considered and assessed in the facts of the case. In the immediate or further course of events, several supervisory bodies (including superiors) review the initial assessment and can make adjustments to the follow-up measures if necessary. A standardised high-risk management system is currently being
developed. Against this background, among others, the use of standardised risk tools is currently being tested and piloted.

49. Please indicate how effective cooperation between the various authorities and specialised women's support services is ensured in risk assessment and whether the risks identified are managed by law enforcement agencies on the basis of individual safety plans that also take into account the safety of the victim's children.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Bavaria (reference question 48, p. 361), Rhineland-Palatinate (reference question 48, p. 362)

1. Hamburg

The Hamburg police have developed a procedure for dealing with dangerous situations. In addition to criminal investigations, risk assessments are always carried out, which are always tailored to the individual circumstances. The support provided by the specialist risk assessment and criminal psychology departments, as well as the option of holding conferences on dangerous individuals, ensures a multi-professional approach that naturally also takes into account the potential danger to minors.

For further information, see the contribution on point 48 (p. 360).

The Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection states that there is no regular cooperation with specialised women's support services within the framework of the "offender-oriented prevention" concept.

2. Hesse

In Hesse, cooperation between the various authorities is ensured through case conferences held on an ad hoc basis. Women's support services participate in case conferences on a case-by-case basis, particularly in dangerous situations that already affect women already being cared for by the institutions. The police in Hesse, as part of the
Risk management assessments and the resulting

police measures regularly cover all persons at risk, including the children of victims.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

As soon as there are children in the household, the relevant youth welfare office is informed, for example in cases of domestic violence.

4. Saxony

The "Framework Concept for the Management of High-Risk Cases of Domestic Violence and Stalking in the Free State of Saxony" plays an important role in the handling of preliminary investigations in the area of violence in close social relationships, gender-specific violence and other offences. It serves to prevent homicides and promotes preventive work in the area of violence in close social relationships.

The department heads of the public prosecutor's offices responsible for the relevant investigations take part in interdisciplinary case conferences, usually convened by the police, in order to improve and deepen cooperation between the authorities and organisations involved.

Once cases have been assessed using ODARA, the relevant authorities and aid organisations work together in case conferences to coordinate the necessary measures. The case conferences involve representatives from the police, public prosecutor's office, youth welfare offices,
victim support services, offender counselling centres and those affected, and provide a framework for the exchange of relevant information.

5. Saxony-Anhalt

With reference to the answer to question 1 (p. 5), reference is made to the state police concept described there, which also explicitly takes into account cases of child welfare risks.

6. Schleswig-Holstein

Risk management is carried out in case conferences, which are composed according to the circumstances of each case.

In high-risk cases, the high-risk officers of the Schleswig-Holstein State Police hold case conferences with all relevant agencies and authorities. Here, information is gathered and measures are discussed. These are always tailored to the individual case. If children are involved, the State Police always reports the case to the responsible youth welfare office, which also participates in the
relevant case conference.

7. Thuringia

The concept for high-risk management in cases of domestic violence, which is to be established throughout the state, stipulates that all institutions relevant to the phenomenon should assess the risk situation on a case-by-case basis in an interdisciplinary manner at a case conference if there are indications of a high-risk case in the sense of serious escalations of violence. This procedure is mandatory and requires the consent of the persons at risk to data processing within the framework of case conferences. Any institution can contribute to the case. During the case conferences, individual action plans are agreed upon with the aim of reducing the risk. These primarily involve victim-oriented measures – also relating to the children of the victims or third parties close to them – but also perpetrator-oriented measures.

Domestic violence is considered a significant indicator of child endangerment in child and youth welfare services. When such an indicator is observed, the duty to protect children in cases of child endangerment, as stipulated in Section 8a of Book VIII of the German Social Code (SGB VIII), comes into effect, which requires action to be taken in
individual cases, including the involvement of other service providers, institutions and authorities

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8. Lower Saxony

In Lower Saxony, the issue of high-risk/case management has been addressed for many years in the context of domestic violence. Since 2012, the "Framework Concept for Interdisciplinary Case Management in Cases of Stalking and Escalating Violence in Relationships" has provided a concept with recommendations for practical action.

A special concept for a two-day training course has also been developed for employees of women's support organisations. Since 2017, this has been offered jointly by the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Domestic Violence Coordination Office at the LPR/MJ.

Since 2023, high-risk management has been an integral part of the III. Guidelines for the police on dealing with domestic violence. The counselling and intervention centres (BISS) are important cooperation partners in this regard and are involved in case conferences depending on regional circumstances and case constellations. Based on the cooperation agreement between the BISS and the police, the police department informs the BISS when a woman has been a victim of domestic violence, which enables BISS staff to proactively approach those affected and offer support.

The core of risk management in high-risk cases of domestic violence is an interdisciplinary approach on the ground. To this end, the Lower Saxony police, together with other responsible parties from the fields of health, specialist counselling, justice and other actors, established network structures that continuously professionalise their cooperation in regular meetings and, in the event of a high-risk case, ensure a structured risk analysis, the development of a safety plan for the woman/person at risk and, if necessary, her children, as well as planning and
implement further hazard prevention measures.

9. North Rhine-Westphalia

When considering the following response, it should be noted that it is based on PDV 129 and the decree "Police Action in Cases of Domestic Violence," which are classified as confidential and for official use only.

If a situation is classified as a high-risk case (specific danger of homicide or serious harm to the victim's health), a so-called "risk assessment" is prepared and updated on the basis of the risk prognosis made up to that point and the results of the investigation to date. This assessment includes the event-related or recurring analysis and evaluation of information as well as the conclusive determination of the degree of risk. Based on the assessment, a risk level is determined if necessary and, depending on this, a protection concept is drawn up. The ordering of protective measures is also possible as part of immediate measures without determining a risk level.

Effective cooperation between various authorities and non-governmental organisations, such as specialist women's support services, is ensured through interdisciplinary case conferences. These are held in high-risk cases and other serious and ongoing cases of domestic violence. The aim of such a case conference is to develop, coordinate and implement a joint and synergistic package of measures to reduce or avert the dangers to the victim and to optimise the handling of the violent person. In high-risk cases, a case conference must be initiated immediately and held as soon as possible.

The public prosecutor's offices are familiar with the police risk assessment tools, including the assessment aid provided by the Criminalistics and Criminology Research Unit (KKF) of the North Rhine-Westphalia State Criminal Police Office. The findings of the police are used within the framework specified by the Code of Criminal Procedure. If
the police risk assessment, measures involving deprivation of liberty appear necessary,

the relevant facts are presented to the public prosecutor's office responsible for filing the application with the court, which is available around the clock.

For its part, the public prosecutor's office forwards any findings that indicate a dangerous situation to the relevant authorities in accordance with the respective statutory and regulatory requirements of the Order on Notifications in Criminal Matters (*MiStra*) of 13 July 2022. Threats to minors are subject to the reporting obligation under Section 17 No. 5 of the Introductory Act to the Courts Constitution Act (EGGVG) and No. 35 MiStra, and unreliability under firearms law under No. 36 MiStra. If the public prosecutor's office receives information indicating a specific danger to a person involved in the proceedings or any other person, in particular information about the accused's access to firearms or relevant death threats, this information shall be forwarded immediately to the competent police station for the purpose of averting danger, without prejudice to the question of its own options for response under criminal procedure
police station for the purpose of averting danger.

10. Bremen

As already explained in the previous answers, there is regular and needs-based cooperation and referral to the various counselling and support services. Both standardised and needs-based services are involved in this.

The transfer of information to external agencies for the purpose of averting danger is regulated by Section 55 of the Bremen Police Act (BremPolG). This ensures that the police can exchange information in justified cases and guarantee cooperation with other agencies involved. However, one problem is that external agencies, such as treatment centres or the youth welfare office, are only allowed to pass on limited information to the Bremen police. As a result, interdepartmental case conferences are regularly challenging due to the limited possibility of open information exchange.

The most effective form of prevention to stop (domestic) violence is essentially based on non-violent early childhood education, teaching values and norms that reinforce this goal, and promoting an understanding of social roles in our society. From the perspective of the police in the state of Bremen and with regard to the performance of police duties, prevention work that starts as early as possible is therefore of particular importance. The content of teaching children that physical and psychological violence and experiences of violence are unacceptable is complemented by, among other things, education about visible
offers of help.

11. Saarland

A standardised collaboration between cooperation between the various authorities and
specialised women's support services in risk assessment is not currently being implemented, but is part of the revision of the directive.

12. Berlin

As part of Berlin's state action plan to implement the Istanbul Convention, a concept for conducting multi-institutional case conferences in high-risk cases of domestic violence and stalking has been finalised.

The case conferences are attended by institutions that have relevant information about the respective risk situation, such as the police, youth welfare offices, the women's support system, social services, etc. The present concept creates a binding framework that strengthens the confidence of all participating agencies in their actions and enables a joint, targeted approach for better protection of women* affected by violence
women* and their children and the prevention of homicides in high-risk cases.

[227] https://www.berlin.de/sen/frauen/keine-gewalt/geschlechtsspezifische-gewalt-gegen-frauen/#HRF

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The basis for convening multi-institutional case conferences will be the "Danger Assessment Scale" prognosis tool, which will enable all parties involved to recognise a high-risk case based on the facts known to them.
h. a dangerous situation that could escalate into homicide.

13. Baden-Württemberg

The involvement of individual authorities and institutions (e.g. women's shelters or counselling centres) is decided on a case-by-case basis and within the limits of what is legally permissible. In order to coordinate and closely coordinate appropriate risk-minimising measures to protect the persons concerned (also taking into account the safety of the victim's children and family), inter-agency
case conferences may be held to coordinate and closely coordinate appropriate risk-minimising measures to protect the persons concerned (also taking into account the safety of the victim's children and family), provided that the person concerned gives their consent.

14. Brandenburg

Effective cooperation is ensured through case conferences (for the police on the basis of §45a BbgPolG), among other things.

50. Please describe the efforts to analyse all femicides in the context of domestic violence and other forms of violence against women in order to identify possible systemic gaps in the institutional response of the authorities so that such acts can be prevented in the future.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Bavaria (reference to question 48, p. 361), Saxony-Anhalt (reference to question 1 on the state police concept, p. 5, question 2, p. 19, question 42, p. 326),

1. Hamburg

In order to implement the recommendation underlying this question in the GREVIO Commission's baseline evaluation report (Chapter I.D., Number 22), the Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection has begun evaluating judgments that could potentially be based on femicide, starting with judgments handed down in 2022. All judgements in which a Hamburg court has convicted a male person for the attempted or actual killing of a female person are being analysed. This evaluation has been continued annually since then and is intended to continue. When assessing whether a killing or attempted killing is to be regarded as gender-specific, the motives and reasons of the convicted persons as stated in the written grounds for the judgement are examined. The assessment is based on the definition in Article 3d of the Istanbul Convention. The competent authorities are engaged in an
exchange regarding this evaluation and possible courses of action resulting from it.

2. Hesse

To prevent homicides of women in the context of domestic violence, comprehensive measures to avert danger can be implemented based on the Hesse Security and Public Order Act (HSOG) (e.g. talking to dangerous individuals, protective measures, cover identities, etc.). The following measures are presented as examples:

Under the HSOG, the police in Hesse have the option of applying for a court order for an electronic tag (electronic monitoring of whereabouts/EAÜ) in cases of domestic violence and stalking.

For the assessment, all available information is first recorded in the assessment tool for

relationship violence and then transferred to the standardised and systematised risk assessment for further analysis. Depending on the assessment, individual police measures are taken in response to the risk situation. Police measures may include addressing the perpetrator. Addressing the perpetrator is an "appeal" and is intended to show the addressee the consequences of their future misconduct and thus deter them from committing further crimes. It is often combined with other measures to avert danger, such as a restraining order
or a restraining order. The aim is to create barriers and reduce risks.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

As part of the interdisciplinary working group on victim protection of the State Council for Crime Prevention (see above), the possibility of introducing electronic tagging for suspects in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, based on the Spanish model, was discussed in order to prevent future femicides. Compared to the electronic tagging devices used to date, this model has the advantage that no restricted zones are defined for the perpetrator; instead, both the perpetrator and the victim carry a GPS unit and an alarm is triggered if the two are intentionally or unintentionally in close proximity to each other. Whether this will be implemented in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
However, it is not yet clear when it can be introduced.

4. Saxony

I n Objective 58, Measure 4 of the LAP IK, it was agreed that all femicides would be analysed retrospectively. Implementation is currently being planned.

5. Schleswig-Holstein

The state police's high-risk management system is being evaluated in order to close any gaps in protection that may be identified by making adjustments.

In addition, a research project is planned to identify gaps in protection and ways to close them.

6. Thuringia

The Thuringian police contribute to the investigation of the circumstances surrounding homicides against women through their investigative activities. Selected cases, in particular those in which reports had already been made to the police prior to the homicide, are additionally followed up in order to identify possible gaps in the institutional response. Beyond that, the Thuringian police are not aware of any systematic, possibly scientific analyses for
Thuringia.

7. Lower Saxony

In 2024, the Central Analysis Unit for Violence at the Lower Saxony State Criminal Police Office conducted a more detailed analysis of police-registered homicides against women on behalf of the Lower Saxony Ministry of the Interior and Sport. The biggest challenge was and remains the fact that there is no uniform and prescribed legal definition of the term "femicide", making it difficult to present police crime statistics using the usual parameters. The result was that further in-depth analyses are necessary, such as examining individual interrogations and cases. The subjective attitude of the perpetrator at the time of the offence is relevant for the classification of a femicide. This requires access to the relevant files, but this is prevented by data protection regulations, among other things. There are no results available from research into unreported cases in this area. An empirical criminological study on the killing of women is currently being conducted by the KFN. The project period has been extended to 30 September 2025, so results are not yet available.
If previously unknown forms of violence become apparent in the course of police investigations, these findings must be discussed within the police force and

measures must be implemented to counter and combat these forms of violence accordingly.

Multidisciplinary networking plays a crucial role in preventing violence against women in relationships and femicide. Lower Saxony has a long tradition of such networks at regional and municipal level, known as "round tables" against violence against women. Here, support systems, the police, perpetrator support services, psychotherapists, youth welfare offices and child and youth services work together to exchange information and develop strategies for improving support, intervention and prevention at municipal level. However, it is important to note that the round tables are not exclusively focused on femicide or specific individual cases, but deal with gender-based violence and violence against women in general. The Domestic Violence Coordination Office offers advice and support in the formation and further development of local and regional cooperation structures and networks. Based on a nationwide survey conducted by the Domestic Violence Coordination Office, there are currently 48 round tables and networks against domestic violence. Networking and thus possible cooperation between public prosecutors' offices and specialised women's support services takes place within the framework of the implementation of Lower Saxony's Action Plan against Domestic Violence and the implementation of the Istanbul Convention – Prevention and Combating of Gender-based Violence. Incidentally, the area of risk analysis and risk management only concerns the local jurisdiction in pending investigations or criminal proceedings. As the question only concerns federal law, it must be answered by the Federal Ministry of Justice. Insofar as state police regulations may also be affected, the answer must be provided by the Ministry of the Interior.

Digital symposium Subject: Domestic violence "Every third day – preventing femicide in the context of domestic violence through knowledge and cooperation"

In September 2024, the Lower Saxony State Prevention Council, in cooperation with the Lower Saxony Ministries of Social Affairs, the Interior, Justice and Culture, held the 22nd symposium on domestic violence. The symposium focused primarily on the topic of "Prevention of
Femicide in the context of intimate relationships.

8. Rhineland-Palatinate

Although the term "femicide" has become established in large parts of society, politics and academia, it has not yet been implemented in police language, unlike the term "domestic violence", for example. To date, there is no uniform federal police definition. The police generally refer to homicides against women.

There is no standardised approach to these cases within the Rhineland-Palatinate police force. In principle, these cases are followed up internally within the authority. Depending on the circumstances of the offence, a case analysis is carried out to determine whether the persons
already known to the police and what measures have been taken.

9. North Rhine-Westphalia

The North Rhine-Westphalia Police Crime Statistics are published annually [228] , providing statistical data on various offences, including violent crimes against women and homicides of women. Specific crime statistics analyses on the prevalence and case number trends of domestic violence and homicides in the context of domestic violence can be found in the "Domestic Violence Situation Report" (229) published by the North Rhine-Westphalia State Criminal Police Office, which has been produced annually since the 2020 reporting year.

In 2024, the LKA NRW also launched the research project "Homicides

[228] https://polizei.nrw/artikel/polizeiliche-kriminalstatistik
[229] https://polizei.nrw/artikel/lagebild-haeusliche-gewalt

against women in North Rhine-Westphalia". This project dealt with homicides against women in general and specifically with so-called femicide. As part of the research project, a special evaluation of police crime statistics for the years 2014-2023 was carried out, as well as interviews with experts
experts on the subject. The aim of the project was to investigate the prevalence and phenomenology of femicide in North Rhine-Westphalia.

10. Bremen

The Bremen Public Prosecutor's Office does not carry out any such analysis. However, the Legal Affairs Committee of the Bremen Parliament receives an annual report on femicides
in the state of Bremen are reported annually to the Legal Affairs Committee of the Bremen Parliament.

11. Saarland

There is no standardised analysis of all femicides. Nevertheless, within the State Police Directorate, the Central Office for Domestic Violence is responsible for technical supervision in the
domestic violence. Among other things, the Central Office is responsible for monitoring all cases of domestic violence, also with a view to identifying potential for optimisation

12. Berlin

In 2024, the Berlin Police established an internal working group which, from 2024 onwards, will evaluate all completed and attempted homicides committed by male perpetrators against female or female-read victims in an interdisciplinary manner to determine whether they constitute femicides. In addition, all completed and attempted femicides will be reviewed internally in order to identify opportunities for optimisation in the protection of women and children – this will also involve close cooperation with the (General) Public Prosecutor's Office and other governmental and non-governmental actors. In addition, the leaflet "Femicide
/ Gender-specific killings of women" has been produced for police officers to enable them to identify femicides.

13. Baden-Württemberg

IM: Mandatory risk assessment in all cases of domestic violence reported to the police aims to identify potential escalations of violence, thus laying the foundation for early and consistent intervention in potentially serious cases.
up to and including lethal violence**,** including femicide**.**

14. Brandenburg

A standardised high-risk management system is currently being developed, also to prevent possible systematic gaps in the authorities' institutional response.

Article 52: Emergency protection order

51. Have legislative or other measures been taken to introduce and/or amend the legal framework for issuing emergency prohibitions in order to bring it into line with the requirements of Article 52? If so, please indicate whether:

- **a. the emergency protection orders can be maintained until a victim can obtain a court-ordered protection order, in order to ensure that there are no gaps in protection;**
- **b. support and counselling for women who have been victims of domestic violence are proactively offered by the authority responsible for issuing urgent protection orders;**
- **c. whether the prohibition of contact imposed under the emergency protection order also explicitly applies to contact with children;**
- **d. whether and under what circumstances exceptions to the restraining orders can be made**

are made.

Contributions: Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saarland, Brandenburg

FA: Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Bavaria (reference question 48, p. 361), Bremen, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg

1. Hesse

The family court measures pursuant to Section 1 f. GewSchG may also be issued as temporary injunctions. Accommodation must be limited in time pursuant to Section 2 (2) GewSchG. Otherwise, the duration of the protective measures is at the discretion of the judge, taking into account the principle of proportionality, whereby extensions may also be requested. The law does not distinguish between adults and children with regard to victims. Protective measures can also be granted without restriction for children (if necessary, after consultation with the parents). The court may also stipulate exceptions to the contact bans in its decision.

There is no counselling for the courts responsible for issuing emergency protection orders in Hesse, as this is not permitted by law. However, Hesse has a network of victim counselling centres affiliated with the judiciary that advise and support victims of crime, including women who have been victims of domestic violence. This counselling may also include the possibility of applying for an emergency protection order. The Marburg model should also be mentioned in this context; please refer to the above comments on this subject.

With regard to the Hesse Federal Council initiative to introduce electronic residence monitoring for orders under the Protection Against Violence Act, please refer to the answer to question 51.

Section 31(2) HSOG was already added by the Act on More Effective Protection of the Population against Domestic Violence of 6 September 2002 (HessGVBl. I 547). The provision is intended to protect residents of a dwelling from dangers posed by the addressee. While the Federal Act on Civil Law Protection against Violence and Stalking (Gewalt-schutzgesetz/GewSchG), which came into force on 1 January 2002, aimed to improve civil law protection for victims of violence – especially women and children – the declared aim of the Hessian legislature was to provide rapid and effective assistance in cases of domestic violence through official measures until a court decision was reached (LT-Drs. 15/3650, 3). The measures under Section 31(2) HSOG are provisional in nature and ultimately serve to enable judicial measures under the GewSchG. According to Section 31 (2) HSOG, the hazard prevention and police authorities can therefore expel a person from their home and the immediately adjacent area at short notice until a court decision on civil law protection options under the GewSchG has been made. As a rule, such a court decision should be made after 10 to 14 days; in any case, the police measure ends on the day of the decision.

In addition to the expulsion from the home pursuant to Section 31 (2) HSOG, measures are often taken in practice to provide additional protection to victims of domestic violence.

The expulsion order or the restraining order and the expulsion from the premises can be enforced by means of direct coercion. Those affected can also obtain a decision under the GewSchG even if no criminal complaint has been filed. The GewSchG improves the civil law protection of victims of violence in particular and creates a clear legal basis for protection orders by the family court in cases of unlawful and intentional injury to a person's body, health or freedom, as well as in cases of sexual assault. Violations of decisions and obligations arising from settlements are
punishable under the GewSchG.

However, the criminal provision only applies if there is a violation of a court protection order pursuant to Section 1 GewSchG and does not apply to police orders pursuant to Sections 31, 11 HSOG.

Further measures to protect women against violence are implemented in risk management. Depending on the assessment of the risk based on a structured evaluation process, the following measures, for example, can be implemented as accompanying measures:

- Addressing the perpetrator
- Electronic monitoring of whereabouts with restricted areas or according to the Spanish model
- Police behavioural counselling for those affected and referral to an intervention centre
- Police protective measures
- Operational victim protection measures, if necessary
- - Temporary detention under certain conditions

2. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

In terms of police law, legislative measures have been taken in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania as part of the ongoing amendment of the Act on Public Safety and Order in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (Security and Order Act of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania) to introduce the legal framework for ordering emergency restraining orders. The legislative process has begun and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The amendment contains provisions on the topics covered by sub-questions a, b and d.

Re a)

Under the new law, the protective measure of expulsion from the home is to be imposed for a period of up to 14 days with the option of extending it by 10 days. A further extension of 10 days is possible if civil law protective measures have been applied for. This further extension is intended to avoid gaps in protection between the end of police measures and the start of civil law protective measures.

Re b)

Under the proposed law, in cases of domestic violence, the police are to inform the person at risk of the possibility of applying for civil protection under the Protection Against Violence Act.

Re c)

Since the current version of the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Security and Public Order Act already refers to a danger to the life, limb and freedom of residents of the same dwelling (persons at risk), children living in the household are also covered by the police protection measures.

Re d)

A restraining order is provided for in the current amendment to the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Security and Public Order Act. The police can only issue this for a limited period (in accordance with the above-mentioned expulsion from the home). Exceptions are

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3. Saxony

On the part of the policeis that that the measures are Saxon Police Enforcement Service Act (SächsPVDG) and can be carried out in accordance with questions a) to
d) in the assessment of the respective individual case.

With regard to the justice sector, reference is made to the explanations under VI.C. and D. "Issuing of emergency protection orders" and "Contact and proximity bans or protection orders" (from p. 58) of the State Report for Germany.

4. Saxony-Anhalt on

a)

Under Section 36(3) of the Saxony-Anhalt Public Order Act (SOG LSA), persons may be expelled from their home for up to 14 days in order to obtain a restraining order against them. The aim of this measure is to avert a danger currently posed by this person to the life, limb or freedom of residents of the same home. With regard to the planned amendment, please refer to the answer to question 1 (p. 5).

Regarding b)

The police victim protection officers point out the existing possibilities for applying for contact and restraining orders under the Protection Against Violence Act.

5. Thuringia on

a)

The Thuringian Police Tasks Act (PAG §18) regulates the legal basis for expulsion and restraining orders, and this remained valid during the reporting period. This also includes the involvement of intervention agencies to advise the victim. The intervention agencies provide support in the form of extended hazard prevention measures, including assistance with applying for legal protection from the family court.

Re b)

Intervention centres for victims of domestic violence and stalking, providing proactive counselling after police intervention, are available throughout Thuringia. They are designated as special counselling centres in PAG § 18 and advise victims on their options for protection, including applying for further protective measures such as restraining orders and housing allocation. The intervention centres are set up by the Ministry for Women
at NGOs with which the police cooperate.

6. Lower Saxony on

a)

No changes to the existing legislative measures were made during the survey period, nor are any necessary according to our assessment.

Re b)

The website of the Lower Saxony Justice Portal contains an "information sheet on protection against violence" which explains how to apply to the family court for protection against violence.

7. Rhineland-

Palatinate Re a)

Since 2004, the Police and Public Order Act (POG) has contained a provision expressly authorising the police to issue a restraining order, inter alia, to protect a person from domestic violence (Section 13(2) POG). The restraining order must be limited in time. In addition, Section 13 (4) POG authorises the police to issue temporary restraining orders and proximity bans. The time limit must be set in such a way that the person at risk is given sufficient opportunity to
obtain legal protection in civil court.

[230] https://justizportal.niedersachsen.de/download/186934

zu b)

Unlike in other countries, the POG does not expressly regulate the duty to provide support and advice. In principle, it can be assumed that the legal framework for police operations is exhausted. Accordingly, the person concerned is informed that the police measures can only be imposed for a limited period of time and that, for permanent protection, an order must be obtained from the court under the Protection Against Violence Act.

Regarding c)

Contact and proximity bans issued by the police pursuant to Section 13 (4) POG refer to "persons affected" by domestic violence. This may also include children.

d)

Exceptions to the restraining order may be made if this is necessary to protect legitimate interests.

8. North Rhine-Westphalia

In addition to the provisions of the Protection Against Violence Act (GewSchG) and the Act on Proceedings in Family Matters and in Matters of Non-contentious Jurisdiction (FamFG), the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia is ensured by Section 34a of the Police Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (PolG NRW). Section 34a was added to the PolG NRW on 1 January 2002 by the Act Amending the Police Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia of 18 December 2001 (GV. NRW. 870). Measures under Section 34a PolG NRW serve to protect persons at risk, as legal protection by the ordinary courts is often too late or not sought at all (cf. BeckOK PolR NRW/ Ogorek/ Traub PolG NRW Section 34a marginal number 1). Pursuant to Section 34a (1) sentence 1 PolG NRW, the police may expel a person from a dwelling in which the endangered person lives, as well as from its immediate surroundings, in order to avert a present danger to the life, limb or freedom of another person, and prohibit that person from returning to this area.

Re a)

According to Section 34a (5) sentence 1 PolG NRW, eviction orders and restraining orders expire at the end of the tenth day after they have been issued, unless the police determine a shorter period of validity in exceptional cases. The measures under Section 34a PolG take effect at a time when judicial measures under Section 1 GewSchG have not yet been obtained, thus closing a gap in protection. If, during the period of the measure ordered in accordance with sentence 1, the person at risk applies for civil law protection with the aim of obtaining a temporary injunction, the expulsion from the home and the prohibition on returning shall end on the day of the court decision, but no later than the end of the tenth day after the end of the measures ordered in accordance with sentence 1. Overall, the police return prohibition can thus last for a maximum of 20 days. The legislature assumed that it should generally be possible for the court to decide on applications for interim orders in cases of protection against violence within ten days, so that no gaps in protection arise.

The police's emergency protection orders include a return ban for 10 days and the possibility of extending it for a further 10 days if an application for protection against violence is filed with the court (Section 34a of the North Rhine-Westphalia Police Act – PolG NW). The court's interim orders are issued promptly within the framework of the Civil Protection Against Violence and Stalking Act (GewSchG) in interim legal protection and main proceedings. Already in the last report in 2020, no gaps in protection were apparent with regard to the time frames in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Re b)

According to Section 34a (4) PolG NRW, the police must inform the person at risk of the possibility of applying for civil law protection, inform them about counselling services, recommend and offer them access to suitable counselling services qualified for the task, and enable contact by the counselling services specified in the police operation documentation by passing on their name, address and telephone number. Proactive counselling in accordance with Section 34a PolG NRW is therefore an integral part of the chain of intervention in cases of domestic violence and ensures the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

Support and counselling services are not offered proactively by the judiciary.

Re c)

If the perpetrator is not the child's biological parent, the restraining order under the Protection Against Violence Act can also be imposed on the children if the conditions of Section 1 GewSchG are met. The Protection Against Violence Act does not apply to biological parents in relation to minor children (Section 3 GewSchG). A restraining order can only be imposed via access rights and must be applied for separately (Section 1684 BGB).

Re d)

In particularly justified individual cases, the expulsion from the home and the prohibition on returning may be limited to living quarters and ancillary rooms (Section 34a (1) sentence 3 PolG NRW). This may be conceivable in cases where the home contains work, business or commercial premises in which the person subject to the measure pursues their profession and on the use of which they depend for their economic livelihood – also in the interests of the person at risk. If the person at risk is a minor and no other persons who can take care of the person at risk live in the home apart from the person subject to the measure, the police must ensure that the competent authorities (e.g. the youth welfare office) intervene and accommodate and care for the person at risk in a suitable public institution. Section 34a PolG NRW does not provide for any further actual exceptions to the contact ban.

Exceptions are made if this is necessary to protect the legitimate interests of the perpetrator (Section 1 (1) sentence 2 GewSchG), e.g. joint court hearings to which the perpetrator and victim are summoned, joint counselling appointments at the youth welfare office or in the context of ongoing contact arrangements regarding a joint child.
child.

9. Saarland

The provisions on expulsion from the home, return bans, residence bans, contact bans and residence orders are enshrined in the Saarland Police Act (SPolG).

Re a)

According to Section 12 SPolG, a residence ban ends at the end of the tenth day after it has been imposed, unless a shorter period is specified in individual cases. If an application for civil law protection is made, the measure can be extended by ten days.

Re b)

The "Guidelines for the police handling of cases of domestic violence" also regulate cooperation with support organisations. According to these guidelines, the police are required to inform the victim about the services offered by the counselling and intervention centre for victims of domestic violence. With the consent of the person concerned, the intervention centre must be informed immediately so that it can fulfil its mandate.

Re c)

No, children are not explicitly mentioned. However, the wording of the law is sufficiently open:

"In order to avert a danger to the life, limb or freedom of a person (note: including children), the law enforcement police may prohibit a person from seeking or establishing contact with a specific person or members of a specific group (restraining order)..."

Re d)

Exceptions are not regulated.

10. Brandenburg

According to Sections 49 et seq. FamFG, the court can make decisions by means of an interim order upon application. Pursuant to Section 56 (1) FamFG, unless the court has determined an earlier date, the temporary injunction shall cease to have effect when another regulation comes into force.

A restraining order can already be ordered by the court under the conditions of Section 1 (1) GewSchG.

The Act on the Prevention of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence of 5 March 2024 made changes to the Brandenburg Police Act in particular. For example, removal periods were extended and contact restrictions were newly introduced.

The ban from the home, the ban on returning home and the ban on contact and proximity generally end two weeks after they are issued. The police may stipulate a shorter period of validity in individual cases. A one-off extension of the period by up to two weeks is permitted, provided the conditions for the order continue to apply. If the person affected by domestic violence files an application for civil law protection against violence or stalking with the aim of issuing a temporary injunction, the measures end on the day of the court decision, but no later than two weeks after the expiry of the aforementioned period (Sections 16a (5), 16b sentence 2 BbgPolG).

Women who are victims of domestic violence are informed of their rights by the Brandenburg police. Specially trained police officers are deployed (so-called victim protection officers). The most important offers of help are summarised on a "leaflet for victims of domestic violence". The Brandenburg police inform victims of domestic violence about the possibility of applying for protection under civil law at. The police must also inform victims of domestic violence of the possibility of seeking advice from women's advice centres/victim support facilities in the state of Brandenburg.

The children of the person at risk can also be covered by a ban on contact and proximity pursuant to Section 16b BbgPolG in order to protect against domestic violence (BeckOK PolR Bbg/Hofrichter/Dingelstadt, 6th ed. 1.4.2025, BbgPolG Section 16b marginal no. 20).

In addition, the BbgKJG came into force on 1 August 2024 with mandatory protection concepts in accordance with Sections 26 and 27 BbgKJG.

- Section 26 BbgKJG obliges youth welfare organisations to develop protection concepts against violence
- Section 27 BbgKJG requires risk analyses, protective measures and training

In order to safeguard legitimate interests, the person concerned (the person from whom the violence originates) can contact the police and request permission for an exception to the ban on contact and proximity. If contact is absolutely necessary to protect the absolute rights of the addressee, the police will be present when contact is made (BeckOK PolR Bbg/Hofrichter/Dingelstadt, 6th ed. 1.4.2025, BbgPolG § 16b Rn.)

52. Please provide information on the measures taken to enforce emergency orders and on the responses to violations of such orders.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saarland, Berlin, Brandenburg

FA: Schleswig-Holstein, Bremen (reference question 7, p. 64), Baden-Württemberg

1. Hamburg

Under the relevant administrative regulations[231], the Hamburg police have the power to issue and effectively enforce restraining orders, including return bans, contact and proximity bans, and residence bans. These powers are exercised on a case-by-case basis when the relevant conditions are met. No statistics are kept.

Victims of violence can also apply for court protection orders and sole allocation of accommodation on their own initiative.

The proactive approach to intervening in cases of domestic violence, which has been practised for many years, and the very comprehensive provision of information by the police ensure that victims of violence who are assisted by the police are informed at an early stage and in a language they can understand.

2. Hesse

The enforcement of measures under the Protection Against Violence Act is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure. Both bailiff enforcement pursuant to Section 96 (1) sentences 1 and 2 FamFG and, where applicable, enforcement with coercive measures pursuant to Section 890 ZPO via Section 96 (1) sentence 3 FamFG or Section 95 (1) no. 4 FamFG. In addition, violations of the measures pursuant to Section 4 GewSchG are punishable by law.

See also the answer to question 51, p. 375.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

As a first measure to protect the victim, the perpetrator is expelled from the shared home and issued with an expulsion order and a restraining order. If the perpetrator fails to comply with this order, coercive measures may be used against him in accordance with the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Security and Public Order Act Vorpommern, coercive measures may be used against him.

4. Saxony

Once again, the regulations are part of the Saxony PVDG. In addition, reference is made to the explanations under VI.C. and D. "Issuing of emergency protection orders" and "Restraining orders and prohibition of contact or protection orders" (in particular p. 60 and 61 f.) of the country report for Germany.

5. Saxony-Anhalt

If the police become aware of violations of orders under the Protection Against Violence Act, all necessary measures to avert danger and criminal proceedings will be initiated on a case-by-case basis. measures necessary in the individual case.

6. Thuringia

Emergency protection orders within the meaning of Article 52 of the Istanbul Convention include, in particular, the issuance of a restraining order, an eviction order for up to ten days, and a contact and proximity ban lasting several days by the Thuringian police. If people violate emergency protection orders issued against them, further police measures to avert danger, including detention. The relevant provisions are

[231] https://www.landesrecht-hamburg.de/bsha/document/jlr-SOGHAV10P12b

is the reporting of violations to the police by the injured parties or third parties.

For the Thuringian judiciary, reference is first made to the First GREVIO State Report of the Federal Republic of Germany 2020 – see VI. C. pp. 58-60. The existing legal framework (GewSchG and FamFG) aims to ensure the swift issuance and simplified enforcement of family court protection orders against violence. In order to improve effectiveness, reforms are under discussion, including an expansion of electronic residence monitoring and a further increase in the penalties for
violations (= federal law). Furthermore, the effectiveness of family court protection orders against violence also depends significantly on the support system for the victims concerned.

7. Bavaria

Regardless of the victim's decision to file an application under the Protection Against Violence Act, the perpetrator/disturber may be temporarily expelled by the police from the shared home and/or certain places of residence of the victim in accordance with Art. 16 (1) PAG if this is necessary to avert a danger (Art. 16 (1) sentence 1 no. 1 PAG) or an imminent danger to an important legal interest (Art. 16 (1) sentence 1 no. 2 in conjunction with Art. 11a (2) PAG).

In such cases, pursuant to Art. 23 (1) sentence 1 no. 3 PAG, the police may enter and search the home without the owner's consent in order to avert an urgent danger to an important legal interest.

The duration of the expulsion must be temporary. This means that the order must be limited in time and may only last until the purpose of the expulsion, namely averting danger, has been achieved. It may therefore not exceed the period of time required to obtain a civil court protection order. Within this time frame
, the police's power to expel someone from a location may also cover a period of several days or weeks.

8. Lower Saxony

Orders under the GewSchG regularly result in so-called emergency orders. If court orders under the GewSchG are violated, criminal proceedings are initiated and processed. In this context, measures under hazard prevention law or criminal procedure law may be taken. The measures to be taken always depend on the individual case and are based on an individual risk assessment. Violations of a protection order under the GewSchG are reported as soon as they become known and the perpetrator can, for example, be taken into preventive custody. In the event of repeated violations, long-term custody can be requested. The decision in this regard is the responsibility of the competent judge. A fundamental change to the previous measures
has not taken place during the survey period.

9. Rhineland-Palatinate

According to Section 115 (3) sentence 1 POG, anyone who intentionally or negligently violates an enforceable expulsion order pursuant to Section 13 (2) POG, an enforceable return prohibition pursuant to Section 13 (4) No. 1 POG or an enforceable restraining order pursuant to Section 13 (4) No. 3 POG. The administrative offence can be punished with a fine of up to 3,000 euros.

In addition, the police may take a person into custody if this is essential to prevent the imminent commission or continuation of a criminal offence or an administrative offence of considerable significance (Section 14 (1) No. 2 POG). Section 32a (1) No. 4 POG also provides for the possibility of electronically monitoring the whereabouts of the
responsible person electronically.

10. North Rhine-Westphalia

Measures in the event of non-compliance with the return ban:

- Renewed expulsion from the residence
- Imposition of the penalty already threatened and, in addition, the threat of an increased penalty payment
- Examination of the conditions for detention in accordance with Section 35 (1) PolG NRW.

According to Section 4 GewSchG, a prison sentence of up to two years or a fine may be imposed for violation of the orders under Section 1 GewSchG. In addition, in the event of a violation, the family court has the option of imposing coercive measures such as a fine or coercive detention in accordance with Sections 890, 891 of the Code of Civil Procedure (ZPO).

In addition, in May 2025, the state of North Rhine-Westphalia introduced a bill in the Bundesrat that would make it possible in future to remand the dangerous person in custody pursuant to Section 112a of the Code of Criminal Procedure in the event of repeated or serious offences, if certain facts give rise to the risk that the suspect will commit further significant violations of the judicial order before a final judgement is handed down by a criminal court
order.

11. Saarland

With the amendment of Section 38 of the Saarland Act on the Processing of Personal Data by the Police (SPolDVG) of 27 March 2025, the legislature has expanded the framework for electronic residence monitoring for the purpose of averting danger. The measure also serves to monitor expulsion orders, return bans, residence bans, contact bans and residence orders under the Saarland Police Act.

"Anyone who contravenes a court order and thereby prevents the enforcement police from continuously determining his or her whereabouts shall be punished with imprisonment of up to two years or a fine."

Further measures to avert danger in the event of any violations of the residence ban or similar include, for example, a warning to the person concerned or detention.

12. Berlin

In the event of violations of protection orders, the Berlin police will initiate criminal investigations and, after reviewing the individual case, may order further criminal proceedings and/or hazard prevention measures to protect those affected
. These may include, for example, a warning to the perpetrator or a reporting requirement.

13. Brandenburg

Measures were taken to enforce emergency orders, such as bans on returning home, bans on contact and proximity bans. The police headquarters does not keep statistics on reactions to violations of such orders.

Article 53: Contact and proximity bans and protection orders

53. Have legislative or other measures been taken to introduce and/or amend the legal framework for interim orders and protection orders in order to bring it into line with the requirements of Article 53? If so, please indicate whether:

a. Interim measures or protection orders can be requested – in criminal proceedings and/or at the request of civil courts – by women who are victims of all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention.

violence, including domestic violence, stalking, sexual harassment, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, honour-related violence and digital forms of violence against women and girls;

b. the protection orders explicitly apply to children as well;

c. whether there are exceptions to the restraining order and under what circumstances.

Contributions: Hesse, Schleswig-Holstein, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony (reference to 2020 country report), Bremen, Saarland

1. Hesse

According to Section 1 (1) of the Protection Against Violence Act (GewSchG), protective measures may be requested from the court if a person intentionally and unlawfully violates the body, health, freedom or sexual self-determination of another person (including children). It is at the discretion of the judge to decide whether and to what extent exceptions to contact bans are provided for.

The Istanbul Convention obliges Germany at all levels of government to do everything in its power to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence and to offer protection and support to those affected. State protection instruments include orders under police law as well as court orders under the GewSchG. Both regulatory regimes provide for measures to keep perpetrators at a distance, such as expulsion from the home or restraining orders.

Victim protection was improved at the end of 2024 with the latest amendment to the HSOG of 13 December 2024 (GVBl. No. 83), and the scope of application of electronic residence monitoring (EAÜ) was extended to cases of domestic violence. According to Section 31a (1) sentence 1 no. 3 HSOG, EAÜ is now also permissible against persons who are responsible for a sufficiently concrete danger to the life, limb, freedom and sexual self-determination of a person. The new regulation provides the police in Hesse with an additional tool in high-risk cases of domestic violence to monitor perpetrators, restrict their options for action through surveillance pressure and prevent them from committing the aforementioned offences. In addition, a person whose whereabouts may be monitored electronically may also be prohibited, pursuant to Section 31a (2) sentence 1 HSOG, from being in certain places that may provide them with the opportunity or incentive to commit offences, as well as from contacting certain persons.

Furthermore, with the new provision in Section 31a (5) sentence 4 HSOG, Hesse has created the legal basis for the so-called two-component model, enabling the introduction of the new generation of electronic tags last year. This model is characterised by the fact that it is not only the offender's location data that is processed by a technical device carried by the offender, but also that the endangered person is equipped with a (non-fixed) technical device with their consent. This means that the location data of the person at risk can also be processed and compared, enabling the contact and proximity bans ordered for their protection to be monitored by means of
electronic location monitoring.

2. Schleswig-Holstein

With the entry into force of the amended LVwG on 19 March 2021, numerous provisions of the Schleswig-Holstein Police Act have been fundamentally revised or supplemented by new police instruments/measures to ensure more effective hazard prevention.

A major focus of this amendment was the optimisation of victim protection. In

this context, Sections 201 and 201a of the Administrative Court Act (LVwG) in particular were reformed.

In this context, the legislature has thus created or revised the following longer-term measures:

- the residence ban pursuant to Section 201(2) LVwG,
- the residence requirement pursuant to Section 201(3) LVwG,
- the reporting requirement pursuant to Section 201(6) LVwG,
- the expulsion from the residence pursuant to Section 201a LVwG,
- the prohibition on contact and approaching pursuant to Section 201a LVwG.

The revision of Section 201 (2), (3) and (6) of the Administrative Court Act (LVwG) supplements the existing power to issue a residence ban with the possibility of ordering a residence requirement or a registration requirement. These new instruments complete the administrative powers to issue residence restrictions and serve, among other things, to protect potential victims from violence.

Domestic violence, i.e. violence within the immediate social environment of families, cohabiting couples and shared accommodation, primarily affects women and children as victims. The state has a constitutional duty to protect human life and health. For this reason, violence in the domestic environment is condemned and sanctioned as wrongdoing in the same way as violence in public spaces. With the Protection Against Violence Act of
11 December 2001 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 3513) has created civil law protection options. The protection orders issued by the family courts are punishable by law in accordance with Section 4 of the Protection Against Violence Act. However, even in summary proceedings, judicial protection cannot be obtained immediately after an act of domestic violence. For this reason, the above-mentioned preliminary and temporary measures to protect the victim on the basis of police law have been necessary. For about four years now, the state police of Schleswig-Holstein have been making increased use of restraining orders and proximity bans. The details of the respective
order must be determined and specified in each individual case, taking into account the respective situation and exercising due discretion.

3. Rhineland-Palatinate

The Protection Against Violence Act (GewSchG), the Violence Assistance Act (GewHG) and the Police and Public Order Act RLP (POG), legal regulations are in place to ensure that appropriate contact and proximity bans and protection orders can be issued for victims of all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention. Within this framework, women who have been victims of domestic violence, stalking or sexual harassment are particularly enabled to apply for interim injunctions or protection orders. Furthermore, the provisions are formulated in such an open manner that
any protection orders also apply to children. Exceptions to a restraining order may be ordered on a case-by-case basis.

4. North Rhine-Westphalia

Yes. According to Section 1 of the GewschG, women can obtain protection orders if their body, health, freedom or sexual self-determination is unlawfully violated or if they are threatened with a violation of the aforementioned legal interests or with the violation of their life. In addition, protection orders can be obtained under the Protection Against Violence Act if a victim is harassed by stalking. Economic violence is not covered by the scope of protection under the Protection Against Violence Act. In addition, there is no protective effect if the perpetrator is not criminally responsible, unless they have brought about their own incapacity, Section 1 (3) GewSchG. If the incapacity is due to acute mental illness, it is possible to file a report with the regulatory authorities
to have temporary placement under the PsychKG (Psychiatric Care Act) examined on the grounds of danger to others.

Insofar as economic violence, digital violence or psychological violence are not covered by the scope of the Protection Against Violence Act, victims may, under certain conditions, initiate civil injunction proceedings in accordance with Sections 823 and 1004 of the German Civil Code (BGB). In order to improve the enforcement of claims in cases of digital violence, the last federal government presented a draft bill against digital violence, which has not yet been passed.

Re b)

For children, the protective orders under the Protection Against Violence Act only apply if the perpetrator is not the child's biological parent. Otherwise, proceedings for custody or access rights must be conducted, which can also be conducted ex officio in accordance with Sections 1666 and 1666a of the German Civil Code (BGB).

Re c)

Please refer to the answer to question 51 (contact and proximity ban within the framework of Section 34a PolG NRW) and 51 d.) (p. 378).

5. Berlin

re a)

Measures within the meaning of the question are possible for the police under hazard prevention law, usually in the form of an expulsion order and a restraining order pursuant to Section 29a ASOG.

Interim protective orders may be issued by the courts upon request if a person intentionally and unlawfully violates the body, health, freedom or sexual self-determination of another person, or unlawfully threatens another person with injury to life, body, health, freedom or sexual self-determination, or unlawfully and intentionally enters another person's home or peaceful property, or unreasonably harasses another person by repeatedly stalking them against their expressly stated will or pursuing them using means of remote communication. The forms of violence listed in the Istanbul Convention are therefore essentially covered by Section 1 of the GewSchG. Committing an act of violence to preserve so-called "honour" does not constitute a justification. With regard to "digital manifestations of violence", it depends on whether the specific case can be subsumed under the conditions set out in Section 1 of the GewSchG.

Re b)

Restraining orders can also be issued against children, either under the Protection Against Violence Act if the order is not to be issued against a custodial parent, or as a child protection measure under Section 1666 of the Civil Code (BGB) against both custodial parents and third parties. In Berlin, this is regularly done by the family courts.

Re c)

Exceptions to the prohibition of contact exist under the statutory provisions of the Protection Against Violence Act if contact is necessary to protect legitimate interests. In family court practice in Berlin, an exception to the contact ban for the purpose of exercising access rights is sometimes included in the decision on the basis of a court-ordered access arrangement. This is intended to take account of access rights, but at the same time to make it clear to the respondent that contact for the purpose of exercising access rights to the children does not constitute a general exception to the
contact ban, but is only permitted on the basis of a court order after the court has weighed up the interests involved.

6. Baden-Württemberg

Re a)

The legal basis for civil protection orders in Germany is the Protection Against Violence Act (GewSchG), which has not been amended since the first GREVIO baseline evaluation report in 2022. On the basis of Section 1 GewSchG (in conjunction with Section 1004 BGB), family courts may, upon application, issue orders to protect persons affected by violence.

Re b)

With regard to children, the scope of application is limited to third parties. In relation to one's own parents, appropriate protective measures may be justified under the provisions on custody and access rights (Sections 1666, 1684(4) of the German Civil Code (BGB)).

Re c)

Some provisions (Section 1 (1) sentence 3, (2) sentence 2 GewSchG) provide for exceptions to contact bans if the actions are necessary to protect legitimate interests. These exceptions are regulated by law and are subject to the principle
of proportionality.

7. Brandenburg

Yes, see also question 51 (p. 380). All forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention are punishable by law in Germany. Victims of violence have the opportunity to seek judicial protection.

Exceptions to contact bans are possible (case-by-case decision).

54. Please provide information on the measures taken to enforce protection orders and on the responses to violations of such orders.

Contributions: Hesse, Thuringia, Bavaria, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt (see question 52, p. 381), Schleswig-Holstein (see question 53, p. 384), Lower Saxony (see question 52, p. 382), Bremen, Saarland

1. Hesse

The enforcement options described in question 52 (p. 381) are available both in the context of interim injunctions and in decisions on the merits of the case. In this respect, no strict distinction is made between
"urgent orders" and "protective orders".

See answer to question 53, p. 384.

2. Thuringia

Protective orders within the meaning of Article 53 of the Istanbul Convention are the measures laid down in the Protection Against Violence Act. The family courts inform the competent police stations of any orders issued in this regard. A violation of these orders is punishable under Section 4 of the Protection Against Violence Act. If the police become aware of this
, they will initiate appropriate investigations and take the necessary measures to avert danger.

3. Bavaria

Since an expulsion from the home does not prevent the perpetrator/disturber from meeting the victim outside the home and thus further endangering them
Depending on the circumstances, it may also be possible to impose a restraining order pursuant to Section 16(2)(1) of the German Protection Against Violence Act (PAG).

1 PAG. In such cases, the perpetrator/disturber may be prohibited from contacting the victim and any children who may be affected or at risk. This applies to personal contact as well as any other form of contact (e.g. by telephone, letter, fax, e-mail, text message, etc.), as the perpetrator/disturber also has the opportunity to influence the victim in this way.

If there is a threat of a criminal offence being committed, Art. 16 (2) No. 2 PAG also provides for the possibility of prohibiting the perpetrator/disturber from going to certain places or a certain area (residence ban) or from leaving their place of residence or a certain area (residence requirement).

Cases of violence against women/domestic violence that have come to the attention of the police and are relevant under criminal law are recorded in the Police Crime Statistics (PKS) according to uniform federal criteria. In addition, the Bavarian police record further parameters in cases of domestic violence (e.g. police measures taken) on the basis of the Bavarian police's police case management system (IGVP). This system is based on a dynamic database. Evaluations and analyses therefore only reflect the current status of the data at the time of the query, which may change continuously for retroactive periods due to ongoing investigations and quality assurance measures.

It should also be noted that the number of police measures recorded in connection with domestic violence is only a rough guide, as it cannot be ruled out that standard police measures in particular are often not fully recorded in the IGVP. It should also be borne in mind that, depending on the number of people involved, several identical and/or different measures may be recorded in a single case. In principle, all measures taken and recorded against both suspects and victims are counted. So-called evictions from the home or restraining orders/return bans are regularly recorded as so-called expulsion orders. Furthermore, it is important to note that due to the different data bases, these data cannot be compared with figures from the PKS.

2022: 5,459 expulsion orders, 6,188 restraining orders, 1,847 residence bans

2023: 5,473 expulsion orders, 6,450 restraining orders, 2,090 residence bans

The figures for 2024 are not yet available. In summary, expulsion orders and restraining orders in particular are standard police measures regularly used in connection with cases of domestic violence.

4. Rhineland-Palatinate

With regard to the possibilities of police protection orders, such as issuing a restraining order, reference is made to the comments made at the time on the GREVIO baseline evaluation report in 2020, in which the police options were already explained and presented.

Violations of protection orders under the GewSchG are punishable by law. In order to ensure the effective enforcement of orders under the GewSchG, the possibility of electronic monitoring of whereabouts is also to be created in this law in future. In addition, the POG Rhineland-Palatinate already provides for the possibility of electronic monitoring of whereabouts in cases of domestic violence, in addition to detention. Experience with
potentially more effective enforcement of protection orders with regard to electronic monitoring of whereabouts is not yet available.

5. North Rhine-Westphalia

In answering this question, I assume that temporary orders under
The measures taken by the North Rhine-Westphalia police in this regard are set out in the circular "Police action in cases of domestic violence" issued by the Ministry of the Interior –

426-22.62.03.06 VS-NfD dated 16 February 2024: If the violent person violates the conditions of a temporary injunction under the GewSchG, the police officers on duty shall file a criminal complaint on suspicion of violation pursuant to Section 4 GewSchG and inform the victim of the possibility of applying to the family court for the imposition of coercive measures. In addition, the conditions for further police measures must be examined:

- Addressing the perpetrator
- Addressing the endangered person
- Detention pursuant to Section 35 (1) PolG NRW
- Longer-term detention pursuant to Sections 35 (1) in conjunction with 38 (2) PolG NRW
- Search of persons and property pursuant to Sections 39 et seq. PolG NRW (e.g. to find dangerous objects, apartment keys or spare keys belonging to the perpetrator)
- Entering and searching homes in accordance with Section 41(1) of the Police Act of North Rhine-Westphalia
- Seizure pursuant to Section 43 PolG NRW (in particular of dangerous objects and apartment keys)
- Seizure and confiscation of evidence (e.g. instruments of crime) in accordance with Section 94 ff. stopp
- Any alerts for the prevention of danger (search limited to North Rhine-Westphalia with regard to the return ban in the ViVA case processing system)

Operational victim protection measures pursuant to Section 8 PolG NRW (general clause). Operational victim protection makes it possible to provide comprehensive and sustainable protection for persons at risk in exceptional danger situations using measures similar to those used in witness protection. In particular, unresolvable conflicts and dangerous situations within the immediate social environment, which have been preceded by massive impacts on the victims or make such impacts appear very likely, often cannot be countered with conventional measures of police protection of persons and property or victim protection. If, in addition, perpetrator-related measures are not suitable or appear sufficient to minimise the exceptional individual danger to those affected
, there is a need for further protection, which requires the use of witness protection-like measures within the framework of operational victim protection.

6. Berlin

In order to ensure rapid enforcement of the order, the court shall order the immediate effect of the interim order. In this case, the order shall take effect at the time when the decision is handed over to the court registry for notification. The court shall also notify the competent police station of the order. The order shall be served ex officio by the bailiff appointed by the court. At the request of the applicant, service may not take place before enforcement, so that the respondent is not aware of the proceedings before enforcement.

Penalties (fines or imprisonment) may be imposed for violations. However, civil enforcement requires prior service of the order and the threat of penalties, as well as a hearing of the respondent, and is therefore often cumbersome or unsuitable if the respondent has no fixed abode. A violation can also be punished under criminal law with up to two years' imprisonment. The criminal courts will then review whether the conditions for issuing an order under the Protection Against Violence Act were met.

See also the answer to question 52, p. 383.

7. Baden-Württemberg

Protective orders under the Protection Against Violence Act (GewSchG) are enforced through various civil and criminal law elements. In particular, a violation of orders under Section 1 GewSchG constitutes a criminal offence that is prosecuted ex officio as a public offence (Section 4 GewSchG). In addition, the content of the protection order is communicated to the police ex officio (Section 216a FamFG). Enforcement is effected by imposing
an administrative fine or administrative detention; in certain cases, a bailiff is called in.

8. Brandenburg

Measures were taken to enforce protection orders, such as evictions, bans on return and contact, and proximity bans. The police headquarters does not keep statistics on reactions to
violations of such orders.

Article 56: Protective measures

55. Please indicate what measures have been taken to ensure that:

- **a. that the competent authority informs the victim if the perpetrator flees or is temporarily released, at least if she or her family could be in danger (paragraph 1 b);**
- **b. the protection of the victim's privacy and image (paragraph 1 f);**
- **c. the possibility for victims to testify in court in absentia or at least in the absence of the alleged perpetrator, in particular through the use of appropriate communication technologies, where available (paragraph 1 i);**
- **d. the provision of appropriate support services for victims so that their rights and interests are duly presented and taken into account (paragraph 1 e).**

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

FA: Schleswig-Holstein, Bremen

1. Hamburg

on a)

If the perpetrators are prisoners or remand prisoners in Hamburg prisons, Section 12 (1) and (2) of the Hamburg Prison Data Protection Act allows such notification by the prison authorities at the request of the victim.

Re c)

The legal basis for such a procedure is provided by federal law. All courts in Hamburg have the technical capabilities to use the relevant communication technologies.

Re d)

In this regard, the Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection refers to the answer to question 46 (p. 354).

The police of Hamburg has its legal obligations to informing victims of violence about their rights and the support available to them in a

in understandable language by handing them the so-called victim information sheet [232] and an overview of victim support organisations and counselling centres [233] or making them available in another
.

2. Hesse on

a)

Section 406d (2) sentence 1 nos. 2 and 3 of the Code of Criminal Procedure regulate the authorities' duty to inform the injured party, inter alia, in the event of the interruption of measures depriving the accused or convicted person of their liberty and their escape. The injured party is informed of these rights to information, among other things, by the nationally standardised "Information sheet on the rights of injured parties and victims in criminal proceedings", which also contains the addresses of the victim counselling centres in Hesse and is enclosed with the witness summons. The injured party can also request the information sheet from the authorities. In addition, it is one of the tasks of the victim counselling centres in Hesse to inform the injured party about these information rights as part of their counselling services.

Re b)

There are various measures in place to protect the privacy and image of the victim. If, for example, the victim is questioned as a witness, the court may, pursuant to Section 171b (1) GVG, exclude the public in order to protect the privacy of the person making the statement, for example if intimate details of family life are involved. The exclusion of the public may be requested by the person making the statement. Section 169 (1) sentence 2 GVG also prohibits television broadcasts and audio and film recordings for the purpose of public screening or publication of their content during the main hearing. However, for the periods before the start and after the end of the hearing, as well as during breaks in the proceedings, further restrictions may be imposed to protect the victim's personal rights, such as pixelation, within the framework of hearing police orders pursuant to Section 176 GVG or within the framework of domestic authority.

Re c)

Pursuant to Section 247 (1) and (2) GVG, the court may order the removal of the defendant from the courtroom during the examination of the witness if there is reason to fear that the witness will not tell the truth during his or her examination in the presence of the defendant, or if there is an urgent risk of serious harm to the witness's health in the presence of the defendant. If there is an imminent danger of serious harm to the welfare of the witness if he or she is examined in the presence of those present at the main hearing, the court may also order an audiovisual examination of the witness in accordance with Section 247a GVG.

In order to avoid multiple interrogations or at least reduce their number, Section 58a (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure allows audio-visual recordings to be made of interrogations of witnesses by judges, public prosecutors and the police. If a judicial interrogation is conducted, the repeat interrogation in the main hearing can even be replaced by the presentation of the audio-visual recording, for example in the case of sexual offences. The court decides on the replacement. The audio-visual recording systems are high-quality mobile IP video conferencing systems, some of which are equipped with a recording device for the purpose of substitute questioning.

It should also be noted that the victim counselling centres in Hesse, as part of their

232
https://www.bmj.de/SharedDocs/Publikationen/DE/Broschueren/Merkblatt_fuer_Opfer_einer_Straftat.html?nn=110568
233 https://www.polizei.hamburg/resource/blob/791614/ef6ec461b97e1355fc18ac9e9a0672cd/uebersicht-opferhilfeeinrichtungen-do-data.pdf

Counselling services also inform victims of crime about the criminal proceedings and offer them personal support at court.

Re d)

Hesse provides a nationwide network of victim counselling centres that is exemplary and comprehensive, through which victims and witnesses of crime, as well as those indirectly affected, can receive free counselling. In particular, victims of domestic and sexual violence can turn to the victim counselling centres in Hesse. The counselling, which is provided by specialised social workers who undergo continuous training, is geared to the real needs of those affected. On the initiative of the Hesse Ministry of Justice and the Rule of Law, victim support associations were founded in Hanau (1984), Wiesbaden (1992), Kassel (1993), Giessen (1994), Frankfurt/Main (2001), Fulda (2017) and Darmstadt (2017), with the Ministry of Justice being a founding member in each case. In Limburg-Weilburg (Opferhilfe Limburg-Weilburg, founded in 1996), it was possible to establish cooperation with an existing association. Support is provided regardless of the offence in question and whether the victims have filed a complaint. The victim support associations receive funding from the justice budget, but also raise funds themselves from probation and
conditions of probation. The 2025 justice budget allocates €1,560,200 in funding to victim counselling centres.

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

on a)

Due to data protection regulations, no statement can be made on this matter from the perspective of the competent police authorities in the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

Regarding c)

It is possible to request a judicial video examination at an early stage of the preliminary investigation, which can then be introduced as a substitute for an examination in the main hearing in accordance with Sections 58a and 255 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. It is also possible to remove the defendant from the courtroom in accordance with Section 247 StPO if, during the examination of a person under the age of 18, there is a risk of serious harm to their health and/or a risk that the witness will not tell the truth in the presence of the defendant. It is also possible to conduct an audiovisual examination in criminal proceedings in accordance with Section 247a StPO if, for example, there is a risk of serious harm to the welfare of the witness. This involves a spatially separate but simultaneous examination of the victim by means of image and sound transmission to the courtroom.

Re d)

Victims receive support through the possibility of appointing legal counsel in accordance with Section 397a of the Code of Criminal Procedure. In the event of certain offences, such as rape, the victim is appointed a lawyer to act as legal counsel. Under Section 406g of the Code of Criminal Procedure, victims of a criminal offence can also avail themselves of the assistance of a psychosocial support person who accompanies the victim during interrogations and the main hearing, for example. In the case of a catalogue offence within the meaning of Section 395 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the victim can also join the public prosecution as a joint plaintiff, which leads to further
rights in the criminal proceedings against the defendant pursuant to Section 397 StPO. In addition, victims are informed about victim protection programmes when the report is taken.

4. Saxony

To ensure that a sufficient number of qualified psychosocial trial support services are available throughout Saxony, the State Ministry of Justice promotes a part-time certificate course. The recognised course, which
consists of 16 modules and can accommodate twelve participants. It began in November 2024

and will end in June 2025. There are no participation fees.

Only federal legal regulations are considered as legislative measures (e.g. separate hearing of the parents to protect the parent affected by violence in accordance with Section 33 (1) sentence 2 FamFG on question 55 c. or the appointment of a guardian ad litem for children in accordance with Section 158 FamFG on question 55 d.). No other measures were taken.

The police act in an auxiliary capacity to the judiciary.

5. Saxony-Anhalt on

a)

If the police become aware of relevant safety-related information, all necessary measures to avert danger are taken immediately in each individual case.

Regarding d)

The state-funded protection and support system assists clients by accompanying them to court proceedings or helping them to claim benefits such as social assistance or housing benefit.

The Criminal Procedure Code, which applies uniformly throughout Germany, provides for special rights for victims in criminal proceedings in Sections 406d ff.

Victims are usually informed of their rights with the help of the victim information sheet provided by the federal government. The social services victim counselling service also offers numerous support options. These include psychosocial support in dealing with the authorities (courts, police, etc.) as well as assistance in
applying for benefits and financial assistance.

6. Thuringia on

a), b), c)

Questions a) – c) concern national legislation. The victim is informed about the status of the proceedings by the law enforcement authorities in accordance with Section 406d of the Code of Criminal Procedure (question a); the protection of the victim's privacy in criminal proceedings (question b) is ensured by the provisions on witness protection in the Code of Criminal Procedure, in particular Section 68 StPO (restrictions on information about the witness's identity during questioning), Section 68a StPO (restriction of the right to question for reasons of personal protection), Section 68b StPO (witness assistance). The possibility for the victim to testify in court in the absence of the defendant is provided for in Section 247 StPO (removal of the defendant during the examination of co-defendants and witnesses) and Section 247a StPO (order for the audiovisual examination of a witness who is in a different location). Support for victims in criminal proceedings (question d) is provided in particular by the offer of psychosocial support during the trial (Section 406g StPO). For further details on this, please refer to the answer to question 18.

Re b)

The Thuringian police protect victim data in accordance with applicable data protection regulations and prevent it from being disclosed to unauthorised persons. In addition, the Code of Criminal Procedure stipulates that

1. in special cases, the address details of victims can be protected from access by the accused at their request within the framework of criminal proceedings, and
2. questions regarding the highly personal sphere of the injured party may only be asked if they are relevant to the investigation of the facts.

Re c)

The Thuringian police support the use of audiovisual, judicial interrogations as part of the preliminary investigation in order to create the basis for the above-mentioned possibilities. The decision on the procedures to be followed during the main hearing is outside the jurisdiction of the police.

Re d)

Victims of crime are informed about the possibility of psychosocial support during the trial, bringing a civil action and regional victim support services when they report the crime or during police questioning. The Thuringian police also has six part-time victim protection officers
who act as multipliers for the consideration of victim protection interests both internally and externally.

7. Bavaria

The Bavarian courts and public prosecutors' offices apply the legal requirements of Sections 58a and 255a of the Code of Criminal Procedure (investigating judge's questioning and video recording). Guidelines developed by a federal-state working group for the practical application of these provisions by public prosecutors and courts have also been distributed to the judiciary in Bavaria, as has the "Practical Guide to the Application of Child-Friendly Criteria in Criminal Proceedings" published by the National Council against Sexual Violence against Children and Young People.

Reference is also made to the First State Report 2020 (in particular p. 64 f).

8. Lower Saxony on

a), b)

In principle, each case is considered individually. If the office handling the case becomes aware of a temporary release or escape, an individual risk assessment is carried out. Measures are taken on a case-by-case basis and adapted to the situation. In addition, whether and how the victim is involved in the flow of information and the measures taken also depends on the individual case.

Where possible, the perpetrator may be approached again. The victim may be approached to raise awareness of the need to inform the police of any information relevant to the proceedings. The transfer of the victim to a women's shelter or another location unknown to the perpetrator will be considered or carried out as appropriate.

Both types of protection depend on the victim's cooperation with the police and the support system.

By updating risk assessments, measures against the perpetrator are continued on a case-by-case basis or modified to suit the situation.

Victims of violence are entitled to psychosocial support during the proceedings.

This includes qualified care, information provision and support throughout the investigation and criminal proceedings with the aim of reducing stress and avoiding secondary victimisation by stabilising the victim as far as possible.

Psychosocial support during legal proceedings can be accessed at any stage of the investigation and criminal proceedings. It is intended to provide injured victims in witness status with security and guidance and to help them understand the criminal proceedings.

Specially trained professionals recognised by the state of Lower Saxony (freelance or employed by the Victim Support F o u n d a t i o n and certified according to the criteria of the Ministry of Justice) accompany injured parties within the framework of specific quality standards and

state-wide regulations.

In accordance with Section 406g of the Code of Criminal Procedure, any injured party may take advantage of this offer. This is a right of application for the injured party. In the case of certain offences and for certain persons, a court order may be issued to ensure remuneration for psychosocial support during the trial (Section 406g (3) StPO). In all other cases, however, this service would be subject to a fee for the injured parties. However, the state government of Lower Saxony has decided on a different regulation.

Special regulation for Lower Saxony

In Lower Saxony, free services are also available in cases that are not eligible for legal aid. Victims of domestic violence in particular can receive free support regardless of the underlying offence and the severity of the crime. As a rule, victim support organisations (Stiftung Opferhilfe Niedersachsen) and specialist counselling centres with their specially trained staff provide psychosocial support during the trial in these cases. They receive funding for this from the Ministry of Justice.

Psychosocial support during legal proceedings is therefore free of charge in Lower Saxony in all cases, and victims are informed of this at an early stage. The police authorities were last made aware of psychosocial support during legal proceedings by means of a decree and information material on 28 January 2022.

d) The state of Lower Saxony provides extensive support services on the part of the judiciary through the State Foundation for Victim Assistance and an expanded range of psychosocial support services, which, in close coordination with legal representation
ensure that the rights and interests of victims are communicated and taken into account in an appropriate manner within criminal proceedings.

9. Rhineland-Palatinate

The Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO) provides for a wide range of protective measures for victims of crime. For example, according to Section 406d StPO, the victim of a crime must be informed, upon request, of any restraining order or measures depriving the offender of liberty, or of the offender's escape or release from custody. In addition, there are options for excluding the public from the main hearing in order to protect the victim's personal rights. In addition, witnesses can be examined separately from the perpetrator in both preliminary and criminal proceedings. The necessary technical facilities are available at all regional courts in Rhineland-Palatinate. Finally, it is possible to appoint legal counsel or psychosocial support during the trial if the conditions specified in the StPO are met.

There is no evidence to suggest that the legal options are not being sufficiently utilised.

a), b), d)

Response to the police, and only as long as there is an ongoing police investigation: During this time, the case worker or, if necessary, a victim counsellor will provide close support to the victims. Information about the escape or release of suspects will be communicated within this support relationship.

Points "b" and "d" are taken into account in the investigation and counselling activities, i.e. victims are informed and, if necessary, also supported in how to conceal data
Furthermore, victims are referred to the support system.

10. North Rhine-Westphalia

on a)

Measures to inform victims of violence in cases where they themselves or their

If there is a risk that the family could be in danger due to the perpetrator's escape or release, this is possible in Germany under general hazard prevention law. The police laws of the federal states provide specific legal bases for the transfer of personal data to persons outside the public sector for the purpose of hazard prevention. In the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, the transfer of this data is possible under Section 27 (3) No. 2 PolG NRW.

In the event of a prisoner escaping from a correctional facility, victims are officially informed of the escape in accordance with Section 16 (2) of the North Rhine-Westphalia Correctional Facility Data Protection Act (JVollzDSG) if the escape poses a concrete danger to life and limb.

In addition, victims may, upon written request, be provided with information about the imprisonment and its termination, the granting of measures to open up the prison, victim-related instructions and placement in open prison, if they demonstrate a legitimate interest and there is no overriding interest on the part of the prisoners in excluding the communication (Section 16 (1) JVollzDSG NRW). To this end, they can also contact the Victims' Commissioner of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, who will assist them in contacting the appropriate person. The Victims' Commissioner has a statutory right to information for this purpose. This procedure is accompanied by state-wide recommendations for action for the implementation of victim-related prison management and specially trained officials in prisons.

Re b)

According to the Code of Criminal Procedure, witnesses have the following rights, among others:

- § 68 Questioning about personal details; restriction of information, witness protection
- § 68a Restriction of the right to question on grounds of personal rights
- § 255a Presentation of a recorded witness examination

Re c)

In family court proceedings, § 33 (1) sentence 2 FamFG provides for the possibility of hearing the parties separately if this is necessary for the protection of one of the parties. In addition, § 32 (3) sentence 1 FamFG provides for the possibility of allowing participation in a hearing via video and audio transmission if the technical requirements are met.

Re d)

According to the circular "Police Victim Protection" issued by the Ministry of the Interior of North Rhine-Westphalia –
62.02.01 – dated 1 April 2019, police victim protection includes, among other things, the police determining whether further support and assistance are necessary and, if necessary, referring victims to victim assistance and support services tailored to their needs.

In all family court proceedings, it is possible to apply for legal aid and to have a solicitor appointed if the legal action has a prospect of success and the applicant is not financially able to bear the costs themselves, Section 76 FamFG in conjunction with Section 114 ZPO.

11. Saarland

on a)

Within the scope of its legal powers (StPO and SPolDVG), the police may provide information about the release of a suspect or troublemaker. Where possible, avoiding contact between the perpetrator and the victim is observed as a criminal investigation principle in the course of police investigations.

Re d)

The police inform victims about the various victim support organisations with which they cooperate and, with the victims' consent, refer them to these organisations (see also question 16, p. 194).

In addition to the cooperation agreements described above, the State Police Directorate maintains a large number of partnerships with victim support organisations, in particular for specialist advice and support for particularly vulnerable victim groups (including Nele e. V. for girls and young women who are victims of sexual violence,
PHOENIX counselling centre against sexual exploitation of boys, women's emergency hotline for raped and abused women, etc.).

12. Berlin

In cases where a person's life or limb is in danger, the Berlin police carry out what is known as risk management. This also includes informing the victim about measures taken against the suspect, e.g. whether they are due to be released from custody. A security meeting is then held and, if necessary, possible measures to protect the person concerned are initiated (e.g. accommodation in an unknown location).

In the context of sexual offences involving minors, appropriate measures are taken to inform the victim's parents and, if necessary, the victim, provided that the competent public prosecutor's office or court reports the information to the specialist department in a timely manner. In the case of sexual offences involving adults, information is generally provided as soon as it becomes available.

In order to protect the victim's privacy, the police have the option of entering an alternative, summonsable address in the file instead of the actual address of the person concerned. Addresses already entered in the file may be redacted by the public prosecutor's office. In addition, the police will assist with applying to the relevant residents' registration office to have the registered address blocked.

In the case of digital images of the victim hosted on a website, the competent Internet service provider is notified by the specialist unit and asked to delete the images
. If the provider is based abroad, the Federal Criminal Police Office will be involved accordingly.

13. Baden-Württemberg

on a)

As a rule, victims of crime are informed individually, on a case-by-case basis, about their rights, claims and powers in criminal proceedings, claims for damages, legal support options and financial compensation options when the police first take a statement. Police officers also fulfil this right to information by handing out the brochure "Victim protection tips and advice from your police" from the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of the Interior or the leaflet
"Rights of Injured Parties and Victims in Criminal Proceedings" from the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection. This leaflet is available in 30 different languages. As victims have the right to file a report in a language they understand, a language mediator/interpreter is regularly present for foreign-language victims to translate additional explanations of their rights and entitlements in criminal proceedings.

Regarding c)

In order to enable victims to testify in court in the absence of the defendant, among other things, work has begun on equipping the courts in Baden-Württemberg with stationary and mobile video units. A total of 450 units will be distributed across around 800
courtrooms. Of these, 350 units are mobile and 100 units are stationary. The installation is currently expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2025. With the

installed systems, 900 systems will then be available in the courts.

Re d)

With regard to the support options available in court, reference can again be made to the comments on question 8 on psychosocial trial support and witness support (p. 67).

14. Brandenburg

If a corresponding application has been made in accordance with Section 406d (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the relevant information will be provided. It is common practice here that information is provided in the event of a corresponding risk situation as a result of the risk assessment. In these cases, the victim is informed and made aware of the relevant circumstances as part of a risk assessment.

The protection of the victim's privacy is taken into account in appropriate cases with regard to photographs by creating and maintaining special files. The same applies to - private - addresses of the victim, which are also made unrecognisable in the case file.

Insofar as the potential victims are particularly vulnerable witnesses, appropriate applications are always made to ensure that the provisions of Section 58a of the Code of Criminal Procedure (recording of questioning in image and sound), Section 247 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (removal of the accused during questioning of co-defendants and witnesses) and Section 247a of the Code of Criminal Procedure (ordering audiovisual questioning of witnesses) are taken into account in criminal proceedings.

Victims are provided with information material during the preliminary proceedings, but at the latest when the public complaint is filed, in particular with information on psychosocial support during the proceedings, victim protection associations or the possibility of joining the proceedings as a joint plaintiff or in the context of adhesion. Data will only be passed on to victim protection organisations with the consent of the victims.

Reference is made to the existing options for contacting the police, in particular the police victim protection officers. The Brandenburg police have a specialist unit to ensure operational victim protection in outstanding cases of domestic violence.

Part III: New trends in violence against women and domestic violence

56. Please provide information on new developments since the adoption of the GREVIO baseline evaluation report on your country:

a. new trends in violence against women and domestic violence, including their digital manifestations (types of violence, victim groups, forms of violence); new trends in violence against women and domestic violence, including their digital manifestations (types of violence, victim groups, forms of violence);

b. new trends in national case law on violence against women;

c. new trends in the allocation of resources and budgeting by your state authorities;

d. new trends in the allocation of resources and budgeting by your state authorities;

e. new approaches to primary prevention, e.g. new target groups and means of communication, public-private partnerships, etc.

f. new trends in access to asylum and international protection for women who are victims of violence against women.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia, Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia Westphalia, Bremen, Saarland, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Brandenburg

1. Hamburg

The violence protection concept identifies the further development of the support system for target groups with special needs and the extension of measures to new forms of violence, such as digital violence, and new perspectives on forms of violence (femicide) as strategic areas for action in the coming years.

Many of these topics were discussed in the participation process described above, the expert dialogue (see response to 15, p. 167). Among other things, the expert dialogue came to the conclusion that digital violence is increasingly accompanying analogue violence. In order to strengthen the competence and technical expertise of Hamburg's counselling centres in dealing with digital violence, the social welfare authority has already conducted various training courses for professionals in the violence protection support system in 2023.

The effective combating of violence against girls and women is a priority of the legal policy activities of the Authority for Justice and Consumer Protection (BJV). The following initiatives are particularly noteworthy:

According to the federal report "Gender-specific crimes against women 2023", the majority of victims of digital violence (62.3%, with rising case numbers) are female, making the fight against digital violence an important component in protecting women from violence. The BJV has launched several initiatives in this area during the period under review:

Since December 2022, all citizens in Hamburg have been able to report online hate speech directly to the State Security Department of the Hamburg Public Prosecutor's Office via an online service. The website "Hamburg gegen Hass" (Hamburg against hate) [234]offers the possibility to file criminal complaints digitally with the option to upload image files.

In order to further improve the possibilities for reporting hate crime online,

[234] https://serviceportal.hamburg.de/HamburgGateway/Service/Entry/AFM_OhneHa

The 2022 Spring Conference of Ministers of Justice, initiated by Hamburg, addressed the fight against online hate. A federal-state working group, led by Hamburg among others, examined the issue and developed concrete proposals for a cross-state platform for reporting online hate and incitement, and for making the various state platforms more effective. The working group presented its final report at the autumn conference of justice ministers in 2023. The Federal Ministry of Justice has been called upon to examine the necessary reforms.

At the initiative of Hamburg, the 2023 Autumn Conference of Ministers of Justice adopted the resolution "Combating digital violence more effectively – facilitating access to justice".

The proposed resolution deals with improving legal protection for victims of digital violence. In particular, it was proposed that warnings and urgent deadlines be regulated by law and that the cost burden of enforcing the law be reduced.

At the initiative of Hamburg, the 2023 Autumn Conference of Ministers of Justice adopted the resolution "Closing the loophole in criminal liability for secret surveillance using Bluetooth trackers and other infringements of the right to informational self-determination by private individuals".

The initiative points out that the misuse of Bluetooth trackers, which are intended to facilitate the retrieval of easily misplaced items (so-called AirTags or SmartTags), is not punishable in all circumstances. In this respect, there is a gap in criminal liability, as the misuse of tags to locate persons is not covered by existing criminal offences under the German Criminal Code (StGB) or by offences outside the StGB. The Federal Ministry of Justice is now called upon to close these gaps in criminal liability.

At the initiative of Hamburg, the Spring Conference of Ministers of Justice in 2024 adopted the resolution "Creating legal certainty for deepfakes and improving legal protection".

The proposed resolution was introduced with the aim of regulating the liability of platforms in particular (which is not regulated in either the DSA or the AI Regulation) and introducing examples of legal regulations to improve legal protection in the case of deepfakes and establish legal certainty. In particular, the role of labelling deepfakes in civil law should be clarified.

At the federal level, the BJV supports the planned law against digital violence, for which a key issues paper was presented in April 2023. In its statement on this draft law, the BJV welcomed the law in principle and made further suggestions for improving victim protection. For example, it proposed defining the term "violation of personal rights" in order to make it easier for legal laypersons to access the law.

Beyond the issue of digital violence, there are other legal policy initiatives by the BJV that aim to combat violence against girls and women more effectively or to prevent victimisation in criminal trials.

In autumn 2024, the BJV advocated in the committee responsible for criminal law at the Conference of Ministers of Justice for strengthening the use of audio-visual recordings of judicial witness examinations made during preliminary investigations to replace examinations in subsequent criminal court hearings. The presentation of such recordings is intended to spare minor witnesses and victims of sexual offences of all ages in particular from repeated and potentially retraumatising questioning during the main hearing. A change in the legal basis is being considered to the effect
that the screening of the earlier recording in lieu of questioning is the rule and not

an exception requiring justification.

In addition, the BJV is actively involved in the federal-state working group on "Protection against violence
- Use of Electronic Residence Monitoring". The BJV is working in cooperation with other states to ensure the effective and legally secure implementation and monitoring of this measure.

Re d)

In Hamburg, the funds available for promoting protection against violence have grown steadily, see question 4 (p. 34).

Re e)

See answers to questions 9 and 10 (pp. 69, 95).

2. Hesse

From the perspective of the Hesse judiciary, it should be noted that combating the forms of violence relevant here has always been and continues to be a particular focus of the work of all agencies.

In the area of domestic violence, the state of Hesse has recorded an increase in the number of cases in recent years, according to police crime statistics. After peaking in 2023 with 12,000 recorded offences, there was a slight decline in 2024 by 121 cases to 11,879 offences. 8,133 assaults were related to domestic violence.

The Hessian state government's women's safety package addresses these developments and includes greater protection, more effective prosecution and better prevention as key pillars in the fight against violence against women. Specifically, the following measures are included:

- Expansion and better funding of women's shelters and more places for women affected by violence and their children.
- Stronger support for women's emergency hotlines, counselling and intervention centres so that women can receive quick and uncomplicated help.
- More consistent use of electronic ankle tags for perpetrators to better enforce restraining orders and protect women from violent partners.
- Legislative changes to enable witness protection programmes for women, e.g. through the use of false identities.
- Expansion of emergency medical assistance after rape, including confidential evidence collection without prior reporting to the police.
- More video surveillance and better lighting in so-called fear zones, i.e. unsafe public places.
- Stricter prosecution of catcalling and domestic violence, including through special circular orders to public prosecutors.

The aim is to offer women in Hesse comprehensive, accessible and safe support services and to consistently combat violence against women. The state of Hesse has continuously increased spending on protecting women from violence in recent years (see answer to question 4, p. 34).

The expansion of interdepartmental and holistic cooperation to combat violence against women in a coherent manner, comprehensive counselling for affected women, the expansion of work with perpetrators and accessible, barrier-free structures are sustainable developments pursued by the Hesse state government. That is why, most recently,
An interministerial working group on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention has been set up to strengthen interdepartmental cooperation.

One primary prevention approach, for example, is the Marburg model for optimising and accelerating cooperation between the police, public prosecutors, court assistance services and the courts, the core element of which is the provision of early counselling for victims of violence and perpetrators. In addition, social media is increasingly being used to disseminate prevention messages, with the aim of reaching a younger target group.

The issue of digital violence and possible ways of protecting against it is also currently being examined in cooperation with the Hessian Ministry of Digital Affairs and Innovation and the Hessian Ministry of Labour, Integration, Youth and Social Affairs. The aim here is to advise victims of domestic violence on the sensitive handling of their personal/digital data. In 2023, the Hessian Ministry of Labour, Integration, Youth and Social Affairs also published the extensive awareness-raising
public awareness campaign "...and what are you doing?" (see answer to question 9 a, p. 71).

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

As part of primary prevention, the flyer from the programme run by the criminal investigation departments of the federal states and the federal government (ProPk) (see above) is used to address the issue of domestic violence in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. It is aimed at the target groups of violence in partnerships and violence in families. Special attention is also paid to children, explaining that they also suffer from domestic violence even if they
not directly affected themselves, and highlights the importance of protection and accepting offers of support.

4. Saxony

The budget for the department dealing with gender-based and domestic violence has increased from around 6.4 million euros in 2021 to around 12.7 million euros in 2024. The amounts stated include administrative expenses and funding for violence protection.

Overall, there is growing social, political and media interest in gender-based and domestic violence. This increased public awareness – evident, for example, in more intensive reporting – makes a significant contribution to education, sensitisation and thus long-term prevention. With the State Action Plan for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention, a specific focus has also been placed at state level on areas of prevention that have received less attention to date. In the area of primary prevention, this includes, in particular, information measures in accordance with Articles 13 and 17 of the Istanbul Convention, educational work in formal and informal educational institutions as well as in sports, cultural and leisure facilities, and training and further education opportunities for professional groups with preventive potential.

No systematic findings are available on the other aspects surveyed.

5. Saxony-Anhalt

In Saxony-Anhalt, prevention efforts are supported by exemplary
"Success stories" set: As part of the travelling exhibition
"Mutmacherinnen – Wege aus der Gewalt" (Encouragers – Ways out of Violence), which has been running since 2024, eight women tell their stories of experiencing violence and making a new start in the hope of encouraging other affected women to seek protection and support. The exhibition was on display at 21 locations in Saxony-Anhalt in 2024.

New ways of providing information are being explored in Saxony-Anhalt: During the reporting period, initiated LIKO two InApp campaigns, um on the website of the
statewide network for a life without violence. To this end,

the advertisement, i.e. the reference to the website www.gewaltfreiessachsen-anhalt.de[235], was displayed during the use of free apps on mobile devices by women in Saxony-Anhalt aged between 18 and 60.

In Saxony-Anhalt, the target group of young women is deliberately addressed: as part of the prevention work carried out by the VERA specialist centre against trafficking in women, forced marriage and honour-related
violence, a comic (in purely pictorial form) on the subject of forced marriage is being created and information provided on the possibility of counselling.

6. Schleswig-Holstein

on a)

Digital violence is playing an increasingly important role in the context of violence in (former) partnerships. Digital violence often manifests itself in the monitoring and control of the digital devices of affected women and their children, including location tracking. Women's counselling centres and women's shelters have been equipped with signal-blocking covers to keep technical devices safe during counselling sessions or when fleeing to a women's shelter.

Re c)

Additional funds have been made available at the state level. In this regard, reference is made to the explanations on Art. 18 No. 15 d (p. 200).

Re d)

Additional funds have been made available at the state level. In this regard, reference is made to the explanations on Art. 18 No. 15 d (p. 200).

Re e)

New target group (boys and men): Support within the framework of the Schleswig-Holstein Competence Centre against Gender-Based Violence

The project "OMÄGA Network – For a Society without Male Violence" aims to make gender-reflective work with boys and men a natural part of the social infrastructure in order to enable boys/men to find non-violent solutions to problems. Six regional conferences and free multiplier training courses are planned in Schleswig-Holstein for 2025 (see answer to question 9 b, p. 75).
> Competence Centre)

7. Thuringia

Increase in cases of domestic violence according to federal statistics and the BKA's assessment of the situation, use of knockout drops as a serious threat in the area of violence against women.

Re c)

During the reporting period, a fundamental change was made to the funding of women's shelters and enshrined in law. This means that, from January 2025, violence protection facilities (women's shelters, intervention centres, counselling for gender-based violence) will be funded by the state on the basis of the Thuringian Equal Opportunities Promotion Act. This is linked to an expansion of women's shelters and counselling facilities (from currently 15 to 23) and full funding of the personnel costs (at least 4.5 positions) and
necessary material costs.

8. Bavaria

In recent high court rulings, domestic violence against the other parent (i.e. not against the children) is explicitly considered a factor in access and custody proceedings.

[235] www.gewaltfreiessachsen-anhalt.de

a decisive factor in assessing the welfare of the child, cf. OLG Cologne, decision of 22 July 2022 and 29 September 2022 in FamRZ 2022, 1930 ff., 1933 ff.; KG Berlin, decision of 4 August 2022 in FamRZ 2023, 131 ff.

Re c), d)

In this regard, reference is made to the response to Article 8, p. 39.

Re e)

In this regard, reference can be made to the extensions to the "Kein Täter werden" ("Don't become a perpetrator") project described in Article 16 (p. 151).

9. Lower Saxony

In Lower Saxony, violence against women is considered within the context of combating domestic violence. Domestic violence is examined annually in the form of a status report or, since 2024, in the form of a status overview. Over the last few years, it has been noted that the total number of cases of domestic violence reported to the police has been steadily increasing. The ratio of male to female victims has remained consistent at approximately 30% (male) to 70% (female). To summarise the latest situation reports and the overview of domestic violence, no significant developments or trends can be identified. It should be noted that, according to the LKA NI, the victim group of children, both those indirectly affected by domestic violence and those directly affected, continues to require special attention, particularly with regard to psychological care and aftercare. It is not possible to generalise about how children and young people react to the stress of domestic violence, as their reaction to the stress they experience depends on various factors. In addition to witnessing violence within the parental relationship or family structure, there is an increased risk that children will experience violence directed directly against them. Domestic violence, for example, does not only affect the people directly involved, but can also have a significant impact on children and young people living in the family. Studies show that as the frequency of domestic violence between parents increases, so does the likelihood of direct violence against children. In particular, early and repeated experiences of violence within the family increase the risk of child abuse. Violence can be perpetrated by the parent who originally committed the violence, the parent who originally suffered the violence, or both.

On 19 February 2025, the first meeting of the interdepartmental coordination committee for the "Gewaltfrei in die Zukunft" app (GfZ app) to provide support in cases of gender-based domestic violence, consisting of the MI, MS, MJ and the association "Gewaltfrei in die Zukunft e.V.", took place. The association "Gewaltfrei in die Zukunft e.V." developed the so-called Incognito app in 2017. The pilot phase of the app began in Berlin. With the support of the BMI, the app has been funded with around 3.7 million euros since 2023 until the end of 2026 in order to introduce it across five federal states. The app is designed to provide low-threshold support and documentation of experiences of violence. The aim is to roll out the GFZ app in Lower Saxony's violence protection system (aid and support services, public prosecutors, police, schools, etc.).[236] For further information, see Article 7 (p. 11).

Re e)

The Lower Saxony State Police has launched the prevention campaign "HerzSchlag – Wenn aus Liebe Gewalt wird" (Heartbeat – When Love Turns to Violence) to combat gender-based violence, especially against women. The campaign, which was implemented by the LKA NI in 2024, pursues a comprehensive approach to primary prevention that combines universal, selective and target group-specific measures. The aim is to raise awareness of violence in (former
partnerships and to promote the destigmatisation of the topic. Young

[236] https://www.gewaltfrei-in-die-zukunft.de/app

The aim is to encourage people to reflect on healthy relationship dynamics and empower those who may be affected. A key aspect of the campaign is universal prevention among young people, promoting a critical approach to traditional gender roles and relationship expectations. The travelling exhibition is aimed at school pupils from the ninth grade onwards and offers teachers and educational professionals the opportunity to address the dynamics of early relationships. The campaign also raises awareness among the social environment of those affected and encourages active support. The involvement of local specialist counselling centres strengthens the support system and creates long-term networks.

Since 1 June 2024, the state of Lower Saxony has been funding the model project "Proactive work with female perpetrators of domestic violence", carried out by the Beratungs- und Therapiezentrum e.V. (Counselling and Therapy Centre) in Hanover, for a period of three years.

In addition, a refuge for men affected by domestic violence with three places will be implemented in Lower Saxony as part of a (initially) three-year model project in cooperation with the region and the state capital Hanover on 1 July 2025. The establishment of a gender-specific contact point for male victims of domestic violence is an important addition to existing support services. Those affected are given the opportunity to stabilise themselves psychologically and emotionally and are referred to appropriate counselling and support services.

Re f)

It is not known how the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), which is responsible for asylum procedures, will implement European case law.

Against the backdrop of a state parliament resolution, the Lower Saxony state government will focus on implementing measures to prevent and combat image-based sexualised violence (ibsa) in 2025. (See also Lt. Lower Saxony, printed paper 19/6633). The aim is to strengthen victim protection in Lower Saxony in this area and to provide appropriate information tailored to the target group. To this end, an information and coordination centre for victims of image-based sexual violence will be set up at the state level and a training campaign on the topic will be launched. Throughout Lower Saxony, counselling centres for victims, the judiciary and the police will receive specific training, and information events will be offered for interested professionals and multipliers. The state parliament resolution also provides for a review of the existing legal situation to identify any gaps in criminal liability and, if necessary, for the development of a Bundesrat initiative that provides for consistent regulation of image-based sexual violence in the area of sexual criminal law.

The possibility of establishing the "Neighbourhoods without Partner Violence" (StoP) project throughout the state is being examined. The StoP concept is based on a neighbourhood-oriented approach and is anchored in community work. The aim is to raise awareness and activate civil society in a low-threshold manner, as well as to link the support system and civil society in the area of domestic violence. Key points of the concept are the creation of relationships between various local actors and the promotion and use of social networks in neighbourhoods. In this respect, the aim is to establish a link to neighbourhood development (security partnership in urban development in Lower Saxony, SiPa).

Strengthening prevention measures in schools and community work

In order to give greater consideration to aspects of gender equality and diversity across the range of prevention programmes on the "Green List of Prevention", the LPR will hold specialist events for programme managers. The aim is to disseminate existing good practices, provide inspiration for programme managers and further develop their materials accordingly. Where appropriate, the format of the so-called sponsor conferences of those responsible for the programmes included in the "Green List" will also be used for this purpose. The LPR wants to promote measures to prevent
violence against women and girls in municipal collective accommodation for refugees,

, possibly in cooperation with other ministries. Approaches here could include empowerment, working with refugee women and girls, installing protection concepts in accommodation facilities, training and raising awareness among staff in accommodation facilities, and improving networking and cooperation between the facilities and specialist counselling centres and other important local actors.

The coordinating office for psychosocial support during court proceedings in Lower Saxony regularly offers one-day training courses for professionals working in the state to educate them about new trends in various areas of crime. In 2023 and 2024, for example, several specific training courses were held on new trends in violence.
against women and domestic violence, including its digital manifestations (types of violence, victim groups, forms of violence).

10. Rhineland-Palatinate

The Rhineland-Palatinate police force is increasingly using social media channels to disseminate prevention messages, offers of help, podcasts and other information. The Pact against Sexualised Violence against Children and Young People (led by the Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration, see answer to question 1, p. 13) is a state-wide initiative of the Rhineland-Palatinate state government dedicated to protecting minors from sexualised violence. The pact focuses on a holistic approach combining education, protection and consistent intervention to effectively protect children and young people from sexualised violence.

With an upcoming amendment to the GewSchG, there are plans to expand work with perpetrators, which is primarily aimed at preventing violence in intimate relationships. Social training courses and electronic monitoring of whereabouts are to be another important component of violence prevention.

The action plan of the state government of Rhineland-Palatinate for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention comprises a total of 117 specific individual measures relating to relevant areas of violence prevention, protection against violence and support for women affected by violence. An important component of this is the needs-based expansion of and direct access to help and support services for women. The measures are to be implemented by 2030.

With the entry into force of the Violence Assistance Act on 28 February 205, Rhineland-Palatinate is obliged to guarantee the fulfilment of the legal right to protection and counselling from 2032 onwards. This requires a needs-based expansion of the support system for women affected by violence and their children.

Re e)

In March 2023, Rhineland-Palatinate became the first federal state to establish a State Council for Victims of Sexual Violence. Since its establishment, the Council has met regularly at the Ministry every three to four weeks and is supported by a process facilitator (e.g. minute-taking and planning) and a mediation service (e.g. role clarification, team development, individual supervision). The State Council of Victims is an advisory and motivational body that aims to draw greater attention to the issue of sexualised violence against children and young people through its work
and sets its own priorities in terms of content.

11. North Rhine-Westphalia

Gender equality is a cornerstone of a strong and vibrant democracy. However, this pluralistic and liberal democracy is increasingly under threat. Authoritarian and misanthropic ideologies are gaining ground, calling into question the equality of women and female self-determination. This is reflected in an increase in gender-based violence against women, which is also becoming more prevalent in digital spaces – in some cases
for misogynistic and ideological reasons.

Reference is made to the statement by the State Working Group of Autonomous Women's Shelters / Feminist Girls' Work NRW e.V., see Appendix 6.

The North Rhine-Westphalia police are not aware of any new trends in violence against women and domestic violence. Nevertheless, there are increasing reports in the media of digital violence against women, which is often sexist in nature. Particular focus is placed on the manipulation of images and videos in connection with pornographic content (deepfake pornography). The study on online hate in Germany, "Lauter Hass – leiser Rückzug" (Loud Hate – Quiet Retreat) by the "Hass im Netz" (Hate on the Internet) competence network, has shown that young women are particularly often affected by digital violence.[237] So-called deepfake pornography has been around for several years, but here too, improved and more accessible digital capabilities are making the content higher quality and thus deceptively realistic.

In general, based on the experience of judicial practice and the Central Cybercrime Contact Point of North Rhine-Westphalia (ZAC NRW), it can be said that women and girls are increasingly becoming victims of explicitly sexualised attacks in the area of digital violence. The ZAC NRW is responsible for conducting investigations of particular importance in the field of politically motivated hate crime on the internet. Due to the nature of the central office's responsibilities, it is not possible to make general statements about group-related digital hate crime against women based on its case numbers. Nevertheless, based on practical experience in proceedings against female elected representatives and public officials working in North Rhine-Westphalia, as well as against women in prominent positions in society, it can be concluded that politically motivated hate crime on the internet against women regularly has a sexualised component. Comparable connotations in relation to male victims, on the other hand, cannot be identified. This is consistent with the findings of the HateAid gGmbH counselling centre, which supports victims of digital violence.

Re d)

Men and communities to raise awareness of violence against women and promote behavioural change in different population groups. Programmes targeting schools and universities are particularly important for early prevention work. In this context, for example, YouTube videos[238] on intimate partner violence[239] have [been]introduced by the Police Crime Prevention Unit of the German Federal States and the Federal Government (ProPK), which focus on educating schoolchildren about healthy relationships and gender equality. For example, there are workshops that include role-playing and discussions to promote empathy and respect. Furthermore, more training courses are being offered for professionals such as teachers, social workers and medical staff to raise their awareness of the issue and provide them with tools.

Means of communication: The use of social media and digital platforms has increased, primarily to reach younger target groups and actively involve them in prevention. Campaigns use creative approaches such as videos, memes and interactive content to make the topic appealing and accessible, such as the websites

- of "civilian heroes"[240] ,
- the Police Crime Prevention Programme ProPK[241] ,
- the "AKTION-TU-WAS"[242] ,

[237] https://kompetenznetzwerk-hass-im-netz.de/lauter-hass-leiser-rueckzug/
[238] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5agtrOXCyM
[239] https://www.polizei-beratung.de/aktuelles/detailansicht/psychische-gewalt-in-der-partnerschaft/
[240] https://www.zivile-helden.de/gewalt/6-tipps-fuer-richtiges-verhalten-in-gewaltsituationen/
[241] https://www.polizei-beratung.de
[242] https://www.aktion-tu-was.de/

- the campaign "I'm reporting this"[243] ,
- the "North Rhine-Westphalia Police and State Criminal Police Office"(244) to help victims of violence, but also to protect them from further violence and to educate them. Appropriate prevention advice on various forms of violence can also be found on the police website to educate and protect against violence and offer help and support.[245]

12. Bremen

Police crime statistics (PKS) show a general increase in reported crimes against women. However, concrete conclusions about underlying trends can only be drawn to a limited extent due to the lack of specific links and the difficulty of quantifying the effectiveness of the measures taken with regard to the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

Women's shelters report increasing control exercised by perpetrators via digital tools. These include the use of location tracking programmes, manipulation of "smart home applications", etc. This requires increasingly comprehensive qualifications for counselling professionals with regard to digital violence.

The Violence Assistance Act means that, from 2032, all women and children affected by violence will have an individual legal right to protection and support in accordance with the forms of violence defined in the Istanbul Convention. The federal states must ensure that support services are available from 2027.
This is a huge step forward, as it means that these are no longer voluntary benefits in budgetary terms.

13. Saarland

on e)

Schools are tasked with developing protection concepts against violence and conducting a risk and potential analysis once per school year, which enables adjustments to be made.

Primary prevention concept "Being a class together" for general secondary schools

14. Berlin

For some time now, support services have been observing an increase in partnership and interfamilial violence on digital media. Perpetrators use digital means specifically for control, surveillance and manipulation – with digital violence often representing a continuation or intensification of existing analogue violence.

This development is also reflected in the number of cases reported to the police: the 2023 Domestic Violence Situation Report shows a corresponding increase in offences such as threats, stalking and coercion using the "internet as a means of committing the offence" in (former) partnerships.

The department responsible for women and equality finances support services for those affected (see answer to question 25, p. 254) and is working on implementing a corresponding expansion of counselling services for both those affected and professionals in the support system.

Awareness of the issue and forms of violence against LGBTIQ+ people is continuing to grow, both among those affected and within the support structures.

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[243] https://www.ich-zeige-das-an.de/
[244] https://lka.polizei.nrw/sexualisierte-gewalt
[245] e.g. https://lka.polizei.nrw/artikel/weibliche-genitalbeschneidung
[246] https://www.bka.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Publikationen/JahresberichteUndLagebilder/HaeuslicheGewalt/HaeuslicheGewalt2023.html, p. 25.

Re c)

Due to the increase in refugee movements between 2022 and 2025, the state of Berlin has made additional financial resources available for measures to support refugees. These funds have been used, among other things, to expand services for refugee women. A new development was that the integration policy funds were distributed jointly between administrations in the steering committee for the implementation of the overall concept for the participation and integration of refugees in order to meet the various needs.

Since the adoption of the GREVIO baseline evaluation report, the Berlin Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family Affairs has initiated various new developments with regard to the allocation of funds and budgeting for child protection counselling centres and shelters.

There has been an increased focus on funding specialist child protection counselling centres. This includes both the continued provision of financial resources and the creation of new projects.

There is a tendency to promote interdisciplinary approaches in which specialist counselling centres, schools, youth welfare offices and other relevant institutions work more closely together. This is supported by targeted funding allocations that strengthen cooperation between the various actors involved in child protection.

See also answer to question 4, p. 45.

Re e)

Since 2022, Berlin has become a first point of arrival for refugees from Ukraine. To protect women refugees travelling alone from dubious accommodation offers, numerous measures have been taken to inform the target group, e.g. a multilingual website, information via Twitter and flyers. For further information, see the Action Plan
Ukraine in Berlin.

15. Baden-Württemberg

There is an increased need for advice, education and support in dealing with digital violence. The State Coordination Office for Digital Violence is a well-received pioneering project that also aims to strengthen the confidence of professionals in taking action. Another trend is the demand for counselling in rural areas. In Baden-Württemberg, this has been addressed by the work of mobile teams in specialist counselling centres.

The Baden-Württemberg police record crimes statistically using the PKS. The PKS is a so-called pure output statistic in which criminally relevant facts are recorded after police processing before being handed over to the law enforcement authorities. The PKS is designed as an annual statistic. Cases are recorded in accordance with the federal "Guidelines for the Management of Police Crime Statistics".

Domestic violence, as defined in the nationwide definition of violence against women, comprises the areas of intimate partner violence and intra-family violence. Domestic violence includes offences listed in a defined catalogue, in which the relationship between the victim and the suspect is recorded as an (former) partnership. These include spouses, registered civil partnerships, partners in non-marital cohabitation and former partnerships. Domestic violence also includes offences under the Protection Against Violence Act and violation of maintenance obligations, although
no victim registration takes place for these offences and therefore no data can be presented for them. Intra-family violence comprises offences according to a defined catalogue, in which

[247] https://www.berlin.de/lb/intmig/_assets/flucht-und-ankommen/strategien/aktionsplan_ukraine-in-berlin.pdf?ts=1752710435, p. 114ff.

the relationship between the victim and the suspect is a family member or other relative – excluding (ex-)spouses and (ex-)partners – are recorded.
spouses and (ex-)partners).

The following table shows the number of victims of violence against women, broken down into the case groups of digital violence, domestic violence and human trafficking, for the years 2023 and 2024 in Baden-Württemberg. As the offences in the individual case groups may overlap, the respective numbers must not be added together.

Victims are not subject to so-called real counting in the PKS, meaning that individuals are recorded multiple times as victims if they have been the victim of multiple criminal offences within a reporting year. The number of individuals who have been the victim of a criminal offence may be higher than the number of criminal offences, as a single case may involve multiple victims. In accordance with the uniform federal PKS guidelines, victims are only recorded for
"victim offences". These primarily include offences against life, physical integrity, freedom and sexual self-determination.

Since 1 January 2024, offences such as sexual insults, sexual defamation, sexual slander and violation of personal privacy and personal rights through image recordings have been classified as victim offences.

Victim-specific characteristics are recorded on the condition that the motive for the offence is based on or objectively related to the victim's personal, professional or behavioural characteristics.

Number of victims of violence against women in Baden-Württemberg	2023	2024
Case group Domestic violence	17,704	18,538
Case group Digital violence	1,956	2,263
Human trafficking case group	86	92

The number of victims in all three case groups will increase in 2024 compared to the previous year. The percentage increase is highest in the area of digital violence, with an increase of 15.7 per cent.

Re c)

State funding for violence protection has increased and also includes large-scale projects such as the construction of women's and children's shelters. New projects with an intersectional target group are regularly funded (women's shelters for addicts, violence clinics, networks in facilities for the disabled). In recent years, there has been an increased focus on supporting the networking of the specialised support system by financing cross-institutional and networking associations of providers in addition to direct work with those affected.

Re d)

The double budgets of the Ministry of Social Affairs 23/24 and 25/26 show an increase of just under 3.5 million in violence protection, with a corresponding upward trend in budgeting.

Re e)

The nachtsam campaign raises awareness of violence in nightlife across the country and reaches a broad section of the population, particularly through its work with multiplier training courses.

Police crime prevention continuously reviews its existing prevention programmes and develops new, targeted measures based on current situations and social developments. Depending on requirements, target groups that have not been addressed previously are also taken into account. Another key concern is to constantly identify and use new, targeted communication channels.
Since the beginning of the 2020s, the focus has increasingly been on digital media – for example in

Form of prevention work via social media or through the development of interactive digital products.

Re f)

Access to protection facilities for young women in the asylum process who are affected or threatened by violence in the name of "honour", forced marriage or female genital mutilation/cutting cannot be guaranteed, especially for women with uncertain residence status or without papers, asylum seekers, women without entitlement to benefits under the Social Security Code.

Experience at NADIA shows that the residence requirement for accepted victims in the emergency facility as an obstacle to their protection, because this hinders the anonymisation of those affected.

16. Brandenburg

There has been an increase in domestic and digital violence against women. Please refer to the "Domestic violence" situation report and the presentations at the PKS press conference[248]

For the implementation of the "Act on the Prevention of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence", additional expenditure estimates have been included at the police headquarters as part of the preparation process (2025: EUR 185,000, 2026: EUR 210,000).

Since the Grevio report, Germany has developed new approaches to primary prevention. Digital campaigns, such as YouTube videos by the police and a camouflage app for victims, appeal to young target groups in particular. Men are more involved in violence prevention through specific awareness-raising campaigns. Violence prevention is increasingly being anchored in schools and leisure activities in order to educate people about violence at an early stage and raise social awareness.

In the last two years, significant progress has been made in Brandenburg in the expansion and further development of psychosocial care for refugees and migrants, particularly in rural areas. Key measures and successes include

Expansion of psychosocial care structures

- Capacities increased nationwide, especially to improve accessibility in rural areas.
- Low-threshold and native-language services, including digital access.

Consolidation of the peer approach

- Qualification of refugee women as volunteer multipliers in shelters is to be established.
- Topics include violence prevention, gender equality, health, children's rights.

Introduction of the interpreting tool of the state of Brandenburg

- Available since 2022 – free of charge for authorities and institutions, can be used around the clock
- Extended until 30 June 2027. Supports low-threshold communication for sensitive issues.

Application for AMIF project against human trafficking

- Brandenburg approves a new AMIF project application from the organisation *Arbeit und Leben Berlin-Brandenburg gGmbH* to establish nationwide support and cooperation structures to combat human trafficking, forced labour and labour exploitation.
- Objective: Improvement of victim identification, interdisciplinary cooperation,

[248] https://polizei.brandenburg.de/fm/32/2024-12-10%20Lagebild%20HG%202023_neu.pdf
[249] https://mik.brandenburg.de/sixcms/media.php/9/PKS_2024_Stand21032025.pdf

establishment of specialist structures.

- Approval by the BAMF is expected in summer 2025.

Overall, these measures have achieved comprehensive and needs-based psychosocial care for migrants and refugees in Brandenburg, which includes both the physical and digital space and offers barrier-free and trustworthy support.

With effect from 1 October 2023, the law revising the law on sanctions – alternative custodial sentences, sentencing, conditions and instructions as well as placement in a detention facility (Federal Law Gazette 2023 I No. 203) – expanded the catalogue of sentencing criteria in Section 46 (2) sentence 2 of the German Criminal Code to include "gender-specific" and "anti-sexual orientation" motives. Such motives could previously already be taken into account as "inhuman" motives to increase the penalty. Their inclusion in the catalogue is intended to "send a signal against hate crime, also with regard to women and LGBTI persons, and above all to emphasise the importance of gender equality and the freedom to live out one's own sexual orientation", according to the explanatory memorandum to the government draft (Bundestag printed paper
20/5913 p. 19).

Part IV: Administrative data and statistics

57. Please provide annual statistics for two full calendar years prior to receiving this questionnaire on administrative and judicial data:

- **a. new trends in violence against women and domestic violence, including their digital manifestations (types of violence, victim groups, forms of violence);**
- **b. new trends in national case law on violence against women;**
- **c. new trends in the allocation of resources and budgeting by your government authorities;**
- **d. new trends in the allocation of resources and budgeting by your state authorities;**
- **e. new approaches to primary prevention, e.g. new target groups and means of communication, public-private partnerships, etc.**
- **f. new trends in access to asylum and international protection for women who are victims of violence against women.**

1. Hamburg

Re a) The figures can be found in Appendices 2 and 3.

Re b) The Hamburg police do not keep such statistics.

2. Hesse

Insofar as statistics are available from the Hessian Ministry of Justice and for the Rule of Law, please refer to the tables in the appendix.

Re a)

No valid special evaluation is possible from MESTA, not least because the recording of victim data is only optional.

Re b), c)

It was possible to carry out a MESTA analysis of the new preliminary investigations (Js-/UJs) initiated for violations of (urgent) protection orders under the Protection Against Violence Act (GewSchG) and their outcomes – but without differentiating according to the gender of the victim. These data and the data on legally binding court sanctions taken from the prosecution statistics for the calendar years 2020 to 2024 can be found in the attached overview. The same applies to the orders of the family courts.

Domestic violence – police measures

Measure	Duration	2023	2024
Red card	up to 1 day	197	1472
Sending off	up to 6 days	2	
Sending off	up to 14 days	530	
Expulsion from residence § 31 (2) HSOG	up to 14 days	3,556	6768
Expulsion from accommodation § 31 (2) HSOG	Over 14 days	31	
Prohibition of contact § 31 (2) HSOG	up to 14 days	3,674	7909
Prohibition of contact § 31 (2) HSOG	Over 14 days	44	
Detention § 32 HSOG	up to 1 day	175	373

[2]5[0] It is not possible to differentiate according to duration for 2024 within the specified time frame.

Detention § 32 HSOG	up to 6 days	1	
Detention § 32 HSOG	up to 14 days	46	
Women's shelter		190	175
Referrals to support services (victims)		8,742	9348
Referred to support services (perpetrators)		2,339	2301

Violations of court protection orders (punishable under Section 4 GewSchG)

Year	Number of TV	Cases recorded	Cases solved	AQ in %	Increase in TV	Increase in TV in %	Increase in cases	Increase in cases in %
2023	469	990	990	100	46	10.9	103	11.6
2024	532	1026	1025	99.9	63	13.4	36	3.6

3. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Statistics

Domestic violence

2022

"HG" operations		PP New fire.	PP Rostock	Total M-V
Total deployments		**1195**	**1574**	**2769**
1. Reports pursuant to Section...	123	**12**	**19**	**31**
	174 StGB	**0**	**0**	**0**
	176 StGB	**0**	**4**	**4**
	177 StGB	**14**	**12**	**26**
	185 StGB	**61**	**126**	**187**
	212 StGB	**0**	**1**	**1**
	223 StGB	**767**	**992**	**1759**
	224 StGB	**167**	**244**	**411**
	225 StGB	**26**	**31**	**57**
	226 StGB	**0**	**1**	**1**
	235 StGB	**0**	**1**	**1**
	238 StGB	**34**	**35**	**69**
	239 StGB	**17**	**18**	**35**
	240 StGB	**25**	**42**	**67**
	241 StGB	**176**	**202**	**378**
	253 StGB	**0**	**10**	**10**
	303 StGB	**27**	**67**	**94**
	4 GewSchG	**11**	**4**	**15**
	Other	**42**	**59**	**101**
	Total advertisements	**1382**	**1868**	**3250**
2. Informant	Wife/partner	**392**	**515**	**907**
	Husband/partner	**121**	**170**	**291**
	Girlfriend	**13**	**28**	**41**
	Daughter/son	**95**	**120**	**215**
	Neighbours/acquaintances	**149**	**168**	**317**
	Ex officio	**9**	**12**	**21**

	Other relatives	102	138	240
	Ex Partner	257	279	536
	Other	125	188	313
3 Perpetrator (repeat offenders as number in brackets) Please note the input format!	Wife	70 (009)	100 (012)	170 (021)
	Husband	229 (066)	278 (049)	507 (115)
	Partner	117 (022)	116 (018)	233 (040)
	Partner	386 (132)	452 (102)	838 (234)
	Daughter	19 (001)	29 (007)	48 (008)
	Son	74 (017)	104 (016)	178 (033)
	Ex-partner	49	46 (003)	95 (012)
	Ex-wife	4 (001)	3 (000)	7 (001)
	Ex-partner	263 (082)	276 (044)	539 (126)
	Ex-husband	24 (004)	19	43 (008)
	Other relatives	109 (016)	125 (011)	234 (027)
	Other	33 (001)	65 (006)	98 (007)
4. Alcohol	Causer	569	633	1202
	Victim	312	309	621
5. Present at the EO	Children	518	696	1214
	Young people	153	190	343
	People in need of care	14	16	30
6. Measures	Referral	453	515	968
	Restraining order	504	474	978
	Residence ban	85	114	199
	Detention	38	45	83
	Seizure	55	60	115
	Women's shelter	5	18	23
7. Notification	Youth Welfare Office	623	720	1343
	Intervention centre	1050	1109	2159
	Other	95	145	240
8. *Violation of police orders* Notification of the police by:	own own by the police	18	6	24
	Intervention centre	33	0	33
	Youth Welfare Office	23	4	27
	Other	10	4	14
9. Administrative court Review of the political decision	confirmed	2	0	2
	restricted	1	0	1
	suspended	0	0	0
Civil law decision requested decision Notified by:	Court	23	4	27
	Victim	6	1	7
	Intervention centre	0	1	1
	Other	0	1	1

2023

HG operations		PP New fire.	PP Rostock	Total M-V

Total deployments		**1548**	**1683**	**3231**
1. Reports pursuant to Section...	123	**23**	**41**	**64**
	174 StGB	**1**	**1**	**2**
	176 StGB	**5**	**5**	**10**
	177 StGB	**21**	**15**	**36**
	185 StGB	**62**	**155**	**217**
	212 StGB	**0**	**1**	**1**
	223 StGB	**914**	**964**	**1878**
	224 StGB	**202**	**235**	**437**
	225 StGB	**20**	**32**	**52**
	226 StGB	**0**	**1**	**1**
	235 StGB	**3**	**1**	**4**
	238 StGB	**45**	**71**	**116**
	239 StGB	**26**	**23**	**49**
	240 StGB	**47**	**66**	**113**
	241 StGB	**240**	**286**	**526**
	253 StGB	**6**	**4**	**10**
	303 StGB	**52**	**78**	**130**
	4 GewSchG	**19**	**19**	**38**
	Other	**72**	**48**	**120**
	Total advertisements	**1758**	**2654**	**4412**
2. Informant	Wife/partner	**406**	**499**	**905**
	Husband/partner	**156**	**136**	**292**
	Girlfriend	**14**	**23**	**37**
	Daughter/son	**106**	**108**	**214**
	Neighbours/acquaintances	**183**	**125**	**308**
	Ex officio	**5**	**22**	**27**
	Other relatives	**53**	**180**	**233**
	Ex-partner	**330**	**370**	**700**
	Other	**172**	**234**	**406**
3 Perpetrator (repeat offender as Bracket number) Please note the input format!	Wife	**79 (019)**	**70 (009)**	**149 (028)**
	Husband	**249 (067)**	**252 (043)**	**501 (110)**
	Partner	**142 (047)**	**91 (016)**	**233 (063)**
	Partner	**444 (167)**	**349 (102)**	**793 (269)**
	Daughter	**36 (008)**	**28 (002)**	**64 (010)**
	Son	**112 (026)**	**105 (020)**	**217 (046)**
	Ex-partner	**82**	**71**	**153 (035)**
	Ex-wife	**14 (000)**	**4 (000)**	**18**
	Ex-partner	**345 (145)**	**307 (103)**	**652 (248)**

	Ex-husband	40	27	67
	Other relatives	57	128 (013)	185 (021)
	Other	64 (004)	53 (002)	117 (006)
4. Alcohol	Causer	646	568	1214
	Victim	398	283	681
5. Present at the EO	Children	607	884	1491
	Young people	204	223	427
	People in need of care	5	9	14
6. Measures	Referral	467	547	1014
	Restraining order	593	722	1315
	Restraining order	129	249	378
	Custody	35	52	87
	Seizure	61	107	168
	Women's shelter	5	25	30
7. Notification	Youth welfare office	780	763	1543
	Intervention centre	1135	1183	2318
	Other	167	180	347
8. *Violation of police orders* **Notification of the police by:**	own observation by police	10	9	19
	Intervention centre	22	5	27
	Youth welfare office	13	0	13
	Other	14	2	16
9. Administrative court Review of the political decision	Confirmed	1	0	1
	restricted	0	0	0
	suspended	1	0	1
Civil law decision requested **Communicated by:**	Court	14	6	20
	Victims	3	0	3
	Intervention centre	0	0	0
	Other	1	0	1

4. Saxony

The judicial statistics pursuant to the Administrative Regulation on Business Statistics of Ordinary Courts and Public Prosecutor's Offices and the Administrative Regulation on the Maintenance of Criminal Prosecution Statistics are not data collections within the meaning of Article 11(1)(a) of the Convention, as they do not refer to
"relevant, accurately disaggregated statistical data on cases of forms of violence falling within the scope of this Convention alone". The data available from public prosecutors' offices can be used to draw partial conclusions about the number of reports, provided that the Js proceedings are labelled

"violence in the social sphere" and at least one victim identified as
"female" is taken into account. However, the validity of this data is problematic. The high error rate is due to the complexity of recording the statistical indicator. While it is sufficient to set a procedure-related statistical indicator in other areas of phenomena, in the area of "violence in the social environment", a majority of administrative steps on the part of the department heads and a corresponding

execution in several sub-steps by the office . This

multi-step manual procedure leads to statistical data being prone to errors. This is preceded by a total of 2,426 for 2023 and a total of 2,089 investigations by public prosecutors. In 2023, 492 investigations led to criminal proceedings (application for a penalty order or indictment). In 2024, 377 investigations led to criminal proceedings (application for a penalty order or indictment).

In accordance with Annex 1 to Section I, Number 2, Letter a of the Administrative Regulation on Business Statistics of Ordinary Courts and Public Prosecutor's Offices, the Order on the Collection of Statistical Data in Family Matters (F-Statistics), various procedural data, such as the subject matter of the proceedings and the type of settlement, are recorded. Possible subjects of proceedings are "measures for protection against violence and stalking pursuant to Section 1 GewSchG" and "transfer of residence pursuant to Section 2 GewSchG", and the type of resolution is

"a measure under the Protection Against Violence Act".

The number of restraining orders or protection orders issued, the number of violations of such orders, and the number of sanctions imposed as a result of these violations are not recorded by the F statistics.

The data collected from the administrative statistics of the ordinary courts and public prosecutors' offices are published in the specialist series of the Federal Statistical Office.

The number of sanctions imposed as a result of violations of Section 4 of the Protection Against Violence Act (GewSchG) can be found in the criminal prosecution statistics, which, however, do not contain the desired differentiations. In accordance with Annex 1 to Section I, Number 2, Letter a of the Administrative Regulation on Business Statistics of Ordinary Courts and Public Prosecutor's Offices, the Order on the Collection of Statistical Data in Family Matters (F-Statistics), various procedural data, such as the subject matter of the proceedings and the type of settlement, are recorded. The subjects of the proceedings are parental custody, access rights, child surrender (including enforcement of the return of a child to another Member State under the Hague Convention in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2019/1111).

The official statistics of the courts do not indicate how many decisions on these subjects of proceedings were made by the courts in which incidents of domestic violence were explicitly taken into account.

The statistics for 2022 and 2023 are provided as annexes.

5. Saxony-Anhalt

Please refer to the answer to question 6 (criminal statistics analysis, Annex 1).

Re b)

Hazard prevention measures (e. e.g. removal) are recorded in the police case management system . The data are however not valid statistically evaluable. In this respect, no information is provided.

6. Schleswig-Holstein on a)

As far as statistical data on the number of reports, investigations initiated, prosecutions, final convictions and sanctions imposed in relation to all forms of violence against women and domestic violence covered by the Istanbul Convention are concerned, it is not possible to provide information as criminal justice data is not evaluated according to the gender of the victim.

See attached evaluation of police crime statistics on domestic violence and intimate partner violence (Appendix 01).

Re b)

Reference is made to the comments on Article 11(7)(a) and (b) (p. 63).

Re a)

Summary

Victim numbers Domestic violence

Year	Victims
2015	4,731
2016	5,091
2017	4,927
2018	4,847
2019	4,885
2020	5,065
2021	4,994
2022	5,376
2023	5,782
2024	6,222

*Since 2023, the offences of sexual harassment and abduction of minors have been added.

Victim figures for domestic violence 2024

		Victims by offence		Proportion of offences
Offence	Total	M	W	
Murder and manslaughter	12	4	8	0.2
Serious bodily harm	693	183	510	11.1
Serious bodily harm	3		3	0.05
Intentional simple bodily harm	3,608	865	2,743	58
Rape, sexual assault	198	4	194	3.2
Sexual harassment	13	1	12	0.2
Abduction of minors	28	15	13	0.5
Threats, stalking, coercion	1,614	185	1,429	25.9
Unlawful detention	51	3	48	0.8
Pimping	1		1	0.02
Forced prostitution	1		1	0.02
Total	6,222	1,260	4,962	100
Proportion of men/women	100.0	20.3	79.7	

Development of victim numbers from 2023 to 2024

Offence	2024	2023	Diff.	in
Murder and manslaughter	12	24	-12	-50

Grievous bodily harm	693	651	42	6.5
Serious bodily harm	3	2	1	50
Intentional simple bodily harm	3,608	3,441	167	4.9
Rape, sexual assault	198	150	48	32.0
Sexual harassment	13	21	-8	-38.1
Abduction of minors	28	24	4	16.7
Threats, stalking, coercion	1,614	1,412	202	14.3
Unlawful detention	51	54	-3	-5.6
Pimping	1	1	0	0
Forced prostitution	1	2	-	-50
Total	6,222	5,782	440	7.6

Victims by victim-TV relationship

Victim-TV relationship	Victims Number	Percentage
Former partnerships	2,483	39.9
Spouses	1,693	27.2
Registered civil partnership	2	0.0
Partners in non-marital partnerships	2,044	32.9
Total	6,222	100

Victim figures for domestic violence in 2024

Offence	Total	M	W
Murder and manslaughter	7	3	4
Grievous bodily harm	325	166	159
Intentional simple bodily injury	1,652	770	882
Rape, sexual assault	20	1	19
Sexual harassment	13	1	12
Abduction of minors	13	7	6
Threats, stalking, coercion	795	365	430
Unlawful detention	25	6	19
Abuse of persons in custody	136	63	73
Sexual abuse of children, adolescents and wards	131	34	97
Encouragement of sexual acts by minors	2	1	1
Forced marriage	1		1

Total result	3,120	1,417	1,703
Proportion of men/women	100.0	45.4	54.6

Development of victim numbers from 2023 to 2024

Criminal offence	2024	2023	Diff.	in
Murder and manslaughter	7	10	-	-30
Grievous bodily harm	325	299	26	8.7
Serious bodily harm		3		
Intentional simple bodily harm	1,652	1,506	146	9.7
Rape, sexual assault	20	11	9	81.8
Sexual harassment	13	6	7	116.7
Abduction of minors	13	20	-	-35.0
Threats, stalking, coercion	795	652	143	21.9
Unlawful detention	25	25	0	0
Forced prostitution		1		
Abuse of persons under protection	136	133	3	2.3
Forced marriage	1		1	
Sexual abuse of children, adolescents and wards	131	133	-2	-1.5
Promotion of acts by minors	2	1	1	100.0
Total	3,120	2,800	320	11.4

Victims by victim-TV relationship

Victim-TV relationship formal	Victims	Proportion
Parents	769	24.6
Grandchildren	39	1.3
Siblings	587	18.8
Grandparents	27	0.9
Children	1,134	36.3
Parents-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law	102	3.3
Other relatives	462	14.8

7. Thuringia

The number of investigations completed in 2023 and 2024 and the number of victims of violence against women were collected through a special search of Thuringia's police crime statistics and can be found in Appendix A. The selection of offences was based on the federal situation report on gender-specific crimes against women. The data in the case groups may overlap and refer exclusively to female victims. The PKS does not record the motive for the offence.

Since the 2023 reporting year, the Thuringian police have been evaluating the police crime statistics

with regard to domestic violence since the 2023 reporting year. [251] The data refer to both female and male victims and can be found in Appendix B. The evaluation of the data for 2024 is not yet available.

Regarding b), the Thuringian police do not have any valid data on this.

Regarding c)

According to police crime statistics for Thuringia, 332 cases of violations of Section 4 of the Protection Against Violence Act were recorded in 2023. In 2024, there were 324 cases. Police crime statistics do not record how many of the applicants (in the sense of victims) for the protection orders underlying the cases under the Protection Against Violence Act are female. The Thuringian police have no data on the other figures in the question.

Re d)

Data in the sense of the question from the specific perspective of the Istanbul Convention are not specifically collected as part of the nationwide uniform statistics on the caseload for the judiciary and are therefore not available. Furthermore, if data were available, it would make sense for the Federal Statistical Office to compile the data centrally

would be useful in order to ensure uniform data processing.

8. Bavaria

Preliminary remark: The following statistical data refer exclusively to proceedings in Bavaria.

Re a)

No data is available on the number of reports, investigations initiated, prosecutions and final convictions, as neither the judicial statistics of the public prosecutor's offices (StA statistics) nor the judicial statistics on criminal and administrative offences (StP/OWi statistics) circumstances of the offence, such as violence against women or domestic violence.

Regarding b)

In the judicial statistics on family matters (F statistics), subject area 30
"provisional orders", the number of cases in which measures pursuant to Sections 1 and 2 of the Protection Against Violence Act (GewSchG) were pending in the proceedings that were settled. The figures for the years 2023

and 2024 are shown in the following table:

[251] www.polizei.thueringen.de/landespolizeidirektion/praevention/haeusliche-gewalt

	2023	2024
Amtsgerichte		
Mit den erledigten Verfahren sind an Verfahrensgegenständen anhängig gewesen:		
Maßnahmen zum Schutz vor Gewalt und Nachstellung nach § 1 GewSchG	6.992	5.695
Wohnungsüberlassung nach § 2 GewSchG	1.943	1.621
Oberlandesgerichte		
Mit den erledigten Verfahren sind an Verfahrensgegenständen anhängig gewesen:		
Maßnahmen zum Schutz vor Gewalt und Nachstellung nach § 1 GewSchG	96	119
Wohnungsüberlassung nach § 2 GewSchG	30	29

Regarding c)

The F statistic records the number of cases in which measures pursuant to Sections 1 and 2 of the Protection Against Violence Act (GewSchG) were pending among the total number of cases completed.

The figures for 2023 and 2024 are shown in the table below.

	2023	2024
Amtsgerichte		
Mit den erledigten Verfahren sind an Verfahrensgegenständen anhängig gewesen:		
Maßnahmen zum Schutz vor Gewalt und Nachstellung nach § 1 GewSchG	7.205	5.891
Wohnungsüberlassung nach § 2 GewSchG	1.981	1.655
Oberlandesgerichte		
Mit den erledigten Verfahren sind an Verfahrensgegenständen anhängig gewesen:		
Maßnahmen zum Schutz vor Gewalt und Nachstellung nach § 1 GewSchG	111	134
Wohnungsüberlassung nach § 2 GewSchG	30	33

For the Bavarian police, we refer to the attached situation reports on domestic violence based on the PKS of the Bavarian State Criminal Police Office for the years 2023 and 2024.

9. Lower Saxony

Only case numbers relating to domestic violence can be provided for this question.

Domestic violence

According to this, a total of 21,106 female victims (69.87%) were recorded in 2024. In 2023, 18,890 female victims (70%)

were recorded.

Re b)

Restraining orders and expulsion orders pursuant to Sections 17 and 17a (NPOG)

In 2023, a total of 5,750 and in 2024 a total of 5,858 expulsion orders and removal orders pursuant to Sections 17 and 17a NPOG were registered as of 30 April 2025, which, according to our assessment, are considered to be urgent protection orders issued by the police within the meaning of the question.

It should be noted that expulsions and orders to leave the premises cannot be represented in the PKS. They are recorded as "measures" in the initial statistics data and can only be researched as such. This data is based on ongoing case processing, which means that it is subject to constant change and is therefore not valid or reproducible. In addition, there are no mandatory recording criteria for police measures. An expulsion in connection with cases of domestic violence can be issued and created in the police processing system simply by generating a corresponding document. Documents created cannot be searched for in the input data. Creating a "measure" for the document is not mandatory and is also not a mandatory field in the recording, so that the data situation cannot provide a realistic overview of the expulsions that have actually been issued. See also Art. 11:7 (p. 63).

Violations pursuant to Section 49a NPOG for 2023 and 2024

The cases registered by the police in accordance with Section 49a (2) No. 1 NPOG in conjunction with Section 17a (1) Alt.1 NPOG were collected. Here, the categories "expulsion, residence ban, residence requirement and contact ban" were selected. The tables shown were compiled both in the context of HG and without the HG context. The gender of the injured person/victim is not to be selected separately. Here, too, this is input data that is subject to corresponding fluctuations and no quality control. It is therefore possible that an evaluation indicator "domestic violence" has not (yet) been set in the context of the investigation. This means that violations of Section 17a NPOG are also possible without a corresponding evaluation indicator having been set.

Consequently, both survey options are presented (with and without evaluation flags).

Number of cases: Known violations pursuant to Section 49a NPOG in the context of HG:

In 2024, 345 (2023: 43) violations of an enforceable order (expulsion) pursuant to Section 17a (1) Alt. 1 NPOG became known. Violations of an enforceable order (residence ban) pursuant to Section 17a (1) Alt. 2 NPOG were known in 14 cases in 2024 (2023: 1).

Case numbers: Known violations pursuant to Section 49a NPOG without HG:

In 2024, 534 (2023: 88) violations of an enforceable order (expulsion) pursuant to Section 17a (1) Alt. 1 NPOG became known. Violations of an enforceable order (residence ban) pursuant to Section 17a (1) Alt. 2 NPOG were known in 23 cases in 2024 (2023: 3).

Violations under the Protection Against Violence Act in 2023 and 2024

According to the HG Lower Saxony 2024 situation report, a total of 724 offences under Section 4 GewSchG were reported to the police in 2024. In 2023, according to the HG Lower Saxony 2023 situation report, a total of 648 offences were registered by the police.

It should be noted that these are only cases that have been reported to the police. In such cases, victims/injured parties have the option of filing such applications/sanctions in court without reporting them to the police.

Re c) and d)

No report can be made with regard to the questions, as the requested data is not recorded by the local business area. In addition, reference is made to the answer to Article 11: 7 (p. 63).

Reference is made to the attached Excel table (Appendix 2 Data situation in local courts in Lower Saxony). The available statistical data is compiled there. The data from the local and higher regional courts from the F statistics was evaluated on the first spreadsheet. In addition, convictions and sentences for violations of the Protection Against Violence Act were evaluated from the prosecution statistics. The second spreadsheet contains data from the 2022 and 2023 prosecution statistics. The prosecution statistics for 2024 are not yet available.

10. Rhineland-Palatinate

Below you will find the current figures on the investigations that have been initiated. Statements on crime trends are made regularly on the basis of police crime statistics (PKS). These are valid nationwide and are subject to uniform recording and quality criteria. In accordance with federal guidelines, statistical recording in the PKS takes place at the time of completion of the police investigation when it is handed over to the public prosecutor's office. The PKS therefore only provides information on the number of police investigations completed in the respective observation period. The time of recording does not allow any conclusions to be drawn about the time of the offence. This may be in the year of statistical recording or earlier.

Cases of domestic violence	***2024***	***2023***
***Total**, of which*	***13,497***	***12,955***
• *Domestic violence*	*8,941*	*8,737*
• *Intra-family violence*	*4,784*	*4,470*

Victims of domestic violence in Rhineland-Palatinate	***2024***	***2023***
Total number of victims, of which	***14,384***	***13,810***
• ***Domestic violence***	*8,948*	*8,751*
• ***Intra-family violence***	*5,436*	*5,059*

In the statistical year 2024, the number of cases and victims of domestic violence reached a peak.

The police do not have any data on convictions; this question should be addressed to the Ministry of Justice.

Note: The Rhineland-Palatinate police do not have the means to evaluate the data requested in "b." and "c.".

11. North Rhine-Westphalia

We have the situation reports on domestic violence for 2022 and 2023, which reveal the following developments: In 2022, a total of 58,603 cases of domestic violence were recorded. The number of victims was 63,853, of whom 46,072 were female, representing 72.2 per cent. In 2023, the number of cases rose to 60,268 and the number of victims to 65,482. Of these victims, 46,869 were female, representing 71.6 per cent. This shows that both the number of reported cases and the number of victims of domestic violence have increased compared to the previous year, with female victims continuing to account for a significantly higher proportion.

In the area of criminal law, data is collected on public prosecutor's investigations and court proceedings, which can only be assigned to specific subject areas but cannot be broken down by gender or location. Both crimes against women and crimes in the context of domestic violence can fall under a variety of subject areas. These include, for example, the subject areas of "intentional bodily harm" or "crimes against sexual self-determination". However, since these subject areas also include proceedings against other genders, the available data are not meaningful for the areas in question.

Re b), c) and d)

Within the framework of the order on the collection of statistical data in family matters (F statistics), the number of completed proceedings concerning "measures for protection against violence and stalking pursuant to Section 1 GewSchG" or "transfer of residence pursuant to Section 2 GewSchG" is recorded separately. Since 2020, the F-statistics have also recorded whether an application under Section 1 and/or Section 2 GewSchG was settled by ordering a corresponding measure. This type of resolution is to be recorded both when an order pursuant to Section 1 GewSchG or a transfer of residence pursuant to Section 2 GewSchG has been issued by decision, and when both a measure pursuant to Section 1 GewSchG and a measure pursuant to Section 2 GewSchG were the subject of the proceedings and at least one of these measures was issued by decision. This means that the statistically collected data does not differentiate between the number of cases in which a measure was ordered under Section 1 GewSchG and those in which a measure was ordered under Section 2 GewSchG.

According to the statistical data available here, the total number of measures ordered under Section 1 and/or Section 2 GewSchG is as follows:

	2022	**2023**	**2024**
Measure under the Protection Against Violence Act	591	832	1199

It is assumed here that the low percentage of measures enacted under the GewSchG in North Rhine-Westphalia could be based on the fact that in some cases only the completion of proceedings under Section 1 or Section 2 GewSchG by means of a decision is recorded, without recording in each individual case whether a favourable decision has been issued that contains measures under the GewSchG. Against this background, the business area has been reminded again in recent years, as a precautionary measure, of the correct recording method.

The number of violations of protection orders or restraining orders and the resulting sanctions, as well as the number of decisions issued by family courts on custody, visitation or residence of children in which incidents of domestic violence were explicitly taken into account, are not recorded separately in the judicial statistics, as already explained in question
I. 7, are not collected separately in the context of judicial statistics.

12. Bremen on a)

The following table shows the number of cases of selected offences in the context of the Istanbul Convention with at least one female victim recorded in the Police Crime Statistics (PKS) for the years 2023 and 2024 for the state of Bremen.

It should be noted that the PKS is a preliminary statistic, i.e. cases are only counted after the police investigation has been completed. When interpreting the data, it should therefore be borne in mind that the time of the offence and the counting of the case in the PKS may be in different years, as cases are not always reported in the year in which they occurred and are sometimes not always finally processed by the police in the same year.

It should also be noted that not every PKS code is accompanied by victim registration. In accordance with the PKS guidelines, victim registration is generally carried out for criminal offences against highly personal legal interests (life, physical integrity, freedom, honour, sexual self-determination), provided that these are marked in the PKS catalogue of offences for victim registration ("O"). Only those persons against whom the attempted or completed offence was directed are recorded as victims.

With regard to the interpretation of the following figures, it should also be noted that the PKS is adjusted over time, for example due to new crime phenomena. This can make it difficult to make a direct comparison between different PKS reporting years. For example, sexual insults were introduced as a victim offence on 1 January 2024, which is why no annual comparison is possible here.

To improve readability, not every individual PKS code is shown in the table. Instead, where it makes sense in terms of content, some umbrella codes are shown.

Offence		2024	2023
Code	Description		
------	Total offences	7,308	6,919
0	Offences against life, including:	5	9
01000	Murder	1	6
020010	Manslaughter	4	3
100000	Total offences against sexual self-determination, including:	782	661
110,000	Offences against sexual self-determination Sections 174, 174a-c, 177, 178, 184i-j of the German Criminal Code (StGB), including:	508	478
111	Rape, sexual assault/assault in particularly serious cases, including those resulting in death	185	183
145	Violation of privacy through image recordings § 184k StGB	7	4
200,000	Violent offences and offences against personal freedom, including:	5,961	5,994
210	Robbery, extortion and violent assault on motorists	350	430
220000	Assault	3,571	3,727

230,000	Offences against personal freedom, of which:	2,040	1,837
232,000	Freedom reports, coercion, threats, forced marriage, stalking thereof:	2,018	1,815
232	Coercion	284	277
232300	Threat	1,393	1,208
232,400	Stalking, including:	296	269
232410	Stalking – e.g. physical proximity –	292	266
232420	Stalking – e.g. health impairment –	4	3
232500	Forced marriage	3	2
239000	Human trafficking, forced prostitution, forced labour, labour exploitation and exploitation involving deprivation of liberty	9	9
64100	(Intentional) arson and causing a fire hazard	1	0
673100	Sexual insults, including:	246	-
673110	Sexual offence	211	-
673120	Slander on sexual grounds	14	-
673130	Defamation on sexual grounds	21	-

For the purposes of this evaluation, domestic violence is defined by the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) in its Federal Domestic Violence Report as offences listed in a specified catalogue in which the relationship between the victim and the suspect was recorded in the PKS as a partnership. These include spouses, registered civil partnerships, partners in non-marital cohabitation and former partners. PKS cases with
at least one female victim.

Offence		2024	2023
Key	Designation		
------	Total offences	1,966	2,110
010079	Other murder	1	2
020010	Manslaughter	2	1
100000	Total offences against sexual self-determination, including:	54	66
11	Rape, sexual assault/assault in particularly serious cases, including those resulting in death	47	54
112100	Sexual assault and sexual coercion	2	8
114000	Sexual harassment § 184i StGB	5	4
222010	Other crime scene in case of dangerous bodily harm	132	200
224000	Intentional simple bodily harm § 223 StGB	1,041	1,125
231	Abduction of minors	4	5

232100	Unlawful detention	21	33
232200	Coercion	69	85
232300	Threat	455	410
232400	Stalking	169	154
239,200	Forced prostitution	1	3

The PKS does not record the outcomes of proceedings. It is therefore not possible to answer this sub-question. To do so, the file numbers for all PKS cases presented here would have to be determined by searching the case processing system and then sent to the public prosecutor's office. This would involve an unreasonable amount of work that cannot be carried out at this point.

Re b)

The following table shows the number of expulsion/eviction orders imposed in accordance with the BremPolG for the years 2023 and 2024.

Due to violations of the measure, a total of two detentions were recorded in 2024 pursuant to Section 13(1)(4) for the enforcement of a

Action	2024	2023
Expulsion/eviction	1,966	2,110

Re c)

The following table shows the number of violations of Section 4 of the Protection Against Violence Act recorded in the PKS reporting years 2024 and 2023 for the state of Bremen.

Criminal offence		2024	2023
Key	Designation		
720011	ST in accordance with Section 4 of the Protection Against Violence Act	460	458

13. Saarland

See Appendix 2

Although data on sexual offences, bodily harm, homicides, etc. and protection orders are available, they do not record who the victim/applicant was and whether the persons were female. It is therefore not possible to provide statistical information on whether the proceedings in question actually concerned violence against women.

Re a)

With regard to the question of the number of reports relating to all forms of violence against women and domestic violence, the following statement can be made on the basis of the PKS for the calendar years 2023 and 2024:

Table 1: Number of female victims for the years 2023 and 2024

Table 1 shows the number of female victims of offences recorded in the PKS for the years 2023 and 2024. Overall, the number of female victims fell by 83 in 2024 and

thus falling by 1.1%. The number of victims declined particularly in the areas of offences against sexual self-determination (-12.0% compared to the previous year) and violent offences and offences against personal freedom (-3.6% compared to the previous year). Only in the area of other offences under the Criminal Code did the number of victims rise by a total of 226. This corresponds to an increase of 62.1% over the previous year. The enormous increase in this area is due to a change in the PKS guideline, according to which the following offences were newly included in the recording of victim offences in 2024:

Violence against women – victim-based evaluation				
	Number of victims 2023	Number of victims in 2024	Change from 2023 to 2024 Total	Change from 2024 to 2023 in
Total crimes	7,457	7,374	-83	-1
Offences against life	26	25	-1	-3.8
Total number of offences against sexual self-determination	676	595	-81	-12
Violent crimes and offences against personal freedom of which:	6,391	6,164	-227	-3.6
Assault §§ 223-227, 229, 231 StGB	3,797	3,660	-137	-3.6
Threat § 241 StGB	1,656	1,576	-80	-4.8
Other criminal offences (StGB) of which:	364	590	226	62.1
Resistance against and physical assault on law enforcement officers and equivalent persons Sections 113-115 StGB	360	382	22	6.1

This change resulted in a total of 206 additional victims being recorded.

Table 2: Number of cases of domestic violence recorded in the PKS in 2024

Offence description	Cases of domestic violence in 2024			Victims of domestic violence in 2024		
	PG	FG	HG Total	Female victims total	Female victims PG	Female victims FG
Total cases	2,483	1,248	3,668	2,760	1,993	767
Murder and manslaughter (excluding murder in connection with robbery offences and excluding killing on	9	3	12	10	7	3

Demand						
Rape, sexual coercion and sexual assault	51	7	58	56	50	6
Sexual abuse of wards aged 14 and over and sexual abuse of Children and young people		40	40	41	6	35
Sexual harassment	5	6	11	10	4	6
Promotion of sexual acts by minors § 180 StGB		0	0	0	0	0
Pimping	1	0	1	1	1	0
assault resu lting in death	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grievous bodily harm	268	122	383	234	184	50
Serious bodily harm	1	0	1	1	1	0
Female genital mutilation		0	0	0	0	0
Abuse of persons under protection		61	61	38	0	38
Intentional simple bodily harm	1,456	693	2,118	1,569	1,151	418
Abduction of minors Section 235 of the German Criminal Code	18	4	21	10	7	3
Unlawful detention	28	8	35	34	26	8
Coercion, Threats, stalking	643	302	922	752	553	199
Forced marriage		2	2	1	0	1
Forced prostitution by inducing someone to take up or continuing prostitution or sexual acts, by the a person is exploited	3		3	3	3	0

Table 2 shows the number of cases of domestic violence in 2024. The cases are divided into "partner violence" (PG) and "family violence" (FG). In the area of domestic violence, there was a change in the recording methods following the introduction of a uniform federal definition of "domestic violence". A direct comparison of case numbers with the previous year is therefore not possible.

Table 3: Number of cases of domestic violence recorded in the PKS in 2023

Offence description	Cases of domestic violence in 2023

	HG Total cases	Total victims	Female victims
Total cases	3,077	3,224	2,409
Murder and manslaughter (excluding murder in connection with robbery offences and excluding killing on request	8	8	7
Rape, sexual assault and sexual abuse	54	54	54
Sexual abuse of wards aged 14 and above . and sex abuse of children and adolescents	5	5	4
Sexual harassment	10	10	10
Encouraging sexual acts by minors Section 180 of the German Criminal Code	0	0	0
Pimping	1	1	1
Assault resulting in death	0	0	0
Dangerous bodily injury	325	339	218
Serious bodily harm	0	0	0
Female genital mutilation	0	0	0
Abuse of persons in care	27	39	17
Intentional simple bodily harm	1,869	1935	1417
Abduction of minors § 235 StGB	11	13	5
Unlawful detention	34	34	31
Coercion, threats, stalking	693	746	617
Forced marriage	0	0	0
forced prostitution by Inducing to take up or continue prostitution or to sexual acts through which a person is exploited	2	2	2

Table 3 shows the number of cases of domestic violence according to the old definition for the year 2023. It also shows the total number of victims and the proportion of female victims.

14. Berlin

Data on criminal proceedings relating to violence against women or domestic violence are not collected by the courts. The prosecution statistics also only show the number of persons convicted of offences such as "offences against sexual self-determination" and "offences against physical integrity". With regard to family court protection orders under the Protection Against Violence Act, it can only be reported that 259 cases were settled by the Berlin local courts in 2023 and 415 cases in 2024 through measures under the Protection Against Violence Act. It is not possible to differentiate between cases of violence against women and domestic violence.

The data from the Police Crime Statistics (PKS) are available to the BKA and can be evaluated for the federal states according to uniform criteria.

Therefore, it is recommended that the federal government provide a central response to the police data.

The Berlin police carried out a total of 2,160 expulsions in 2023 and a total of 2,088 in 2024.

15. Baden-Württemberg on a)

Reference is made to the PKS's comments on question 56. a (p. 409).

The following table shows the number of cases of violence against women, broken down into the categories of domestic violence, digital violence and human trafficking, for the years 2023 and 2024 in Baden-Württemberg. As some of the offences covered overlap, the case numbers cannot be added together.

Number of cases of violence against women in Baden-Württemberg	2023	2024
Case group Domestic violence	17,194	17,990
Case group Digital violence	1,860	2,151
Human trafficking case group	75	87

Increases can be seen in all three case groups. The highest percentage increase, with a low number of cases, can be seen in the case group of human trafficking. The number of cases rose by 16.0 per cent from 75 to 87 cases.

Re c)

Police orders pursuant to Section 30 PolG BW (expulsion, residence ban, expulsion from the home, return ban, restraining order) are measures to avert danger that are not recorded in the PKS. Furthermore, there is currently no state-wide survey of police residential expulsion orders, which is why we are unfortunately unable to provide any information on this.

16. Brandenburg

Data is only recorded on police intervention measures (orders to leave the premises, detentions, evictions) in the context of domestic violence and published in the annual Domestic Violence Situation Report.[252] The police headquarters does not keep statistics on violations of such orders.

Re a)

The Public Prosecutor General of the State of Brandenburg collects data based on the definition of domestic violence mentioned under question 6, which, however, differs considerably from the definition used in the Istanbul Convention. The following figures can therefore be provided for a):

	2023	**2024**
Total receipts (reports, investigations initiated, prosecutions)	2,536	2,983
Convictions	129	153

The following sanctions were imposed:

Convictions	**2023**	**2024**
Deprivation of liberty	1	

[252] https://polizei.brandenburg.de/fm/32/2024-12-10%20Lagebild%20HG%202023_neu.pdf, p. 20 (Situation Report 2023, 2024 is not yet published).

Prison sentence with probation	21	29
Prison sentence without probation	9	7
Custodial sentence and custodial measures without parole		1
Fine	92	115
Reservation of punishment (Section 59 StGB)	6	1
Overall result	**129**	**153**

Appendix

Table 1: Initial education (school or vocational training)

Please complete the table and list the professionals (from the fields of healthcare, law enforcement, criminal justice, social services, education, asylum and migration, media/journalism and support services) who have received initial training on violence against women. Please enter a separate row for each occupational group.

Contributions: Hamburg, Hesse, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Thuringia, Brandenburg, Saarland, Schleswig-Holstein, Saxony-Anhalt, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

FA: Saxony, Bavaria (reference to Article 15, p. 136)

1. Hamburg

Specialists	Do you benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence?	Is the training compulsory?	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Who finances the training?	Please describe the content and duration of the training.
Police, junior officers LA (career stage) I	Yes	Yes	Yes, handbook on relationship violence and child welfare risks as part of PDV 350 HH nfD	Federal state of Hamburg	70 teaching units Violence, relationship violence, domestic violence, stalking and violence against children
Police, case handling in the area of relationship violence	Yes	Yes	Handbook on "Relationship violence" see above	Federal state of Hamburg	48 teaching units Relationship violence as a phenomenon / spiral of violence; Dealing with family court decisions; Child welfare risks
Police, case management in the area of relationship violence	Yes	Yes	Handbook on "Domestic violence" see above	Federal state of Hamburg	16 teaching units Abduction of minors; preservation of evidence Violence via the internet
Police, MA (employees) in	Yes	no	Handbook on "Relationship Violence" see above	Federal state of Hamburg	32 teaching units Confidence in taking action when intervening (1st attack);

Patrol enforcement					Presentation of victim protection facilities and counselling centres
Police, junior officers LA II	Yes	Yes, an integral part of the curriculum	Yes	Federal state of Hamburg	Police action in cases of domestic/relationship violence (intervention strategies, securing evidence and victim protection); Dealing with victims of violence (questioning techniques, communication and psychological support): Social and legal foundations (causes, perpetrator profiles, prevention and legal framework) Scope of the modules covered: 121.5 hours, spread over the entire three-year course of study
Law students		Yes	Not known	Public university	- Lecture "Criminal Law BT I": Examination of the relationship between the Protection Against Violence Act and criminal law emergency provisions - Lecture on sexual criminal law
Law students		Yes	Not known	Private university	- Lecture on family law: discussion of grounds for divorce - In addition, discussion in individual units of other lectures, e.g. Criminal Law AT (justification, GewSchG) and StPO (interrogation by investigating judges in cases domestic violence)

2. Hesse

Specialists	**Do you benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence?**	**Is the training mandatory?**	**Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?**	**Who finances the training?**	**Please describe the content and duration of the training**
Candidates for the Hesse State Police	This question is not entirely relevant for our response. The topic is covered in an interdisciplinary manner in various modules -	Yes, the topic is covered in various modules of the degree programmes . The modules	These are fixed course contents, which are largely interdisciplinary	./.	The following topics are covered in various modules during the three-year degree programme: ▪ Prevention and detection

	are covered throughout the three years of study. This shows that the topic is considered very important and is given priority. Students are repeatedly confronted with the topic in their work. The course content provides them with the skills they need to perform their duties and they therefore benefit from the course content.	are compulsory for students, and in some cases performance assessments must be taken.	are covered. Their teaching is supported/supplemented by relevant documents, guidelines, directives, etc. from the Hesse Police.		of violence ▪ Equality between women and men ▪ Needs and rights of victims ▪ Prevention of secondary victimisation ▪ Gender-specific understanding of all forms of violence ▪ Domestic violence and child welfare risks ▪ Stalking ▪ Femicide

3. Lower Saxony

Specialists	Do you benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence?	Is the training mandatory?	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Who finances the training?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Students on the Bachelor's degree programme in Police Services (B.A.), Police Academy of Lower Saxony	Yes	Yes	Yes (PA NI module handbook)	State of Lower Saxony/ PA NI	Content Interdisciplinary examination of the topic "Domestic violence" in a sub-module with the subjects of criminology, operational theory, law and social sciences Duration • Theoretical lectures comprising 14 contact hours and 22 hours of self-study; • practical training comprising 20 contact teaching hours and 20 self-study hours; additional non-quantifiable practical

					training and theoretical content in various modules throughout the course of study that may be thematically related to domestic violence and violence against women
Police officers (PVB), Lüneburg Police Headquarters	Yes	No	Yes (teaching materials)	Through police officers (PB) as multipliers -> thus the state of NI	Content • General information on the topic "Domestic violence" based on Handout III • Violence Protection Act / Restraining order / Long-term detention • Tips for practical work: • Dealing with NIVADIS / POLAS/INPol • Risk assessment / high-risk case management • Internal networking; keyword: competence group • Quality assurance • Special forms (e.g. stalking, forced marriage, sexualised and digital violence, domestic violence, human trafficking) • Cooperation with youth welfare offices, public prosecutors • Presentation of the individual counselling centres • Use/creation of cooperation agreements • Information on the helpline for violence against women • Publications • Intranet 0|15: Learning paths and the latest articles and court rulings can be viewed there Duration • Domestic violence: three-day training course; 2019-2025 with 237 participants Domestic violence for end users: one-day training course; 2023-2025 with 370 participants
PVB, Braunschweig Police Headquarters	Yes	Yes	Decrees and orders in the context of domestic violence	Internal	Contents Basic training course hG, especially for multipliers from the areas of ESD/KED/ZKD, with the following content:

					• Overview of the phenomenon, such as forms of violence, causes, etc.; • Fundamentals such as the state action plan and the Istanbul Convention; • Assistance from the police, in particular basic police measures and standardised processing; • Victim protection and victim support (BISS); • Evidence-based prosecution (public prosecutor's office); • Violence Protection Act and Family Court (judges); • High-risk management by the police; • Work with perpetrators (perpetrator counselling) Duration Two-day training course

4. Rhineland-Palatinate

Specialists	**Will you benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence?**	**Is the training compulsory?**	**Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?**	**Who finances the training?**	**Please describe the content and duration of the training**
Ministry of the Interior and Sport					
Police	Yes	Yes	Yes	State of Rhineland-Palatinate Palatinate	**Femicide:** frequency, perpetrators and victims, risk factors, development process, risk assessment, case management process **Duration:** 2 teaching units + 2 hours of self-study
Police	Yes	Yes	Yes	State of Rhineland-Palatinate Palatinate	**Domestic violence as a reason for police intervention:** Situation overview and phenomenology, understanding of the role of the police and the cycle of violence Tactical objectives, selected tactical and technical-organisational Measures Assessment of the situation in cases of domestic violence and high-risk cases Possibilities and limitations of available resources for self-protection Interfaces between police and non-police hazard prevention

					Duration: 6 teaching units
Police	Yes	Yes	Yes	State of Rhineland-Palatinate Palatinate	**Elective seminar "Domestic violence – police and non-police assistance and support services"** Presentation of external partners in the network and support work **Duration:** 6 teaching units
Police	Yes	Yes	Yes	State of Rhineland-Palatinate Palatinate	**Victimology** (including victim types, victimisation processes, victims' rights, victim support) **Duration:** 8 teaching units
Police	Yes	Yes	Yes	State of Rhineland-Palatinate Palatinate	**Criminalistic peculiarities in the investigation of sexual offences** and forensic investigations, particularly in cases of sexual offences **Duration:** 8 teaching units
Police	Yes	Yes	Yes	State of Rhineland-Palatinate Palatinate	**K degree programme:** Teaching in-depth knowledge for dealing with sexual offences **Duration:** 6 teaching units
Police	Yes	Yes	Yes	State of Rhineland-Palatinate Palatinate	**K degree programme:** Specialisation in victim protection **Duration:** 4 teaching units
Ministry of Justice Law studies and training of judicial officers					
Full law degree and legal clerkship	All	Yes	Ongoing task	by law	The implementation of the Istanbul Convention should be understood as an ongoing task that permeates various aspects of legal education.

Trainee judicial officers	all	yes	Ongoing task	through the law	Permanent task The degree programme and practical year include learning units on the Protection Against Violence Act. In addition, the criminal law course covers offences involving bodily harm. In the context of fundamental rights, aspects such as human dignity and the principle of equality, as well as the resulting prohibitions on discrimination (Art. 3(3) of the German Basic Law), are addressed. The course on justice management provides students gain knowledge of interdisciplinary key psychological competencies.
Ministry of Justice Training for the first and second entry-level positions (police officer and judicial officer) as well as training for bailiffs and public prosecutors					
Judicial police officer service	All	Yes	Permanent task	By law	The implementation of the Istanbul Convention is to be understood as an ongoing task that is reflected in various aspects of the legal training for the first entry-level position. The theoretical course includes learning units on the Protection Against Violence Act. In the context of fundamental rights, aspects such as human dignity and the principle of equality, as well as the resulting prohibitions on discrimination (Art. 3 (3) GG), are addressed. In practical training, trainees acquire knowledge of interdisciplinary key psychological skills. Practical insights provide candidates with the basic skills to act appropriately and professionally in sensitive situations through appropriate communication and rhetorical skills.
Trainee judicial officers	all	yes	ongoing task	by law	The implementation of the Istanbul Convention is to be understood as an ongoing task that is reflected in various aspects of the legal training provided in the second entry-level civil service position. The theoretical courses include learning units on the Protection Against Violence Act. In the context of fundamental rights, aspects such as human dignity and the principle of equality, as well as the resulting prohibitions of discrimination (Art. 3 (3) GG), are dealt with. In practical training, trainees acquire knowledge of interdisciplinary key psychological skills. Practical insights provide candidates with

					the basic skills to act appropriately and professionally in sensitive situations through appropriate communication and rhetoric skills.
Bailiff service	all	Yes	Permanent task	By law	Permanent task Knowledge of psychology, criminal law and de-escalation are taught. In particular, the protection of the debtor, but also self-protection, is taught.
Public prosecutor's office	all	Yes	Ongoing task	by law	Permanent task The specialist academic course with practical relevance imparts knowledge of criminal law and promotes social, economic and legal policy understanding.

5. North Rhine-Westphalia

Skilled workers	**Benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence?**	**Is the training mandatory?**	**Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?**	**Who finances the training?**	**Please describe the content and duration of the training**
Police					
Police officer candidates and assistant police officers	Skills taught in various modules as part of the degree programme.	Yes.	Yes	State of North Rhine-Westphalia	3-year dual accredited degree programme in law enforcement (see 1st State Report).
Justic e					
All lawyers qualified to hold judicial office.		No, but it may be included in the final examination.	No.	No separate training.	Training takes place as part of university education through lectures and seminars and concerns the legal situation.
Healthcare					
Nursing specialist				The training is provided by hospitals, the	To create their internal curricula, nursing schools in North Rhine-Westphalia

				inpatient and outpatient care facilities, the state of North Rhine-Westphalia and the social care insurance fund via a compensation fund.	The prevention and handling of conflict and violence phenomena are anchored in the training process in the framework plans of the Technical Commission in accordance with Section 53 PflBG.
Nursing assistant	Yes	Yes	Training and Examination Regulations for Nursing Assistants – PflfachassAPrV	The training is financed by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia with a lump sum.	The Training and Examination Regulations for Nursing Assistants – PflfachassAPrV stipulate that skills for recognising threats to health (e.g. due to domestic violence) must be acquired .
Midwives	Yes			The training is financed by health insurance companies in accordance with §17a KHG in conjunction with §134a SGB V.	Federal regulation through the Study and Examination Regulations for Midwives (HebStPrV).

6. Bremen

Specialists	Do you benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence?	Is the training mandatory?	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Who finances the training?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Nursing professionals in training (training in accordance with the Nursing Professions Act)	Yes, this area is covered in a learning field within the compulsory curriculum for training in accordance with the Nursing Professions Act.	Yes, it is part of the training.	Bremen Curriculum	Financed as part of the training by the Nursing Training Fund.	A 10-hour unit on the topic is integrated into learning area 23, "Recognising power and powerlessness, avoiding violence – protecting people in care", which comprises 60 hours. This is published as a separate module (https://www.transparenz.bremen.de/metainformationen/pdf-modul-pflegeausbildung-istanbul-konvention-256993) and can therefore also be offered as a stand-alone training course or as part of further training.
Midwives	Yes, it is part of the midwifery science programme at the university	Yes, it is part of the midwifery programme.	Module handbook for the midwifery programme at Bremen University of Applied Sciences	About the regular degree programme.	Competencies for counselling, accompanying and supporting women who have experienced violence, especially sexualised or domestic violence, as well as female

	Bremen (undergraduate programme since 2022).				Genital mutilation are integrated into the module handbook.
Police commissioner candidates / PVD students	Yes	Yes. Individual subject areas Additional modules (e.g. victim protection) are offered as optional specialisation modules (see below).	Module handbook for the Police Enforcement Service degree programme	State HB / HfÖV	The topic is an integral part of the six-semester interdisciplinary, theoretical and practical course and therefore cannot be quantified. Contents are: - legal, psychological and criminological fundamentals; - civil, criminal and police law intervention options Dealing with people in exceptional psychological situations - training under real conditions on the phenomenon of domestic violence -Legal principles of victim protection, -Local victim support system, - psychosocial support during legal proceedings
Police commissioner candidates / PVD students	Yes	No Elective module on victim protection	There is information material on victim support organisations and training material on legal victim protection provisions, as well as scripts and presentations	State HB/HfÖV	The compulsory elective modules take place regularly in the summer semester during the period from 2020 to 2024 (and also in 2025) covered by this survey. They comprise 3 SWS. Students are given an overview of victims' rights (StPO, GVG, GewaltSchG, BremPolG, European law). In addition, victim support organisations will be visited or representatives of the organisations will come
Police commissioner trainees / PVD students	Yes	No Elective module on prostitution	There is information material on victim support services and training material on legal provisions for victim protection, as well as scripts and presentations.	State HB/HfÖV	As part of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (CCICJ), an elective module on prostitution was offered in the winter semester 2024/25. The course content covered human trafficking, forced prostitution, and the legal basis for protection against human trafficking and forced prostitution at both European and national level (e.g. StGB, ProstSchG, StPO, EU Human Trafficking Directive). One teaching unit dealt with OSINT and big data investigations in connection with human trafficking. The theoretical course content was by visits to counselling centres

7. Berlin

Professionals	Will you benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence?	Is the training mandatory?	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Who finances the training?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Health Department					
Trainee nurses (17 of 45 nursing schools are participating)	Yes	Individual requirements specified by the training institution	Yes, S.I.G.N.A.L. guidelines	Respective training institution. Coordination financed by SenGesundheit	6-8 teaching units - Basic knowledge of domestic and sexual violence (definition, prevalence, dynamics, forms, etc.) - Health consequences - Addressing violence and conducting conversations - Documentation of injuries Help system, referrals
Medical assistants	Yes	See above	RTB recommendations for general medical practices (see above)	See above Lessons are repeatedly cancelled at a school because there are insufficient funds.	See above
Dental assistants	Yes	See above	RTB recommendations for dentistry (see above)	See above Lessons are repeatedly cancelled at a school because there are insufficient funds.	see above
Midwives	See above	The topic is included in the midwifery sciences BSC curriculum.	Yes, S.I.G.N.A.L. guidelines & RTB working aid for obstetrics	See above	See above
Education Department					
Trainee teachers	Yes	Yes, as part of a compulsory module on conflicts and violence prevention	Yes, regulation in the preparatory service handbook	SenBJF	At least 10 hours on the topic of conflict and violence prevention

2023: at least 1,204 people in Berlin trained from the above-mentioned occupational groups (= number of people who completed the evaluation form)

2024: at least 1,404 people in Berlin trained from the above-mentioned occupational groups (= number of people who completed the evaluation form)

8. Baden-Württemberg

Specialists	Do you benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence?	Is the training mandatory?	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Who finances the training?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Trainees in the middle police service (PVD)	Yes	Yes	Mission statements of the Baden-Württemberg Police	--	The training takes place in the module "Violence in the social environment". Here, the content is divided among the subjects as follows: Law Security and Public Order Services (8 teaching hours = TH), Law on crime prevention (1 US), police tactics (4 US), Psychology (5 US) and Practical training (11 US).
Students in preliminary training for the higher PVD	Yes	Yes	Mission statements of the Baden-Württemberg Police	--	The training takes place in the module "Violence in the social environment". The content is divided among the following subjects as follows: Law Security and public order services (2 US), Police tactics (4 US), Psychology (3 US). Practical training is integrated here as needed and therefore cannot be defined in terms of the number of US.
Students of the gPVD	Initial training as part of the gPVD programme by Faculty II, Department of Criminology/Sociology. Further teaching of the subject as part of the gPVD programme.	Yes, an integral part of the curriculum.	Module handbooks for the respective degree programmes. Lecture notes.		Duration: 10 lecture units, each lasting 45 minutes Content: Phenomenology, Identification of different forms of domestic violence (psychological, physical, sexual, economic),

					Risk assessment to prevent further violence (ODARA), existing support services and the role of other institutions; Mechanisms of violence, Gender-specific power and violence structures, escalation dynamics and risk factors.

9. Thuringia

Professionals	**Benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence violence?**	**Is the training mandatory?**	**Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?**	**Who finances the training?**	**Please describe the content and duration of the training**	Please indicate whether the expertise of women's rights organisations or specialised support services is incorporated into the design and/or implementation of the training.
Police sergeant candidates	The candidates benefit by training	in the Training is mandatory	Yes, it will by different he guidelines Supported	Free State Thuringia	Complex training exercise on the topic of domestic Violence and family disputes	No
Police commissioner candidates ter	The candidates benefit of training	During of studies is mandatory	Yes, it will by different Guidelines Supported	Free State Thuringia	Complex training exercise on the topic of domestic violence and family disputes, application of Guidelines and principles of engagement in domestic Violence, application of legal science Course content in domestic violence situations (including practical and realistic training in "crime scenes" https://polizei.thueringen.de/bildungseinrichtungen/moderne-ausbildungsbedingungen/tatortwelt)	No

10. Brandenburg

Professionals	Do they benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence?	Is this training mandatory?	Are training efforts supported by guidelines and protocols?	Who funds the training?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Trainees in the intermediate police service	Yes	Yes	Yes	Federal State of Brandenburg	The subject area is addressed as part of social skills training (TSK), in particular victim/affected person communication. It is part of the training regulations, but is not relevant to the examination.
Students of the BA programme for senior police officers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Federal State of Brandenburg	Module 4.1 deals with the new definition of gender-specific and domestic violence as well as its effects and victimisation in theoretical lessons. The content and application of protection against violence and the possibilities of police victim protection are taught and applied in exercises and operational training ("Brandenburg Act on the Prevention of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence"); this is relevant to the examination. In addition, the extension of sentencing in accordance with Section 46 (2) StGB to include gender-specific motives is also discussed. The topic is addressed in several teaching units across all subjects. The subject area is addressed as part of social skills training (TSK), in particular victim/affected person communication. It is part of the training regulations, but is not relevant to the examination.

11. Saarland

Specialists	Benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence?	Is the training mandatory?	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Who finances the training ?	Please describe the content and duration of the training	Support Expertise Women's rights organisations
Police officers in preparatory service at	Yes	The curriculum for training as a senior	The compulsory course is an integral part of the	part of the training	20 teaching hours. Contents:	No

the University of Applied Sciences for Administration – Department of Law Enforcement –		law enforcement service includes compulsory interdisciplinary courses, including Exercise 7.7. "Intervening in domestic violence". Within the framework of 20 teaching hours, students are familiarised with the phenomenon of domestic violence and learn the "Guidelines for Action in Cases of Domestic Violence".	Curricula		- Phenomenon and situation - Legal situation, legal instruments and police case handling - Victim protection - Criminal case processing - Risk analysis - Addressing offenders - Case processing from the perspective of the public prosecutor's office - Prevention of escalation of violence - Cooperation within the network / case management - Deployment of special units in threatening situations - Deployment of the negotiation team - Conducting a planning exercise	
Legal trainees	Yes	Yes	No	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Women and Health	1.5 hours as part of the elective stage of legal traineeship Domestic violence and stalking: criminological principles for assessing the facts and protecting victims, with content: - Domestic violence ▪ Characteristics and mechanisms ▪ Risk assessment ▪ Particularly vulnerable victim groups - Stalking ▪ Forms ▪ Perpetrator typology ▪ Behavioural indicators - Dealing with victims and other	

					parties involved in the proceedings - Police expulsion from the home	
Medical students	Yes	Yes	Yes, documentation form for confidential evidence collection	Saarland University	As part of their medical studies at Saarland University, students are informed about sexualised and domestic violence against women and children. They receive information about the procedure for "confidential evidence collection after sexual violence".	Saarland Women's Emergency Hotline The event is jointly organised by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Women and Health and the Women's Emergency Hotline. .

12. Schleswig-Holstein

Professionals	Do you benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence?	Is the training mandatory?	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Who finances the training?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Teacher training					
Teachers	Yes	No	Yes	IQSH	The Centre for Prevention is planning a training event on the topic of "Violence against women".
Police (trainees and students)					
Police Trainees and students	Yes	Yes	Yes	State SH	Training LG 1.2: **27 teaching units** (TU) This takes place within the subject areas of intervention law (7 TE), psychological behavioural training (10 TE) and criminology (10 TE). Among other things, participants are trained in the use of the Danger

					Assessment analysis tool and the new HG decree in the subjects of criminology and intervention law. Study of LG 2.1: Phenomena of violence, including references to domestic violence, are touched upon in various subjects: psychology, criminology, criminalistics and intervention law. Domestic violence is *explicitly* covered in HS-I, sub-module 3.1, subject PSY, in **10** contact teaching hours (LVS). In criminology, the topic is taught in HS-I, sub-module 3.3 with 2 LVS.

13. Saxony-Anhalt

Specialists	**Do you benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence?**	**Is the training mandatory?**	**Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?**	**Who finances the training?**	**Please describe the content and duration of the training**
Students at the Saxony-Anhalt Police University of Applied Sciences	Yes	Yes	State concept for situation-appropriate action in cases of domestic violence, stalking and child endangerment (VS-NfD)	State of Saxony-Anhalt	Study 30 seminar hours on domestic violence and stalking Manifestations and causes Legal basis Preventive measures Training in emergency situations
Trainees at the Saxony-Anhalt Police University of Applied Sciences	Yes	Yes	State concept for appropriate action in cases of domestic violence, stalking and child endangerment (VS-NfD)	State of Saxony-Anhalt	Training 24 teaching hours Manifestations and causes Legal basis Preventive measures Training for emergency situations

14. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Specialists	Benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence?	Is the training mandatory?	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Who finances the training?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Doctors	Yes, final examination	No	Yes Child protection guidelines	UMG	Certificate: Child Protection in Medicine Modular training
Nursing science students 2023 until 2024	Yes, lecture	Yes	Yes Istanbul Convention	Nursing Science Studies at UMG	VL 4 double lessons each "Violence in nursing
Medical/dental students	Yes, lecture	No	YES Istanbul Convention and Child Protection Guideline	Medicine/dentistry degree programme	1 teaching unit
Law students	Yes, lecture	No		Degree programme University of Greifswald	1 teaching unit
Teacher training students	Yes	No	Yes	University of Rostock	Diversity and awareness training: Topics: equality, discrimination, prevention of violence; Duration: 1–2 days, integrated into study-related events.
Social science students (BA/MA)	Yes	No	Yes	University of Rostock	Introductory modules on social work: focus on violence prevention, dealing with victims, gender perspective; duration: topic-specific modules within the degree programmes.
Medical students (human medicine)	Yes (conditional in the elective area)	No	Partially (project modules)	University of Rostock	Elective modules "Medicine and Violence Prevention": Focus on identifying victims of violence and providing psychosocial support; duration: individual modules (approx. 1 week).
Students in the field of migration and integration (social work/BA)	Yes	No	Yes	University of Rostock	Seminars on intercultural competence and protection against violence: Topics: Protection of vulnerable groups, violence prevention in the context of migration; Duration: Block seminars (1–2 days) days).
Communication and media students	Yes (optional)	No	No	University of Rostock	Workshops on the portrayal of gender roles in the media: raising awareness of stereotypical portrayals, violence in reporting; duration: 1 day.

Police officer cadet (training in accordance with § 10 PolLaufbVO M-V, career group 1, 2nd entry level) entry level)	Yes	Yes, all lessons and training courses are compulsory.	Training plan	The subject is covered theoretically from several professional perspectives, in particular from a criminal law, service, psychological, communicative and criminalistic perspective.	The subject matter is dealt with theoretically from several professional perspectives, in particular from a criminal law, service, psychological, communicative and criminalistic perspective. Trainees complete, among other things, practical situation training on the topic of "domestic violence" with 8 LVS of 45 minutes each with external actors and assessment of their procedures by various experts, including feedback.
Police inspector candidates (bachelor's degree programme in accordance with § 12 PolLaufbVO M-V, career group 2, 1st entry level)	Yes	Yes, all lessons and training sessions are compulsory.	Module handbook	Federal state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	The topic is dealt with theoretically from several professional perspectives, in particular from a legal, service-related, forensic, psychological and criminal psychological, communicative, criminalistic and criminological perspective. Among other things, students complete a situation training course on the topic of "domestic violence" with 8 LVS á 45 minutes. Students analyse stalking cases and domestic violence cases and carry out risk assessments. The elective modules "Violence in the social environment" and "Criminal investigation of homicide, sexual and serious violent crimes" delve deeper into the subject matter.

Table 2: Continuing education

Please complete the table and list the professionals (from the fields of healthcare, law enforcement, criminal justice, social services, education, asylum and migration, media/journalism and support services) who receive training on violence against women. Please enter a separate row for each professional group.

Contributions: Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen, Baden-Württemberg, Hesse, Brandenburg, Saxony-Anhalt, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Thuringia, Schleswig-Holstein, Saarland, Bavaria (see also Art. 15, p. 136), Saxony, Berlin

1. Hamburg

Specialists	Number of professionals trained specialists	Is the training compulsory?	Frequency	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Police; case handling in the area of domestic violence	2023: 32 2024: 44	Yes	One-off	Manual "Relationship violence" as part of PDV 350 HH NfD	64 teaching units Relationship violence as a phenomenon / spiral of violence; Dealing with family court decisions; Endangering the welfare of children
Police; MA in police station administration	2023: 20 2024: 35	No	Based on requirements	Manual "Relationship violence" as part of PDV 350 HH nfD.	32 teaching units Confidence in taking action when intervening (1st attack); Introduction to victim protection facilities and counselling centres
Social work professionals	13	No	1x	Handout	**2020** Domestic violence 16 hours
Social work professionals	11	No	1	Handout	**2021** NEW Spotlight: Forced marriage *Online 2 hours
Specialists from	8	No	1		**2021** NEW Spotlight: Female

Social work					Genital Mutilation FGM/C *Online 2 hours
Social work professionals	0	No	1	Handout	**2021** Domestic violence 16 hours
Social work professionals	0	No	1	Handout	**2022** NEW Spotlight: Underage marriages – marking the 5th anniversary of the law to combat child marriages *Online 2 hours
Social work professionals	0	No	1x	Handout	**2022** Domestic violence 16 hours
Social work professionals	14	No	1	Handout	**2023** Domestic violence 16 hours
Social work professionals	0	No	1	Handout	**2024** Domestic violence 16 hours
New professionals in General Social Services (ASD)	48 (one group not countable)	Yes	4x	Curriculum NiA and handout	**2020** Child Protection B – Crisis Intervention and Domestic Violence 16 hours
New specialists in ASD	85	Yes	4	NiA curriculum and handout	**2021** Child Protection B – Crisis Intervention and Domestic Violence 16 hours
New specialists in ASD	68	Yes	4	NiA curriculum and handout	**2022** Child Protection B – Crisis Intervention and Domestic Violence 16 hours
New specialists in ASD	65	Yes	4	NiA curriculum and handout	**2023** Child Protection B – Crisis Intervention and Domestic Violence 16 hours
New professionals in ASD	51 (Group 4/24 only has KiSchuB in June)	Yes	4x	Curriculum NiA and handout	**2024** Child Protection B – Crisis Intervention and Domestic Violence 16 hours
Judges	50 (2020-2024)	The individual training courses are not compulsory, but	1-2 times per year	Not known	Changing topics: Interdisciplinary specialist days (full day each) with the social services authority.

		There is a legal obligation for judges in family law to undergo further training in accordance with § 23b (3) GVG			2024: "Intercultural competence and child protection in family court proceedings" 2023 (2x): Attachment theory in family court proceedings: findings, possibilities and limitations 2022: "Child welfare risks and sexualised violence."
Judges	6 (2024)	Although the individual training courses are not compulsory, there is a legal obligation for judges to undergo further training in family law in accordance with Section 23b(3) GVG	ongoing	Not known	e-learning: Good child protection procedures: Interdisciplinary online course on the topic of family court child protection proceedings and child-friendly justice
judges	118 (2020-2024)	Although the individual training courses are not compulsory, there is a legal obligation for judges in family law to undergo further training in accordance with § 23b (3) GVG	1x per year	Not known	4-hour training course on protection against violence as part of the Hamburg family law module series; judges from several federal states received training
Judges and public prosecutors	approx. 80 (2022-2024)	No	1 x year	Not known	3.5-hour training course on victim protection, among other topics, as part of the Hamburg criminal law module series; judges from several federal states received training from several federal states
Judges and public prosecutors	Scheduled for 2026		Once a year	Not known	Event on, among other things, the Istanbul Convention
Judges and prosecutors	Scheduled for 7/2025		Once a year	Unknown	Homicides with a focus on femicides
EDUCATION: Teachers, social education workers	Since 2012, a total of approx. 600 schools Skilled workers	voluntary	3-4 courses per year	Fixed curriculum	Dealing with child welfare risks, signs of child welfare risks, procedures, cooperation (35 hours)
EDUCATION: Teachers, social education specialists	Since 2013 approx. 175 school professionals	Voluntary	Once a year	Fixed curriculum	Support for victims in schools, different levels of involvement, traumatisation, dealing with death and grief (approx. 100 hours)

EDUCATION: Teachers and other educational professionals	Since 2015 Average of 200 professionals per year	Voluntary	On average 10 events per year	The training courses are based on the guidelines of the new education plans for the subject area of sex education	In-school training courses to accompany prevention formats against sexualised violence (theatre/travelling exhibitions), 3 hours
EDUCATION: Teachers and other educational professionals	Since 2021, an average of 25 professionals per year	Voluntary	On average 4 events per year	The training courses are based on the guidelines of the new education plans for the subject area Sex education	Individual training courses on FGM/C, self-determined and non-violent partnerships, forced marriage, the lover boy method, 3 hours

2. Lower Saxony

Specialists	**Number of professionals trained professionals**	**Is the training compulsory?**	**Frequency**	**Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols? ?**	**Please describe the content and duration of the training**
Prosecutors	2020: 17 2021: 21 2022: Cancelled 2023: not offered 2024: not offered	No	Annually (planned)	Yes	Exchange of experiences between specialised officers for domestic violence
Judges Prosecutors		No	Annually (planned)	Yes	Domestic violence, focus: domestic violence against children (open to family court judges)
Family court judges	2020: Cancelled 2021: 32 2022: 24 2023: Cancelled 2024: Not offered	No	Annually (planned)	Yes	Family psychological assessment Full day
Family judges	2020: not offered	No	Annually (planned)	Yes	Child hearings in family law

	2021: 17 2022: 21 2023: 20 2024: not offered				Full day
Prosecutors, criminal judges	2020; not offered 2021: 27 2022: 21 2023: 23 2024: not offered	No	Annually (planned)	Yes	Video questioning and forensic interviewing of children and young people who are victims of (sexual) violence Two days
Family court judges	2024: 17	No	Annually (planned)	Yes	Further training for family court judges on Article 31 of the Istanbul Convention (most recently in 8/2024)
Family judges	2020: not offered 2021: not offered 2022: 8/7 2023: 7/7 2024: 7	No	Annually (planned)	Yes	Fundamentals of child custody proceedings with a focus on child protection 5 days twice a year
Family court judges		No	Annually (planned)	Yes	Protection against violence cases (as part of a series of modules from Hamburg)
From this point onwards, the conferences will be organised by the German Judicial Academy.	<	<	<	<	<
Prosecutors Judges	N/A	No	Annually	Yes	Domestic violence – family law and criminal law aspects, credibility assessment in cases of suspected sexual abuse
Prosecutors, judges	N/A	No	Annually	Yes	Child impairment due to parental partnership violence and the shaping of child custody proceedings
Prosecutors, judges	N/A	No	Annually	Yes	Family psychological assessments and amicable conflict resolution

Prosecutors Judges	Not available	No	Annually	Yes	Hearing children in family court proceedings
Prosecutors Judges	Not available	No	Annually	Yes	Current developments in international family law
Prosecutors Judges	N/A	No	Annually	Yes	Interrogation/hearing of (child) victims
Prosecutors Judges	Not available	No	Annually	Yes	Forensic questioning of children – possibilities and limitations of video questioning
Social worker	2020: 217 2021: 219 2022: 289 2023: 208 2024: 335	Voluntary via advertisement	Annually	No	Symposium on domestic violence: Current topics and issues relating to intervention and prevention of violence in relationships are addressed and discussed with experts from academia and practice.
Interdisciplinary group of participants (from the police, judiciary, youth welfare office, women's support organisations, perpetrator work, etc.)	2020: 18 2021: 18 2022: 18 2023: 18 2024: 18	Voluntary via call for applications	Annually	No	Risk assessment and case management for high-risk cases of domestic violence
Counselling centres, women's shelters	2022: 28	Voluntary via call for applications	6 modules, 1 day each	No	Legal foundations for counselling practice: When counselling women affected by domestic violence, it is not only helpful but essential to be familiar with the legal principles in various areas of law and, at the same time, to know how the legal system works.
Counselling centres, women's shelters	2020: 18 2021: 18 2022: 18 2023: 18 2024: 18	Voluntary via advertisement	1 day	No	Discrimination-sensitive action in counselling practice

Police	June 2023: 491 October 2023: 184	Voluntary via advertisement	One-off	Yes Guidance for the police on dealing with domestic violence	Digital training "High-risk management of domestic violence by the Lower Saxony police" for police network partners: The training provides an overview of high-risk management by the Lower Saxony police and the basics of threat management. The focus is on the initial assessment of domestic violence, risk analysis and the structure and tasks of the individual network partners in interdisciplinary case management
Public prosecutors; victim support workers and victim support workers	2020: 19 2021: 21 2022: 20 2023: 22 2024: 22	Voluntary via call for applications	Annually	No	Exchange of experiences between special department heads Domestic violence
Interdisciplinary group of participants (from the police, judiciary, youth welfare office, women's support organisations, perpetrator support services, etc.)	2023: 140	Voluntary via advertisement	One-off	No	Digital conference: Law in the digital world. In this webinar, examples from a legal perspective will be used to classify shared and liked content and highlight possible responses. will be presented.
Social education workers, social workers, educators, psychologists	2022: 20 2024: 11	Voluntary via call for applications	Every two years	No	The aim of the training is to qualify professionals with experience in counselling and supporting victims of crime in psychosocial trial support. Attendance time in 7 modules of 3 days each (154 hours) +

					attendance time in the final module 2 days (10 hours), intervision group and tasks (16 hours) Literature study and independent trial observation at least one hearing at the regional court, including documentation (30 hours), total = 210 hours;
Specialists in the Lower Saxony violence protection system	2020 online: 300 2021 online: 280 2022: 200 2023: 200 2024 online: 330	Voluntary	Two-year cycle In-person and digital	No	Symposium: Concerns domestic violence
Specialists in the Lower Saxony violence protection system	2021 online: 150 2022 online: 100 2023: 100 2024: 80	Voluntary	Annually	No	Symposium Words help women
Specialists in the Lower Saxony violence protection system	2024: Average of 50	No	Quarterly, continuation also in 2025	No	Digital lunchtime talk
Specialists in the Lower Saxony violence protection system, medical staff	2020:70	Voluntary	Conference once in 2020	No	Symposium per piece of evidence
Specialists in the Lower Saxony violence protection system	2022: 80	Voluntary	One-off symposium as part of the model project "Sustainable networking of perpetrator work facilities in Lower Saxony" in preparation for the implementation of IK in Lower Saxony	No	Symposium "Offender work Domestic violence in Lower Saxony"
Counsellors, medical staff and specialists from other institutions	2024: 231	Voluntary	10 times in 2024	Unknown	Education and awareness raising; seminars against FGM/C

Counsellors, medical staff and specialists from other institutions	2024: 113	Volunteers	10 times in 2024	Unknown	Education and awareness raising, workshops against FGM/C
Doctors, medical professionals	2020: approx. 176	Yes, mandatory under the cooperation agreement	In-house or online training as required	Yes, including WHO guidelines and ProBeweis network quality standards	1.5 to 2 hours, procedural instructions for confidential documentation of injuries and securing evidence from victims capable of giving consent of domestic or sexual violence in the ProBeweis network
Doctors, medical professionals	2021: approx. 224	Yes, mandatory under the cooperation agreement	Monthly online training courses and in-house or online training courses as required	Yes, including WHO guidelines and ProBeweis network quality standards	1.5 to 2 hours, procedural instructions for confidential documentation of injuries and securing evidence from victims capable of giving consent of domestic or sexual violence in the ProBeweis network
Doctors, medical professionals	2022: approx. 253	Yes, mandatory under the cooperation agreement	Monthly online training courses and in-house training courses as required	Yes, including WHO guidelines and ProBeweis network quality standards	1.5 to 2 hours, procedural guidelines for confidential documentation of injuries and securing evidence from consenting victims of domestic or sexual violence in the ProBeweis network
Doctors, medical professionals, psychosocial professionals	2022: approx. 280	Voluntary	Online training	AWMF-S2k – Guideline: Diagnosis and treatment of acute consequences of psychological trauma, Reg. no.: 051 – 027	approx. 2 hours, "Dealing with acutely traumatised people" ProBeweis network
Doctors, medical professionals	2023: approx. 333	Yes, mandatory under the cooperation agreement	Monthly online training courses and in-house training courses as required	Yes, including WHO guidelines and ProBeweis network quality standards	1.5 to 2 hours, procedural instructions for confidential documentation of injuries and securing evidence from consenting victims of domestic or sexual

					violence in the ProBeweis network
Doctors, medical professionals	2024: approx. 462	Yes, mandatory under the cooperation agreement	Monthly online training courses and in-house training courses as required	Yes, including WHO guidelines and ProBeweis network quality standards and within the framework of the amendment to SGB V (§§ 27 (1) and 132k)	1.5 to 2 hours, procedural instructions for confidential documentation of injuries and securing evidence from consenting victims of domestic or sexual violence Violence in the ProBeweis network
Specialists in the Lower Saxony violence protection system, doctors, pregnancy and pregnancy conflict counselling centres	2021: 194	Voluntary (continuing education credits for doctors)	Once a year (online)	-	Symposium Words help women Role models in working with refugee women, quality assurance in a counselling context
Specialists in the Lower Saxony violence protection system, doctors, pregnancy and pregnancy conflict counselling centres, ProstSchG	2022: 156	Voluntary (continuing education credits for doctors)	Once a year (online)	-	Symposium Words help women Counselling with translation, situation and needs of undocumented women and sex workers
Specialists in the Lower Saxony violence protection system, doctors, pregnancy and pregnancy conflict counselling centres, police	2023: 98	Voluntary (continuing education credits for doctors)	Once a year (in person)	-	Symposium Words help women Good counselling? External and internal influencing factors
Specialists in the Lower Saxony violence protection system, doctors, pregnancy and pregnancy conflict counselling centres	2024: 69	Voluntary (continuing education credits for doctors)	Once a year (in person)	-	Symposium Words help women My rights – my decision Right to protection and self-determination as Fundamentals for counselling
Professionals in the Lower Saxony violence protection system	600	Yes	Once or twice a year	Yes	Kargah training course on forced marriage 1 hour
Specialists in the Lower Saxony violence protection system	30	No	Once or twice a year	Yes	Kargah training course on the topic

(school sector)					Forced marriage 2 hours – 2 days
Specialists in the Lower Saxony violence protection system (job centre)	50	No	Once or twice a year	Yes	Kargah training course on forced marriage 1-2 hours
Specialists in the Lower Saxony violence protection system	60	No	Once or twice a year	Yes	Kargah training course on forced marriage 2 hours
Specialists in the Lower Saxony violence protection system (language mediators)	30	No	Once or twice a year	Yes	Kargah training course on forced marriage 3 hours
Specialists in the Lower Saxony violence protection system (youth welfare office)	30	No	Once or twice a year	Yes	Kargah training course on forced marriage 2 hours
Specialists in the Lower Saxony violence protection system (asylum and migration, criminal justice and prosecution)	200	No	Once or twice a year	Yes	Kargah training course on forced marriage 2 hours
Specialists in the Lower Saxony violence protection system	175	No	Once or twice a year	Yes	Kargah training course on forced marriage 1-4 hours
Police officers (PVB), Lower Saxony Police Academy	2023 and 2024: A total of 313 participants	No	11 seminars	Yes	The training courses cover prevention and law enforcement measures and last from 2 to 5 days.
Seminar: Domestic violence for emergency and patrol services (law enforcement), Hanover Police Headquarters	35 participants per seminar, i.e. 105 per year	No	Seminar is offered three times a year	Yes (current HG guidelines)	<u>Contents</u> The primary aim is to teach confidence in dealing with domestic violence in connection with the new guidelines for the police, covering the following content: • Definition/terminology; • Procedure; • Forms Administration/

					High-risk management; • Presentation of the work of external agencies; • Exchange / feedback <u>Duration</u> One-day seminar
Seminar: Domestic violence for criminal investigation and enforcement services (law enforcement), Hanover Police Headquarters	35 participants per seminar	No	Seminar is offered once a year	Yes (current HG handout)	<u>Contents</u> • Definition/terminology "Domestic violence" • Handout / 3rd edition • First attack "HG" in the ESD • Case processing KED • Security planning / Long-term detention • Interrogation • Digital violence • High-risk management /Risk assessment • Case management / Case conference • Working with network partners / external agencies Current status • Exchange / Feedback <u>Duration</u> Two-day seminar
PVB, Braunschweig Police Headquarters	106	No	Annual offer	Disposals and decrees in the context of the topic "Domestic violence"	<u>Content</u> Workshop for coordinators and multipliers on changing topics relevant to practice, currently including topics specific to authorities, intersections with other subject areas, etc. <u>Duration</u> 1-2 days
PVB, Braunschweig Police Headquarters	19	No	Annual offer	Decisions and decrees in the context of the topic "Domestic violence"	<u>Content</u> Interdisciplinary symposium on domestic violence organised by the PD BS and

					the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office in Braunschweig
PVB, Braunschweig Police Headquarters	62	No	1x in 2023	Decisions and decrees in the context of the topic "Domestic violence"	Advanced training: "Advanced module on deployment" for deployment and patrol services, including • High-risk assessment according to the danger assessment • Addressing dangerous individuals • Victim protection and psychosocial process support (Victim Support Foundation) Durati on: 1 day
PVB, Braunschweig Police Headquarters	59	No	Once in 2023	Decisions and decrees in the context of the topic "Domestic violence"	Advanced training module: Investigation for the investigating department, including • Prosecutor's office requirements for investigation files, special reports and final reports in domestic violence cases • Magistrates' court • Fundamentals and areas of application of psychosocial trial support Duratio n: 1 day
PVB, Braunschweig Police Headquarters	66	No	Once in 2023	Decisions and decrees in the context of the topic "Domestic violence"	Content Advanced training module Risk assessment for • Fundamentals of threat management • Case management Practical workshop
PVB, Braunschweig Police Headquarters	Cannot be quantified, as dislocated	No	Cannot be quantified as relocated	Dispositions and decrees in the context of the topic "Domestic violence"	Needs-based, internal training by multipliers on site

PVB, Oldenburg Police Headquarters	1,650	Yes (for specific target group: first responders in this area)	One-off or when the guidelines are updated	Handout for the police on dealing with domestic violence	Contents The contents can be found in the guidelines
PVB, Oldenburg Police Headquarters	1,180	Yes (for specific target group: first responders in this area)	One-off or in the event of changes that require further training	-	Content Training on how to use an app Duration Approx. 2 hours
PVB in patrol duty and investigation	2024: 185 2025: 31 to date Approx. 285 additional personnel by the end of 2026	-	-	The admission concept is currently being updated and adapted. The Ministry of the Interior, Ref. 23, has been informed and will receive the adapted admission concept as soon as the update is complete.	Content The LKA NI, Dept. of Research, Prevention and Youth (FPJ), is leading a state-wide training programme for multipliers of the GfZ app (Gewaltfrei in die Zukunft, or "Non-violent into the future") as part of a project run by the MI, Ref. 23. During the introductory events, participants will learn the following skills: • Strengthening core skills in relation to domestic violence • Raising awareness of domestic violence and the GfZ app • Basic knowledge of the project's development, Necessary knowledge from the first project phase, • Special features in connection with the app distribution process, Police procedures in the context of data security, • Content and procedural

					procedures for training employees, • Self-study phase for testing the app and qualification and training to independently conduct information events on the GfZ app as a multiplier. <u>Duration</u> The project will run from 2021 to 2026, with training courses having been held since 2024.
All PVB in the field and patrol services, Göttingen Police Headquarters	No figures are available here, but training is ongoing and comprehensive.	Yes	The training is based on the contents of the guide for the police on dealing with domestic violence, 3rd edition (Erl. MI 12334.11.3.7)	The training courses are carried out with our own resources in the police stations.	<u>Content</u> All content from the guide III that is relevant to the specific area of responsibility.
All PVBs in the areas to be determined by HG, Göttingen Police Headquarters	It is not possible to provide figures here, but schooling is ongoing and comprehensive.	Yes	The training is based on the contents of the guide for the police on dealing with domestic violence, 3rd edition (Erl. MI 12334.11.3.7)	The training courses are carried out with our own resources in the police stations.	All content of the guide III that is relevant to the specific area of responsibility.
PVB in the areas to be investigated by HG, Göttingen Police Headquarters	295	No	As required	The training courses are conducted in the police stations using our own resources. .	<u>Content</u> Optimisation of transaction processing <u>Duration</u> One-day event
All PVB, Göttingen Police Headquarters	70	No	As required	The training courses are conducted in the police stations using our own resources. .	<u>Content</u> NPOG, legal principles <u>Duration</u> One-day event
PVB from the areas of operations or investigations who come into contact with HG matters in the course of their duties. (In the case of these HG symposiums, network partners may also participate in the training courses. participate in the training courses), police headquarters	It is not possible to provide figures here.	No	No fixed cycle, depending on identified needs and available resources	According to the information available here, this is not always the and varies depending on	The organisers/hosts of specialist conferences set different priorities, so no general statement can be made

Göttingen				according to format.	can be made in this regard. Due to the short response time, it was not possible to conduct a survey in the PIen for the period since the introduction of Handout III. could be carried out
PVB of the Operations and Patrol Service, Osnabrück Police Headquarters (Each police station has a contact person for victim protection/domestic violence (HG). They offer training courses, usually once a year. As the investigation service is specialised in this area and also participates in network meetings, the training is aimed at ESD officers, as the first responders play an important role, especially in recording cases of domestic violence.	It is not possible to provide figures here, but training is ongoing and comprehensive.	No	Once a year	No	Content • Initial police intake (introduction to the Protection Against Violence Act, risk analysis), • Consideration of the HG phenomenon, • Introduction to BISS, • Introduction to victim support offices (who provides victim support, establishing contact, psychosocial support during legal proceedings) • Introduction to the FAUST institution, • Presentation and responsibilities of the Youth Welfare Office
Domestic Violence Expert Group of the Osnabrück Police Department (members: APinnen Opferschutz/HG, but more broadly also SB/-innen KED/ZKD/ESD)	Members of the Domestic Violence Expert Group	-	One-off in June 2023	The Domestic Violence Expert Group was established as part of the implementation of the "Guidelines for the police in dealing with domestic violence" .	Content In-house training with a colleague from the BS Police Department who played a key role in developing the guidelines.
Domestic Violence Expert Group of the Osnabrück Police Department (members: APinnen Opferschutz/HG, but also SB/-innen KED/ZKD/ESD in a broader sense)	Members of the Domestic Violence Expert Group	-	At least twice a year	The Domestic Violence Expert Group was established as part of the implementation of the "Guidelines for the police on dealing with domestic violence" .	Content Exchange, assessment of needs/also FB

3. Rhineland-Palatinate

Specialists	Number of trained specialists	Actual the training compulsory?	Frequency	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Please describe the content and duration of the training course
Ministry of the Interior and Sport					
Police	65	No	3		**Police intervention measures in the context of the initial response to domestic violence cases:** Practical description of relevant immediate preventive measures Practical presentation of possible repressive measures Presentation of possible preventive and repressive follow-up measures Presentation of current legislative changes/case law Digression into Protection Against Violence Act Active exchange of experiences between participants and discussion of various practical cases **Duration:** 1 day
Police	113	No	4		**Online seminar – Police intervention measures in the context of the initial attack in cases of domestic violence:** Practical presentation of possible preventive and repressive immediate measures Presentation of possible preventive and repressive follow-up measures Presentation of current legislative changes/case law Digression into Violence Protection Act Active exchange of experiences between participants and discussion of various practical cases **Duration:** 1 day
Police	77	No	3		**ONLINE – The legislative changes of the past legislative period in area sexual criminal law:**

					Significant changes to the Criminal Code of the the last legislative period in the area of sexual criminal law To expected problems due to the amendments to the Criminal Code If applicable, brief insight into the planned amendments to the Criminal Code for the upcoming legislative period **Duration:** 1 day
Police	42	No	2		**Victim protection:** Victims' rights in criminal proceedings (victim information sheet, OEG) Victim counselling resources (Viktim, ProPK) / Development and status of victim protection / Cooperation with victim support organisations / Work of victim advocates / Trauma recognition and aftercare / Questioning traumatised witnesses **Duration:** 3 days
Police	740	No	16		**Basic qualification for transition from** **uniformed police to criminal investigation** **department:** Victim protection in sexual offences: Criminal classification and victim questioning Sexual offences (KT measures) Dur**ation:** Modules in a 5-week course
Police	91	No	5		**Sexual offences:** Legal basis Perpetrator and victim structures Dealing with sex offenders Dealing with victims of sexual offences Victims' rights, victim protection, victim support Questioning, including questioning victims Security and evaluation attack

					Forensic measures **Duration: 5 days**
Police	125	No	4		**Online seminar: Basic knowledge The role** **of women in Islam:** The image of women in Islam and the description of the role of women according to Islamic sources. The cultural and religious significance of the headscarf and the various ways of wearing it. The significance of marriage in Islam, marriage and divorce in Islam, Islamic rights and obligations between spouses and between parents and children The cultural significance of (family) honour and so-called honour killings **Duration:** 2 hours
Police	147	No	3		**Online seminar: Basic knowledge** **"Violence in the name of honour":** Cultural significance of (family) honour and so-called honour killings, forced marriage, genital mutilation, etc. Cultural expectations of (married) husbands and (married) wives as well as brothers and sisters Presentation of the cultural understanding of violence and the concept of honour. Action measures for the police **Duration:** 2 hours
Police	175	No	1		**Online – "Live Situation – Operational** **Situations" – Monitored, controlled,** **threatened – digital** dimensions of domestic violence: "Digitalisation of intimate partner violence" Domestic violence / intimate partner violence – Police between protection, prosecution

					and prevention – (Recognising – Assessing – Managing) An outstanding high-risk/stalking case: Technical and tactical challenges for case handling **Duration:** 1/2 day
Ministry of Justice Training opportunities for members of the judiciary					
Criminal judges, family judges and family court judges, public prosecutors and prosecutors	*all*	*no*	*Regularly recurring courses, especially in the state's own programme and at the German Judicial Academy, but also as part of external training courses*	*by law*	*The measures associated with the implementation of the Istanbul Convention are reflected in various aspects of the training and form the basis for training events lasting one or more days.*
Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration					
Asylum and Migration	*In year 2024, 75 Specialists from 6 AfA participated.*	*No*	*Every 3 years*	*Training concept*	*Topic: FGM* *Contents: Definition, consequences, Reasons, Prevention, combating* *Duration: 2 hours*
Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration					
Medical professionals		*Yes, both*	*The plan is to hold both training courses twice a year*	*Yes*	*One training course on providing confidential assistance after violence by employees of women's support organisations and one training course on providing confidential assistance after violence by forensic medicine*
professionals from: law enforcement, the judiciary, social services		*No*	*Annually*	*No*	*Interministerial symposium on violence in close social relationships/domestic violence; the topic of the event changes annually and is selected according to need.*
Open to all interested parties		*No*	*Individual*	*No*	*Interdisciplinary online course: Protection and help in cases of domestic violence (free of charge). The course provides comprehensive (practical) knowledge for the specialised*

					support and care of victims and their children after experiences of violence. See https://haeuslichegewalt.elearning-gewaltschutz.de/
Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration, note: only FGM/C here					
Doctors	*8*	*No*	*One-off*		*Topic: FGM/C*
Medical professionals	*9*	*No*	*One-off*		*Topic: FGM/C*
Educators	*8*	*No*	*One-off*		*Topic: FGM/C*
Women's shelter, emergency hotline, daycare social work, UMA residential group, school social work, pregnancy counselling	*23*	*No*	*One-off*		*Topic: FGM/C, definition of terms / forms / prevalence of FGM_C;* *Health consequences of FGM_C for those affected*;* *Sensitive education, counselling and support*
Members of the Working Group on Psychosocial Care for Refugees in RP	*Unknown*	*No*	*One-off*		*Topic: FGM/C*
Doctors and midwives at Mainz University Medical Centre	*10*	*No*	*One-off*		*Topic: FGM/C, early childhood development*
Employees of AfA Trier, Hermeskeil, Kusel, Hahn, Bitburg, Speyer	*Total: 98*	*No*	*One-off*		*Topic: FGM/C, 1 day each*

4. North Rhine-Westphalia

Specialists	**Number of professionals trained specialists**	**Is the training compulsory?**	**Frequency**	**Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?**	**Please describe the content and duration of the training**
Detectives and Detectives who work with Situation Domestic violence are entrusted with this task, as well as police victim protection Commissioner.	Annually an average of 6 Events 4 days for 20 Participants carried out.	No.	Participation in the training programme Takes place once	"Police Victim Protection", circular from the Ministry of the Interior – 62.02.01 from 01.04.2019; Directive (EU) 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence; "Police action in cases	The training course comprises 4 days of 8 hours each teaching units and covers aspects of threat management, which phenomenology, victimology, victim protection, victim assistance, the interdisciplinary cooperation with other responsible institutions/authorities and the specific police investigation work.

				domestic violence", RdErl. 426-22.62.03.06 Vs-NfD dated 16 February 2024	As part of the training, participants are informed about the causes, manifestations and effects of relationship violence. Specific risk and protective factors for assessing dangerous situations and evaluating risk situations are discussed (integration of assessment tools). Another component of the course is victim protection (including dealing with traumatised victims, avoiding secondary victimisation, cooperation/referral to counselling centres (victim- and perpetrator-related). Tasks within the scope of police victim protection and victim assistance tools (including psychosocial support during legal proceedings, victim assistance organisations (e.g. Weißer Ring e.V.)). Representatives of the public prosecutor's office and the family court are also involved in order to convey the special features of dealing with phenomenon-related offences (references to criminal law, hazard prevention law, the Protection Against Violence Act, the Violence Assistance Act). External specialists (women's counselling centres/youth welfare services) are involved to present the tasks involved in successful interdisciplinary cooperation.
Detectives who are responsible for investigating sexual offences.	Each year, an average of four 10-day courses are held for 20 participants each.	No	Participation in the training measure is a one-off event.	Handling offences against sexual self-determination Circular from the Ministry of the Interior dated 3 February 2004 - 42 – 6503 And information sheet "Recommended conduct when dealing with victims of sexual offences" PDV Edition 1985 Handling of juvenile cases	This introductory training course on sexual offences comprises 10 days of 8 teaching units each. It teaches the basics of police case handling for sexual offences, taking into account the special requirements of victim protection. The topics covered include: relevant legislation and new developments, perpetrator/victim phenomenology, victim protection and victim rights, offence-specific evidence collection and crime scene work, basic investigation

					research options, special manifestations and cooperation with other institutions and agencies. External experts are involved, including from the judiciary, psychology, medicine and the State Criminal Police Office, so to enable interdisciplinary exchange for successful cooperation.
Police officers who are responsible for investigating sexual violence offences and have attended the introductory seminar.	Each year, an average of two 5-day events are held for 20 participants each.	No.	Participation in the training programme is a one-time event	Handling of offences against sexual self-determination Circular from the Ministry of the Interior dated 3 February 2004 - 42 – 6503 And information sheet "Recommended conduct when dealing with victims of sexual offences"	This refresher training course on sexual offences comprises 5 days of 8 teaching units each. It provides in-depth knowledge in the field of combating sexual offences. Topics covered include: specific legal issues and scope of proceedings, as well as options for optimising proceedings, further investigation and evaluation options, cooperation with forensic medicine, and the possibilities offered by forensic psychology and placement in a forensic facility. External experts from the fields of law, psychology, forensic medicine and the State Criminal Police Office are involved, enabling interdisciplinary exchange for successful cooperation
Police officers who are responsible for dealing with human trafficking offences for the purpose of sexual exploitation.	An average of one 10-day event is held each year for 20 participants.	No.	Participation in the training measure is a one-off event.	Prosecution of offences against sexual self-determination Circular from the Ministry of the Interior dated 3 February 2004 - 42 – 6503 And information sheet "Recommended conduct when dealing with victims of sexual offences"	This specialised seminar on human trafficking comprises 10 days of 8 teaching units each. It covers the various forms of human trafficking and investigation methods, as well as the legal and tactical knowledge required to combat human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Topics covered include: relevant criminal law provisions, perpetrator structures and methods, basics of residence law and document verification, special investigation and

					evaluation methods, handling of preliminary investigations, cooperation with other agencies, victim protection, dealing with victims and cooperation with specialist counselling centres, in particular women's counselling centres. External experts are involved, including from the judiciary, the immigration office, the tax investigation office, the public order office, the State Criminal Police Office and the Federal Criminal Police Office, as well as the women's counselling centre, so that an interdisciplinary exchange can take place to ensure successful cooperation.
Police officers who are responsible for dealing with human trafficking offences for the purpose of sexual exploitation.	Every two years one 2-day event is held on average for potential participants.	No.	The training course can be attended multiple times	Handling offences against sexual self-determination Circular from the Ministry of the Interior dated 3 February 2004 - 42 – 6503 And information sheet "Recommended conduct when dealing with victims of sexual offences"	This adaptation seminar on human trafficking comprises 2 days with 8 teaching units each. Knowledge is imparted about innovations in the manifestations and ways of combating sexual offences, as well as examples of best practice. The nationwide and interdisciplinary exchange of information on dealing with victims of sexual offences and sharing experiences ensures further insights into current issues in police practice. The topics change every two years and external experts are involved on a topic-specific basis.
Criminal justice (judges, public prosecutors)	8	No.	Once a year in 2023	No	1 day **Title**: Femicide – Forms, characteristics and conclusions (Ri/StA) 23Z5287-1 **Content**: The aim of the event is to take a closer look at femicide. What is femicide? What forms and types of femicide are there? What distinguishes femicide from other homicides? How can the term femicide be distinguished from other terms? Which aspects are particularly relevant to defining femicide? What can it mean when there is a gender-specific

					motivation? And how can such a motive be recognised? To what extent is femicide a hate crime?
Criminal justice (judges, prosecutors)	0	No.	1x cancelled in 2024	No	1 day **Title**: Femicide – Forms, characteristics and conclusions (Ri/StA) 24Z5287-1 **Contents**: see above
Judicial officers in general (judges, public prosecutors, members of the prison service, specialists from the outpatient social services, judicial officers)	14	No.	Once in 2023	No	1 day **Title**: Recognising and countering anti-feminism (all) 23Z5292-1 Expertise from a specialised support service has been incorporated into the design.
Judicial officers in general (judges, public prosecutors, members of the prison service, members of the outpatient social services, legal and judicial officers)	14	No.	Once a year in 2024	No.	1 day **Title**: Recognising and countering anti-feminism (all) 24Z5292-1 Expertise from a specialised support service has been incorporated into the design **Content**: see above
Judicial officers in general (judges, public prosecutors, prison officers, outpatient social service specialists, judicial officers and court clerks)	137	No	8 times in 2020	No	One day **Title**: Gender roles in Islam (all) **Contents**: Socialisation conditions for women from Islamic countries; concepts of honour in Islamic countries; acts committed in the name of honour; Islamic human rights declarations; Sharia law; Islamic concepts of marriage and divorce according to *Sharia law*; veiling of women in Islamic countries and Germany.
Judges	38	No.	2x in 2020	No	1 day (as part of a multi-day module) **Title:** Family law – basics (Ri) 20C0184-1.2 and 2.2 **Objective and content:** Participants will acquire knowledge in the areas of family law,

					in particular child custody law, family procedural law and the parts of child and youth welfare law necessary for proceedings in family matters, as well as basic knowledge of psychology, in particular child development psychology within the meaning of Section 23b (3) GVG, as amended. Among other things Overview of the Protection Against Violence Act, housing allocation and household goods proceedings and introduction to access and custody rights.
Judges	23	No.	Once in 2021	No	1 day (as part of a multi-day module) **Title:** Family law – basics (Ri) 21C0184-1.1 **Objective and content:** see above.
Judges	52	No.	3 times in 2022	No.	1- Daily (as part of a module lasting several days) **Title:** Family law – basics (Ri) 22C0184-1.2, -2.2 and 3.2 **Objective and content:** see above
Judges	57

					In addition, there is an opportunity to exchange experiences. Cooperation with the Youth Welfare Office.
Judges	54 67	No. No.	3 times in 2024 3 times in 2024	No No.	1 day (as part of a multi-day module) **Title:** Family law – basics (Ri) 24C0184-1.2, -2.2 and 3.2 **Objective and content:** see above 2 days Module 3: 24C0184-1.3, 2.3 and 3.3. **Content:** see above
Judges, public prosecutors, district attorneys	20	No.	Twice in 2020	No	3 days **Title:** Criminal law – questioning victim witnesses (judge/public prosecutor/attorney) 20C0187-1 **Objective and content:** Participants will be sensitised to dealing with victim witnesses and will have improved their interrogation techniques. Dealing with victim witnesses places special demands on judges, public prosecutors and district attorneys. The event aims to teach the basics of victims' rights in criminal proceedings, raise participants' awareness of how to deal with (traumatised) victim witnesses, and train them to conduct interviews in a sensitive and efficient manner, taking into account any psychological symptoms. Specific problems, such as those arising when interviewing children and young people as well as Muslim women who are victims of domestic and sexual violence, will be highlighted. In addition, the possibilities and benefits of commissioning the court assistance department of the outpatient social services in connection with victim protection will also be presented.
Judges, public prosecutors,	18	No.	Once in 2021	No.	3 days **Title:** Criminal law – questioning victim witnesses (judge/public prosecutor/lawyer)

Public prosecutors					21C0187-1 **Objective and content:** see above
Judges, public prosecutors, public prosecutors	16	No	Once in 2022	No	3 days **Title:** Criminal law – questioning victim witnesses (judge/public prosecutor/attorney) 22C0187-1 **Objective and content:** see above.
Judges, public prosecutors, district attorneys	20	No.	Once in 2023	No	3 days **Title:** Criminal law – questioning victim witnesses (judge/public prosecutor/attorney) 23C0187-1 **Objective and content:** see above
Judges, public prosecutors, district attorneys	15	No	Once in 2024	No	3 days **Title:** Criminal law – questioning victim witnesses (judge/public prosecutor/attorney) 24C0187-1 **Objective and content:** see above
Judges, public prosecutors	18	No	Once in 2020	No.	2 days **Title:** Criminal law – questioning child and adolescent witnesses (Ri / StA) 20C0188-1 **Objective and content:** Participants will be sensitised to dealing with child and adolescent witnesses and will have improved their interrogation techniques, avoiding (possible) "secondary traumatisation" through questioning. They will be familiar with the special considerations that need to be taken into account when questioning children and young people and will be able to conduct interviews in a sensitive and efficient manner (cost-benefit considerations). For child and adolescent witnesses in particular, as (potential) victims of physical and/or psychological violence (including sexual abuse), questioning in criminal proceedings usually represents a high level of psychological stress. Their statements, as (often the only) evidence, can quickly be rendered worthless by inappropriate questioning techniques.

					Information on developmental, social and communication psychology will be presented, which should be taken into account when planning and conducting appropriate, effective questioning of minor (victim) witnesses. The planning and implementation of interviews will be practised using case studies (case work). In addition, participants will have the opportunity to practise sections of interviews with video support (role play). Finally, guidance is provided on assessing the credibility of statements, especially those made by young children.
Judges, public prosecutors	17	No.	Once in 2021	No.	2 days **Title:** Criminal law – questioning child and adolescent witnesses (Ri / StA) 21C0188-1 **Objective and content:** see above
Judges, public prosecutors	26	No.	Twice in 2022	No.	2 days **Title:** Criminal law – questioning child and adolescent witnesses (Ri / StA) 22C0188-1 **Objective and content: see above**
Judges, public prosecutors	15	No	Once in 2023	No	2 days **Title:** Criminal law – questioning child and adolescent witnesses (Ri / StA) 23C0188-1 **Objective and content:** see above
Judges, public prosecutors	20	No.	Once in 2024	No.	2 days **Title:** Criminal law – questioning child and adolescent witnesses (Ri / StA) 24C0188-1 **Objective and content** see above

Judges, public prosecutors, district attorneys, judicial officers	13	No	Once in 2020	No	2 days **Title:** Family law and criminal law – stalking and protection against violence – recognising, assessing, preventing (Ri / StA / Rpfl / AA) 20C1964-1 **Objective and content:** Participants receive detailed information on stalking and cases involving protection against violence, enabling them to better assess potential risks in ongoing proceedings. By presenting the criminal and family law perspectives as well as the victim's perspective and the activities of the Lippe-Ruhr mediation service, the event provides comprehensive knowledge on the increasingly frequent cases of stalking and protection against violence for members of the judiciary working in both criminal and family law. In addition to presenting the legal aspects and the experiences of the public prosecutor's office and the family court, typical perpetrator personalities and criminal acts as well as protection concepts are presented by highlighting the current situation in North Rhine-Westphalia. This is because protection concepts for victims and case management must take into account the different forms of stalking caused by different perpetrator typologies. Among other things, the possibilities for initiating and the limits of out-of-court settlements are highlighted against the background of many years of practice, as well as typical victim behaviour patterns and their causes. Cooperation with specialist consultant for psychotraumatology, psychological psychotherapist.
Judges, public prosecutors, local prosecutors public prosecutors,	11	No	1x in 2021	No	2 days **Title:** Family law and criminal law – stalking and protection against violence – recognising, assessing, preventing (Ri / StA / Rpfl / AA) 21C1964-1 **Objective and content:** see above

Judicial officers					Cooperation with specialist consultant for psychotraumatology, psychological psychotherapist and the office of the victim commissioner of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.
Judges, public prosecutors, district attorneys, judicial officers	11	No	Once in 2022	No	2 days **Title:** Family Law and Criminal Law – Stalking and Protection Against Violence – Recognising, Assessing, Preventing (Ri / StA / Rpfl / AA) 22C1964-1 **Objective and content:** see above Cooperation with specialist in psychosomatic medicine and psychotherapy, psychoanalysis, group, couples and sex therapy, criminologist M.A. and the Office of the Victims' Commissioner of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia
Judges, public prosecutors, district attorneys, judicial officers	6	No	Once in 2023	No	2 days **Title:** Family law and criminal law – stalking and protection against violence – recognising, assessing, preventing (Ri / StA / Rpfl / AA) 23C1964-1 **Objective and content:** see above Cooperation with specialist in psychosomatic medicine and psychotherapy, psychoanalysis, group, couples and sex therapy, Criminologist M.A
Judges, public prosecutors, district attorneys, judicial officers	12	No	Once in 2024	No	2 days **Title:** Family law and criminal law – stalking and protection against violence – recognising, assessing, preventing (Ri / StA / Rpfl / AA) 24C1964-1 **Objective and content:** see above. Cooperation with the Office of the Victims' Commissioner of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia
Judges, public prosecutors, judicial officers	0	No	Once in 2020 Cancelled	No	2 days **Title:** Criminal law and family law – domestic violence (Ri / StA / Rpfl) 20C5030-1
Judges, public prosecutors, judicial officers and judicial officers	23	No	1x in 2021	No	2 days **Title:** Criminal law and family law – domestic violence (Ri / StA / Rpfl) 20C5030-1

					Objective and content: Participants are informed about individual problem areas and current issues in the field of domestic violence and have exchanged views. The course covers the following topics: • Personality structures in violent relationships • Counselling victims of domestic violence • Receiving applications for protection orders • Mandate, options for action and procedures of child and youth welfare services in cases of suspected child endangerment (especially in cases of domestic violence) • Family court decisions in violent relationships • Activities of the Office of the Commissioner for Victim Protection in cases of domestic violence Cooperation with a specialist in psychosomatic medicine and psychotherapy, psychoanalysis, group, couples and sex therapy, criminologist M.A., the Office of the Victim Protection Officer of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Intervention Centre against Domestic Violence and the Women's Advice Centre, Women's Advice Centre Düsseldorf e.V.
Judges	16	No	Once in 2022	No	3 days **Title:** Mindfulness and family law – protection against violence and child custody matters with special consideration of the provisions of the Istanbul Convention (Ri) 22C4752-1 **Objective and content:** Participants discussed and practised dealing with families from collective societies in child custody and protection from violence proceedings, acquired knowledge about the Istanbul Convention and learned techniques for dealing with the stresses and strains of working in a family law department. In many countries of origin of families with a migration background, the collective, and thus the (extended) family plays a more important role than in

					our individualistic society. What impact does this have on family matters, in particular protection against violence and child custody cases? After an introduction to the lives of women in collective societies and the principles of the Istanbul Convention, brainstorming and role-playing will be used to develop an appropriate approach to these family matters will be developed.
Judges	17	No	Once in 2021	No	2 days **Title:** Online seminar – Family law – Methods of systemic conflict resolution (Ri) 21C4194-1 **Objective and content:** Participants learn to assess family conflict dynamics and initiate appropriate processes to support those involved in developing mutually acceptable solutions or to encourage them to take this step. This includes being able to use "systemic tools" appropriately for the situation. Particular emphasis is placed on practising appropriate questioning techniques. With regard to the welfare of the child, this also includes the targeted strengthening of the solution system – especially in cooperation with experts, solicitors, youth welfare offices and other institutions Systemic models and methods are particularly valuable in family court practice because they take into account relevant persons and their influencing factors beyond those present and, under certain circumstances, can use this to find "good solutions" – especially from the perspective of the child's welfare. Sometimes solutions also need boundaries within family systems in order to be effective. These differences can be worked out. Systemic approaches are suitable for recognising the needs of all parties involved and even incorporating them into solution processes in varying "dosages". They offer a range of practical "tools" that

					even in highly conflictual relationships, helping to gain new perspectives by changing perspectives, getting "movement into play" and motivating those involved in the conflict to reach out to each other. Particularly in often very complex family law disputes, practice-oriented theory and conflict models help to better understand and classify the dynamics of conflicts and their backgrounds, as well as to "mirror" them, to free the parties from their "petrification" and to support them in the process of developing a joint solution. The central topics of the event will be: • Conflict and solution dynamics: the value of systemic "craftsmanship" • Practical benefits and relevance for judicial decision-making • Systemic questioning techniques, micro-constellations, solution simulations • Psycho-traumatology and consequences for the welfare of children • Recognising family relationship traps and paradoxical communication patterns • Context and task clarification as a "nutcracker" in difficult cases • Achieving consensus: opportunities, limitations and quality of expert opinions • Problem-solving styles: consequences for constructive family dynamics • Mediative approaches in practice: Experiencing the court as a "safe place". Judges in the reflecting team, to support those involved and institutional cooperation in the interests of the best interests of the child.
Judges	13	No	Once in 2022	No	2 days **Title:** Online seminar – Family law – Methods of systemic conflict resolution (Ri)
Judges	16	No	Once a year in 2023	No	2 days Family law – Systemic conflict resolution (Ri) 23C4194-1

					Objective and content: see above
Judges	10	No	Once in 2024	No	2 days **Title:** Family law – methods of systemic conflict resolution (Ri) 24C4194-1 **Objective and content:** see above
Judges/specialists from youth welfare offices	85	No	Once in 2022	No	1 day **Title:** Nationwide exchange of experiences and current developments in family law (Ri / JugAmt) 22C4661-1 **Contents:** Procedure in cases of suspected sexual abuse of children The work of medical child protection in cases of suspected child sexual abuse • Findings • Conducting interviews • Clarification of risk factors and development of protection concepts WS 1: The legal and practical options available to youth welfare services in cases of suspected child sexual abuse. WS 2: Conclusions from traumatology and attachment psychology on dealing with child victims of abuse. WS 3: The legal and practical options available to family courts in cases of suspected child sexual abuse. WS 4: Solution-oriented family court regulations and intervention options in cases of (un)justified allegations of abuse/violence (workshop and exchange of experiences). WS 5: Use of checklists at the interface between youth welfare offices and family courts Food for thought from the district interdisciplinary case conferences. WS 6:

					Traumatised children in family court hearings, stabilisation techniques, systemic and behaviour-oriented questioning techniques Cooperation with medical child protection services, youth welfare offices and psychologists.
Judges/specialists from youth welfare offices	103	No.	Once in 2023	No.	1 day Statewide exchange of experiences and current developments in family law (Ri / JugAmt) 23C4661-1 **Content:** Family court and youth welfare office – actors working with, alongside or against each other? What does the family court expect from youth welfare services? What do youth welfare services expect from the family court? WS 1: Cooperation between the youth welfare office, family court and medical child protection services in cases of suspected child maltreatment and/or abuse. WS 2: The temporary guardian – cooperation between the family court and youth welfare office in guardianship law WS 3: Use of checklists at the interface between the youth welfare office and the family court Food for thought from the district interdisciplinary case conferences WS 4: Child protection networks – cooperation in accordance with the State Child Protection Act. WS 5: Cooperation between family courts and youth welfare offices in ordering and implementing supervised contact arrangements Cooperation with the Institute of Legal Medicine, University Hospital Cologne (AöR), Competence Centre for Child Protection in Healthcare in North Rhine-Westphalia and the Specialist Advice Centre for Sexual Violence, LWL State Youth Welfare Office
Judges/specialists from youth welfare offices	128	No.	Once in 2024	No.	1 day

					Title: Nationwide exchange of experiences and current developments in family law (Ri / JugAmt) Upheaval in access? 24C4661-1 **Content:** Child-friendly access and children's rights in access proceedings WS 1: The reform of maintenance law and its impact on access proceedings. WS 2 The Istanbul Convention and its impact on access proceedings – Taking violent incidents into account (Art. 31 IC). WS 3 The Istanbul Convention and its impact on access proceedings - Risk analysis (Art. 51 IC) and networking. WS 4 Refusal of access, attachment intolerance, PAS, parent-child alienation – theories and phenomena in highly contentious access proceedings. WS 5: Supervised access – a panacea in highly contentious proceedings for re-establishing contact and after domestic violence? WS 6: Caught between two stools – children in a conflict of loyalty. WS 7: Transition from a residence model to an alternating model? Social and legal models – concepts of shared parenting – factors for counselling and decision-making practice Cooperation with the Child Protection Association.
Members of the Outpatient Social Services of the judiciary	23	No.	Once in 2023	No	19 days (8 modules) **Title:** Psychosocial Process Support 23C4680-1 **Contents include:**

					• Principles of criminal proceedings • Significance and positioning of psychosocial trial support in criminal proceedings • Criminological findings on violent crimes such as sexual offences, stalking, human trafficking, robbery, etc. • Needs of victims • Processing and coping strategies of victims • Victimological findings on individual victim groups • Specific needs of different victim groups • Children and young people • Persons with disabilities, with mental • impairment • Victims of sexual offences, human trafficking, hate crimes • Legal framework for psychosocial support during legal proceedings • Procedure and actors involved in the • investigative proceedings • Criminal complaint, function and activities of the police and public prosecutor's office • Rights and obligations of the accused and witnesses • Requirements for pre-trial detention. • Discontinuation of proceedings and legal remedies. • Selected aspects of other areas of law relevant to victims, e.g. Protection Against Violence Act, police removal pursuant to Section 34a PolG NW, taking children into care • Possibilities for compensation • Offender-victim mediation, • Compensation requirements • Compensation under the OEG, civil law compensation for pain and suffering and damages • Compensation from the Victim Assistance Fund of the Ministry of Health • Victim protection and victim rights in preliminary proceedings (witness assistance and

					victim data protection options through the police and public prosecutor's office) • Victim protection and victim rights in the main proceedings (rights to information and participation, protection of personal data). • Victim protection and victim rights in the main hearing (limits of the right to question, exclusion of the public, powers of the joint plaintiff). • Excursion to Düsseldorf University Hospital – forensic medicine – • Physical examination • Preservation of evidence and documentation • Excursion to the Childhood House Düsseldorf: Audiovisual questioning of victim witnesses • Procedure and participants in the main hearing • Role and function of those involved in the proceedings, in particular the function and activities of the defence, • Principle of immediacy, basic principles of evidence and the right to request evidence, witness rights and obligations, • Right to refuse to give evidence, right to refuse to provide information and duty of confidentiality. • Special features of juvenile criminal proceedings • Duties of joint plaintiffs' representatives, adhesion proceedings, witness assistance, appointment of guardians • Psychological trauma / traumatology • Trauma and memory processes • Gender-specific differences in dealing with traumatic events • Opportunities and limitations of traumatised witnesses' ability to testify • Specific stresses experienced by traumatised witnesses in criminal proceedings • Reconciling the needs and fears of witnesses with the requirements of criminal proceedings • Information on trauma treatment • Treatment options in North Rhine-Westphalia (trauma clinics)

					• Fundamentals of testimony psychology • Goals and principles of psychosocial trial support: separation of counselling and support, and neutrality • Methodological competence (target group-oriented, gender-sensitive and intercultural communication, professional handling of witness statements, documentation and clarification of the lack of the right to refuse to testify) • Attitude towards those affected, • Dealing with relatives and the media • Contents of psychosocial trial support, taking into account the minimum standards described by the Conference of Ministers of Justice. • Implementing regulation • The role and services of psychosocial trial support based on case studies. • Psychosocial trial support for different target groups • Mediation, • Establishing contact, • Initial consultation, • Information transfer, • Typical procedural fears of witnesses and ways of reducing them, • debriefing, • Referral to further support • Preparation for work as a psychosocial trial support worker • Learning the method of peer counselling • Self-evaluation and quality assurance • Forms of documentation • Evaluation of knowledge questions Cooperation with the Office of the Victims' Commissioner of North Rhine-Westphalia, women's, men's and

					victim counselling centres, forensic medicine, the Centre for Trauma and Conflict Management, the Centre for Independent Living and psychological experts
Judges	16	No	Once in 2023	No	3 days **Title:** Family law – protection against violence and child custody matters in families from collective societies, with particular reference to the provisions of the Istanbul Convention (Ri) 23C4752-1 **Objective and content:** Participants will gain in-depth professional insight into various aspects of child welfare and the wishes of the child. Various approaches will be presented for dealing with stress in a family law department. This year's conference on mindful dealing with the family court department focuses on the topic of the wishes and welfare of children; in short, the focus is on the child. Dealing with child custody cases is a highly responsible task. In order to facilitate a good approach to this, children are the professional focus of this year's conference: child welfare, child hearings and the wishes of the child in contact and custody matters. The inner attitude of the decision-maker in these proceedings should be be given special consideration.
Judges, public prosecutors	27	No.	Once in 2021	No	2 days **Title:** Online seminar – Training for coordinators for victim protection in criminal proceedings (judges/public prosecutors) 21C4958-1 Objec**tive and content:** Participants will acquire the necessary basic knowledge to perform the role of coordinator /coordinator for victim protection in a court/public prosecutor's office. They serve as an internal and external point of contact for general and specific questions on the subject of victim protection and as multipliers for (legal or actual)

					developments. They contribute to the optimisation of internal and inter-agency processes from the perspective of victim protection, compile information on the existence and availability of local victim support services, ensure close institutionalised exchange with police victim support officers and state and independent victim support organisations in local networks, and participate in the authority's public relations work relating to victim protection. In exceptional cases, they may also be available as direct contact persons for individual victims and arrange for referral to specialised victim support services. The event will cover the following topics: • Victim protection legislation, in particular • Rights and obligations in criminal proceedings • Special rights and obligations of children and young people • •Possibilities for compensation/damages/pain and suffering compensation • Fundamentals of other areas of law relevant to victims, such as family and civil law and the Protection Against Violence Act • Fundamentals of victimology, psychology and psychotraumatology, particularly with regard to the role of witnesses in criminal proceedings • Fundamentals of victim communication • Overview of key victim protection/victim support organisations and institutions • Fundamentals of networking and public relations Cooperation with: Office of the Victim Protection Commissioner for North Rhine-Westphalia, men's counselling group and specialist counsellors for psychotraumatology.

Judges, public prosecutors	19	No	Once in 2022	No	2 days **Title:** Training for coordinators for victim protection in criminal proceedings (Ri / StA) 22C4958-1 **Objective and content:** see above Cooperation: see above
Judges, prosecutors	25	No	Once in 2024	No	2 days **Title:** Training for coordinators for victim protection in criminal proceedings (judges/public prosecutors)
Judges	16	No	Once in 2020	No	2 days **Title:** Family law – Child welfare risk (Ri) 20C4960-1 **Objective and content:** Using practical examples, participants dealt with the determination of child welfare risks and the legal questions of when and how family court measures should be taken, and gained insights into current research. Child welfare risks have many faces. It is rarely possible to determine them with certainty. This makes the responsibility of the family court and other institutions involved in child protection (youth welfare offices, counselling centres, experienced professionals, paediatricians and clinics, etc.) all the greater. The seminar will focus on the theoretical and practical aspects of the tensions that arise for institutions in their cooperation due to their different frameworks for action. What is the current state of research on child welfare risks? How can child protection be effective in view of the requirements of the principle of proportionality? What concepts exist for identifying and dealing with child welfare risks? How can the institutions work together? Participants will have the opportunity to apply the methods presented to their own cases. Cooperation with educational and

					family counselling centre
Judges	18	No	Once in 2021	No	2 days **Title:** Family law – child welfare risk (Ri) 21C4960-1
Judges	30	No	Twice in 2022	No	2 days **Title:** Family law – child welfare risk (Ri) 22C4960-1 and 22C4960-2 **Objective and content:** see above Fundamentals, forms of abuse, epidemiology; establishment of medical child protection / forensic medicine – expert opinions, expert witness activities, forms of physical abuse, sexual abuse of children • Conducting examinations: indications & evaluation of physical findings • Competence to testify, conflicts of loyalty • Assessment of risk constellations • Necessity of protective measures • Underage pregnant women as a particular challenge; Neglect, family risk factors, long-term consequences of child abuse and prognoses; Psychological aspects of child welfare risks: emotional abuse and neglect as risk factors; Psychological aspects of child welfare risks: emotional consequences of violence, child welfare risks and traumatisation Cooperation: forensic medicine, medical child protection, child protection counselling centre
Judges	32	No.	2x in 2023	No	2 days **Title:** Family law – Child welfare risk (Ri) 23C4960-1 and 23C4960-2 **Objective and content:** see above Cooperation: see above
Judges	33	No.	Twice in 2024	No.	2 days **Title:** Family law – child welfare risk (Ri) 24C4960-1 and 24C4960-2

Judges, public prosecutors, district attorneys	23	No.	Once in 2021	No	2 days **Title:** Criminal law and family law – domestic violence (Ri / StA / AA) 21C5030-1 **Objective and content:** Participants are informed about individual problem areas in the field of domestic violence and have exchanged ideas. The course covers the following topics: • Personality structures in violent relationships • Counselling victims of domestic violence • Receiving applications for protection orders • The role, options for action and procedures of child and youth services in cases of suspected child endangerment (especially in cases of domestic violence) • Family court decisions in violent relationships • Activities of the Office of the Commissioner for Victim Protection in cases of domestic violence Cooperation with the Office of the Victim Protection Officer for North Rhine-Westphalia, with a specialist in psychosomatic medicine and psychotherapy, psychoanalysis, group, couples and sex therapy, criminologist M.A., Cologne, and with the Intervention Centre against Domestic Violence and Women's Advice Centre
Judges, public prosecutors	16	No.	Once in 2021	No	1 day **Title:** Criminal law – sexual offences and forced prostitution (Ri / StA) 21C5065-1 **Objective and content:** Participants will gain an overview of the substantive legal provisions. The seminar also serves to promote understanding for victims and appropriate ways of dealing with them, as well as optimising procedures. An overview of the offences under Sections 232 ff. of the German Criminal Code (StGB) and the basics of investigative tactics will be provided. The course presents the phenomenon of forced prostitution and the role of the victim in the investigation and criminal proceedings

					. The milieu and motives of the victim are examined (e.g. the "lover boy method").
Judges, public prosecutors	35	No.	Twice in 2022	No.	1 day **Title:** Criminal law – sexual offences and forced prostitution (judge/public prosecutor) 22C5065-1 and 22C5065-2 **Objective and content:** see above
Judges, public prosecutors	13	No.	Once in 2023	No.	1 day **Title:** Criminal law – sexual offences, human trafficking and sexual exploitation (Ri / StA) 23C5065-1 **Objective and content:** see above
Judges	16	No	Once in 2022	No.	2 days **Title:** Family law – Confident handling of difficult family law decisions – Online (Ri) 22C5176-1 **Objective and content:** Participants discussed difficult family court decisions in child custody law, learned about the current state of psychological research on strategies that serve the best interests of the child in cases of serious separation and couple conflicts, and developed practical solution strategies for highly conflictual case constellations. Each family court case must be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Sometimes there are complex developments and accentuations in the family system that require difficult individual decisions. Family court judges sometimes have to go against common research findings or (questionable) dogmas presented by lawyers. This online conference develops case studies, gives presentations and offers specialist knowledge in family psychology. Planned topics include: • Refusal of access/contact, including classification of (critically viewed) dogmas of alienation syndrome (PAS syndrome)

					• but also family law dealing with (unjustified) allegations of sexual abuse or violence • Are there 'nutcracker strategies' for unsolvable family court conflicts? • Controversial cases and current questions from group participants.
Judges	13	No	Once in 2023	No	2 days **Title:** Family law – Confident handling of difficult family law decisions – Online (Ri) 23C5176-1 Objective and content: see above
Judges	15	No	Once in 2024	No	2 days **Title:** Family law – Confident handling of difficult family law decisions – Online (Ri) 24C5176-1 Objective and content: see above
Judges, public prosecutors, district attorneys	11	No	Once in 2022	No	1 day **Title:** Criminal law – victim protection: vulnerable victim groups (senior citizens / LGBTIQ) Online (judge / public prosecutor / solicitor) 22C5186-1 **Objective and content:** Each year, the event focuses on different specific victim groups. This introductory event is dedicated to the special characteristics and needs of LGBTIQ people and senior citizens as victims of crime. As a half-day online event, it also enables colleagues with heavy family and/or professional commitments to learn about and discuss the specific characteristics and needs of particular victim groups. LGBTIQ people and senior citizens are particularly vulnerable victim groups. The specifics of prosecuting and punishing crimes against these specific victim groups, as well as the protection and assistance for these victim groups in general will be communicated and discussed.

					Cooperation with the Office of the Victims' Commissioner for North Rhine-Westphalia
Judges, public prosecutors, district attorneys	19	No.	Once in 2023	No	1 day (online) **Title:** Criminal law – victim protection: vulnerable victim groups (senior citizens/LSBTIQ) – online (judge/prosecutor/lawyer) 23C5186-1 **Objective and content:** Each year, the event focuses on different specific victim groups. This kick-off event is dedicated to the special characteristics and needs of victims of domestic violence and male victims of crime. The half-day online format also enables colleagues with heavy family and/or professional commitments to learn about and discuss the specific characteristics and needs of specific victim groups. Victims of domestic violence are a particularly vulnerable victim group. However, men are also victims of crime and are often overlooked as a victim group. The specific characteristics of the prosecution and punishment of crimes against these specific victim groups, as well as the protection and assistance provided to these victim groups in general will be communicated and discussed.
Judges, public prosecutors, district attorneys	14	No.	Once in 2024	No.	1 day **Title:** Criminal law – victim protection: special victim groups – online (Ri / StA / AA) 24C5186-1 **Objective and content:** Participants will learn what digital violence is and who it targets. They will be able to identify hate crimes against LGBTIQ people. They will recognise sources of error and obstacles in criminal prosecution and will have solutions for shedding light on unreported cases and protecting victims during criminal prosecution. The first presentation will clarify the term "hate crime" based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The speaker will explain the reasons for the underreporting and reluctance to report crimes

					and presents the Berlin Public Prosecutor's Office's concept for counteracting this. In the second part, the speaker discusses what digital violence is, where it comes from, who it is primarily directed against and what its objectives are. She highlights the biggest obstacles victims face in criminal proceedings and what solutions can increase the willingness of those affected to report crimes and improve their protection in criminal proceedings.
Prosecutors and police officers	8	No.	Once in 2023	No.	2 days **Title:** Criminal law – Nationwide expert exchange on human trafficking (public prosecutors/police) 23C5241-1 **Objective and content:** The event is aimed at public prosecutors and police officers who work in the field of international human trafficking. In addition to providing professional training, the event aims to promote networking and the exchange of experiences among law enforcement officials working in this area of crime throughout Germany. The following topics will be discussed: • Problems with collective proceedings • Internet investigations Human trafficking • Current legal issues in the area of human trafficking and • exploitation Cooperation with the police
Judges	16	No.	Once in 2022	No	2.5 days **Title:** Criminal law and family law – small group training on questioning/hearing (child) victim witnesses 22C5269-1 **Objective and content:** Participants will learn about the legal framework and psychological implications of interviewing and hearing (child) victim witnesses. In particular, they will be able to conduct small group work and exercises, they will be able to

					interrogate or hear (child) victim witnesses in criminal and family law cases in accordance with regulations and with as little stress as possible. In a two-day face-to-face event, an intensive group of participants consisting of judges (12-16 people) from a communication and developmental psychology perspective, but also from a legal perspective, with a focus on the fact that those affected have been victims of violence or traumatic events, either directly or indirectly. This training course differentiates between different age groups, for example, which should be questioned in different ways. This is accompanied by explanations of specific developmental psychological tasks and communication needs of • children of primary school age (5-7 years), • children who are about to start or are in secondary school (8-11 years) • and • adolescents/young adults (aged 12–18), Findings from statement psychology, e.g. on suggestive questioning, are developed in small groups/partner work in order to practise and deepen successful open questions on facts in a practical manner (suitable for children). Furthermore, psychological insights into (re)traumatisation and its effects, including on statement quality and statement behaviour, will be conveyed in a professional manner, as will a case study by a speaker. The participants' own cases and experiences will also be incorporated into a joint exchange of experiences through knowledge transfer. In a subsequent online transfer day, it will be discussed whether and how the training content can be transferred into the

					the everyday practice of judges, i.e. what was useful, what was modified and what may not have been helpful, or where questions arose that could be clarified in this way. clarified.
Judges, public prosecutors, district attorneys	14	No.	Once a year in 2024	No	2 days **Title:** Criminal law and family law – small group training on questioning/hearing (child) victim witnesses (judge/public prosecutor/attorney) 24C5269-1 **Objective and content:** see above
Judges	40	No	Once in 2023	No.	1 day **Title:** Family law – Domestic violence and its impact on child custody proceedings in accordance with the requirements of the Istanbul Convention – Online (Ri) 23C5311-1 **Objective and content:** Participants will acquire knowledge of the requirements of Article 31 of the Istanbul Convention with regard to child custody proceedings. In addition, participants will deepen their knowledge of the effects of domestic violence on the welfare of children and the consequences for access and custody proceedings. **Content:** The course addresses the question of how to deal with custody and access proceedings conducted in connection with or following domestic violence. Against the backdrop of the current report by the expert commission monitoring compliance with the Istanbul Convention (GREVIO), German child custody law and German child custody practice must be critically reflected upon in these respects. First, the number of cases of domestic violence and the literature on the influence of domestic violence on child custody proceedings will be discussed. Subsequently, the requirements of Article 31 of the Istanbul Convention for child custody proceedings will be explained. After an in-depth medical-psychological analysis,

					the specific implications for custody and access decisions are then worked out.
Judges	37	No	Once in 2024	No	1 day **Title:** Family law – Domestic violence and its impact on child custody proceedings in accordance with the requirements of the Istanbul Convention – Online (Ri) 24C5311-1 **Objective and content**: see above
Judges, public prosecutors	21	No	Once in 2023	No	1 day **Title:** Criminal law – sexual offences (judge/public prosecutor) 23C5313-1 **Objective and content:** To provide an overview of the current legal situation in substantive law and to present developments in case law Presentation of the offences under Section 13 of the Criminal Code, in particular Sections 177 ff. StGB and 176 ff. StGB; Legal basis and experience with psychosocial trial support; Practical handling and application procedures
Judges, public prosecutors	19	No	Once a year in 2023	No	1 day **Title:** Criminal law – sexual offences (judge/public prosecutor) 24C5313-1 **Objective and content:** see above
All members of the judiciary	Not charged (free access to the offer on the training platform of the Judicial Academy)	No	Access available all year round	Reference to guidelines	Script for interdisciplinary e-learning on protection against violence and help with domestic violence **Title:** Child custody matters and domestic violence Contact, parental responsibility, child welfare risks, family procedural law by: Thomas Meysen, SOCLES
All members of the judiciary	Not charged (free access to the offer on the Justice Academy's education platform)	No	Access available all year round	No	Working aid "Victim protection in criminal proceedings"
All members of the judiciary	Not collected (free	No	Access possible all year round	No	Working aid

	Access to the offer on the education platform of the Justice Academy)				"Allocation of household items and marital home and protection orders in the family court department"
Employees in autonomous women's shelters	50	No.	Annually		05–08 October 2021: Anti-racism, access and custody rights, LQBTIQ, SafeShelter, role models 28 October 2021: Online symposium, topic: "Femicide"
Employees in autonomous women's shelters	55	No.	Annually		7–10 November 2022: Protection against violence in collectivist structures, children's digital environments, art education projects, generational change (Women's shelter employees)
Staff at autonomous women's shelters	60	No.	Annually		06–09 November 2023: Literary history of the women's movement, feedback and staff discussions, anti-feminism, anti-racism work, reform of care and Visitation rights, participation, counselling methods
Staff at women's shelters, youth welfare offices and family courts	100	No.	Upon request, if necessary		28 November 2023: Access and custody rights versus protection against violence?! – Dangerous situations for women and children affected by violence in women's shelters
Employees in autonomous women's shelters	182	No.	Annually		23–26 September 2024: (Nationwide symposium, held in a different federal state each year, has replaced the state-wide symposium). Male violence, anti-racism work, gender and diversity, participation, intercultural counselling, current developments in the German Protection of Victims of Domestic Violence Act (GewHG), Reform of custody and access rights
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Eating disorders as a result of early trauma caused by violence suffered: 15 May, 21 August and 30 October 2020
Employees of state-funded general		No.	Annually		Racist and/or nationalistic exploitation of sexualised violence; 24 September + 25 September 2020

Women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence					
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annual		Introductory event on digital violence 13 August 2020
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Legal aspects of counselling in cases of sexual violence; 07 May 2020
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Legal situation of women affected by violence from the EU and other countries; 14 May 2020
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Dealing with anger, annoyance and aggression in a way specific to women; 10.09. + 11.09.2020
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexual violence		No	Annual		Internal conference of the umbrella organisation of autonomous women's counselling centres in North Rhine-Westphalia (Dachverband der autonomen Frauenberatungsstellen NRW e. V.) with the working title "A breath of fresh air for the new decade! – Update on feminist counselling centre work"; 13 May 2020
Employees in refugee and women's aid facilities		No.	Annually		"Don't stop starting" 17 September 2020
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annually		Dealing with trauma through self-help techniques, training of multipliers on the subject of trauma; 4 September + 5 September 2020
Employees in refugee and women's shelters		No.	Annual		Insights into trauma theory and possible courses of action; 19 June 2020

Employees at refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annually		"Gender-based violence – gender-specific violence against women in the refugee process" 29 October 2020
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No	Annual		Working with women with refugee experience; 22–23 October 2020
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Shame – a resource in counselling women and girls; 07.06.2021
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No	Annual		Intertwined structures of violence: Racism-critical prevention and counselling in the context of sexual violence from an intersectional perspective; 1 July + 2 July 2021
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Residence and social rights for women affected by violence from EU countries or with relatives from EU countries; 10 June 2021
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexual violence		No.	Annually		Residence and social rights for women from third countries who are victims of violence; 11 June 2021
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Group work for women and girls with eating disorders; 27 August 2021
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Eating disorders as a result of early trauma caused by violence ...finally becoming VISIBLE – advanced training in counselling and prevention of eating disorders; 11 June 2021, 20 August 2021, 1 October 2021
Employees of state-funded		No.	Annually		Ritual violence and dissociative identity disorder; 23 September + 24 September 2021

general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence					
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexual violence		No	Annually		Lesbian, trans* or queer women* as clients in women's* counselling centres: Successful counselling – requirements for the institution, the counsellors and special aspects of the counselling process; 18 June 2021
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexual violence		No.	Annual		Internal symposium of the umbrella organisation of autonomous women's counselling centres in North Rhine-Westphalia (Dachverband der autonomen Frauenberatungsstellen NRW e. V.) with the working title: "Women in times of crisis – counselling in times of crisis ... and what next?"; 22 October 2021
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annual		"What to do in cases of domestic violence against refugee women?; 11 May + 12 May 2021
Employees in refugee and women's support organisations		No.	Annual		"Don't stop starting" – advanced seminar; 18 November 2021
Employees in refugee and women's support organisations		No	Annual		Dealing with trauma and emotional stress through self-help techniques – effective techniques also for encounters in virtual space and in nature Training of multipliers on the topic of trauma; 09.09. + 10.09.2021
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annually		Creative methods in online counselling; 29 April + 30 April 2021
Staff at refugee and women's shelters		No.	Annual		Insights into trauma theory and possible courses of action; 31 May 2021
Employees at refugee and women's shelters		No.	Annual		"Gender-based violence against women in the refugee process; 14 April 2021

Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annual		Refugee women* and migrant women* between exclusion and recognition – Supporting and empowering refugee women* and migrant women*; 7 October 2021
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annually		Working with women with refugee experience; 08.07. + 09.07.2021
Employees in refugee and women's support organisations		No.	Annual		Easy language; June 2021
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Group work for women and girls with eating disorders; 03.06.2022
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Trauma processing through eating disorders – a consequence of previous experiences of violence; 19 May 2022, 25 August 2022, 20 October 2022
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Refresher course on trauma knowledge – trauma intervention; 25 August + 26 August 2022
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annual		An introduction to Zapchen Somatics – an approach to teaching affect and self-regulation to empower women in prevention and counselling settings; 2 September + 3 September 2022
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Shame and sexualised violence; 20 October 2022
Employees of state-funded general		No.	Annually		Helpful methods and techniques for counselling from the theme-centred approach

women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence					interaction. "I am not omnipotent, I am not powerless, I am partially powerful."; 24 June 2022
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	annually		Nothing stays the same! - Finding stability in uncertain times; 14 October 2022
Employees of state-funded general women's advice centres and specialist advice centres against sexual violence		No.	Annually		Lesbian, trans* or queer women* as clients in women's* counselling centres. Successful counselling – requirements for the the institution, the counsellors and special aspects of the counselling process; 27 October 2022
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Classifying and naming violence against women. Interview training for enquiries from radio, television, newspapers; 12 May + 13 May 2022
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annually		What to do in cases of domestic violence against refugee women?; 05.05. + 06.05.2022
Staff at refugee and women's support services		No.	Annually		Stabilisation techniques for working with refugee women – the body knows the way way; 4 November 2022
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	annually		Insights into trauma theory and possible courses of action; 10 June 2022
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annual		Gender-based violence against women in the refugee process; 12 May 2022
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No	Annually		Refugee women* and migrant women* between exclusion and recognition – Supporting and empowering refugee women* and migrant women*; 19 May 2022
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annual		Resource strengthening – Everyone is a genius! 20 May 2022
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No	Annually		Easy language; 1 September 2022

Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annually		Dealing with refugee women* who have experienced gender-based/sexualised violence; 15 September 2022
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Digital violence: prevention and intervention; 12 May 2023
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexual violence		No.	Annually		Solution-focused work with inner personality parts in cases of trauma and experiences of violence; 15 June + 16 June 2023
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Impact techniques in counselling women affected by violence; 10 August + 11 August 2023
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annual		What does it take for victims of sexual violence to recover? 15.09. + 16.09.2023
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexual violence		No.	Annually		Between protection from violence and securing residence; 20 October 2023
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexual violence		No.	Annually		Eating disorders as a result of earlier trauma caused by experiences of violence – further training in counselling and prevention of eating disorders; May, August and October 2023
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and		No.	Annually		Lesbian, trans* or queer women* as clients in women's counselling centres: Successful counselling – requirements for the the institution, the counsellors and special

specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence					Aspects of the counselling process; October 2023
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexual violence		No.	Annually		Internal symposium of the umbrella organisation of autonomous women's counselling centres in North Rhine-Westphalia "Strengthen connections! – Sharpen your feminist profile!" 2023
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annually		What to do in cases of domestic violence against refugee women? 11 May + 12 May 2023
Staff at refugee and women's support services		No.	Annual		Stabilisation techniques for working with refugee women – Right in the middle of it and yet still myself – what can I do to stay true to myself and still respond with compassion? 17 August + 18 August 2023
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annual		Insights into trauma theory and possible courses of action; 13 June 2023
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annual		"Gender-based violence – gender-specific violence against women in the refugee process"; 04.05.2023
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annually		Refugee women* and migrant women* between exclusion and recognition – support and empowerment of refugee women* and migrant women*; 25 May 2023
Employees in Refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annually		Nothing stays the same! – Finding stability in uncertain times; 5 May 2023
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annually		Easy language; 21 September 2023
Employees in refugee and women's shelters		No.	annually		Dealing with refugee women* who have experienced gender-based/sexualised violence ; 27 April 2023
Employees in refugee and women's support organisations		No.	Annually		Dealing with refugee women* who have experienced gender-based/sexualised violence ; 27 April 2023
Employees in refugee and women's support organisations		No.	Annually		Dealing with trauma through self-help techniques, training multipliers on the topic of trauma; 7–8 September 2023

Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Consensus – (no) solution for sexualised violence? 25 April 2024
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	annually		Recognising and countering anti-feminism; 16 May + 17 May 2024
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexual violence		No.	Annual		Use of the Vor!Sicht cards in counselling; 14 June 2024
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Trauma-sensitive work – basic training for working with children and young people; 06.09.2024
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Getting in touch with emotional hunger – advanced training in counselling women with eating disorder symptoms and complex trauma disorders resulting from experiences of violence; 19 September 2024
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Every coin has three sides – ideas for appreciation and respect for eating disorder symptoms; 07.11.2024
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annually		Gender-specific digital violence against FLINTA; 14 November 2024
Employees of the state-funded		No.	Annually		Rethinking women's counselling: how critical whiteness and intersectionality can improve our work

general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence					; 21 November 2024
Employees of state-funded general women's counselling centres and specialist counselling centres against sexualised violence		No.	Annual		Internal symposium of the umbrella organisation of autonomous women's counselling centres NRW e.V: "Strengthening connections – sharpening the feminist profile 2.0. Mindfulness and self-care, power and effectiveness in the work of feminist counselling centres"; 17 June 2024
Employees in refugee and women's aid facilities		No.	Annual		What to do in cases of domestic violence against refugee women? 11 April + 12 April 2025
Employees in refugee and women's shelters		No.	Annual		Stabilisation techniques for working with refugee women – PEP, embodiment and co – our body as our most important tool; 26 April 2024
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annual		Insights into trauma theory and possible courses of action; 28 May 2025
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annual		"Gender-based violence – gender-specific violence against women in the refugee process"; 7 November 2024
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annually		Refugee women* and migrant women* between exclusion and recognition – supporting and empowering refugee women* and migrant women*; 4 June 2024
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annually		"Discover your hidden genius – Albert Einstein was right!"; 27 June + 28 June 2024
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No	Annual		Easy language; 20 September 2024
Employees in refugee and women's aid facilities		No.	Annually		Dealing with refugee women* who have experienced gender-based/sexualised violence;

					5 September 2024
Employees in refugee and women's aid organisations		No.	Annually		Dealing with trauma through self-help techniques, training multipliers on the topic of trauma; 22.08. + 23.08.2024

5. Bremen

Specialists	Number of professionals trained specialists	Is the training compulsory?	Frequency	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
- Criminal judges - Family court judges - Public prosecutors - Employees of legal aid offices - Employees of the SDdJ - Lay judges - Court assistants	24	No ("Destructive violent relationships in cooperation with the counselling and intervention centre for relationship violence "New Paths")	Once in 2023	Guidelines of the Istanbul Convention and the State Coordination Office	3.5 hours - Insight into toxic relationships from the perspective of those affected - Presentation of the "Neue Wege" counselling centre - Causes + signs of domestic violence, measures and prevention options - Possibilities and limitations of German criminal law - Dialogue and exchange of experiences
- Criminal judges - Family court judges - Prosecutors - Staff at legal aid offices - Employees of the SDdJ - Lay judges - Court assistants - Trainee solicitors	15	No ("Psychosocial trial support – effects on criminal proceedings and those involved in the trial")	1x in 2023	No	4 hours - Presentation of the evaluation of the research report from Lower Saxony - Victim support and victim counselling - Offender support - Dialogue and exchange of experiences
- Criminal judges - Family judges - Prosecutors	30 (per event)	No (Psychodynamic concepts relating to sexual	Once a year since 2023	guidelines of the Istanbul Convention and the State Coordination Office	8 hours - How does long-term abuse affect the psyche? - Are there differences and

- Employees of legal aid offices - SDdJ staff - Lay judges - Process facilitators - Prison staff		Abuse in relationships – useful information on dealing with trauma in the acute and late phases			What might these be? - What protective mechanisms do victims develop? - How does sexual trauma manifest itself at a later stage (e.g. court hearing)? - How can an (inner) separation from the perpetrator be achieved?
- Criminal judges - Family court judges - Prosecutors - Staff at legal aid offices - Employees of the SDdJ - Lay judges - Court assistants - Prison staff	30	No ("Neurotic disorders and psychological defence mechanisms in everyday working life")	2024 and 2025	Guidelines of the Istanbul Conventions and the State Coordination Office	8 hours - Explanation of basic concepts "Transference", "countertransference", "defence" and "mental hygiene" - Dynamics of a mental disorder
- Criminal judges - Family court judges - Prosecutors - Employees of legal aid offices - Employees of the SDdJ - Lay judges - Court assistants - Prison staff	30	No ("Power, sexuality and masculinity. On the causes of violence against women – specialist lecture as part of the Istanbul Conventions")	For the first time in 2025	Guidelines of the Istanbul Convention and the State Coordination Office	8 hours - The continuity of hierarchical gender relations - What is sexism and how does it manifest itself? - On the "crisis of masculinity" and the impact of the #MeToo debate - What is masculinity and how does it arise in a hierarchical culture of binary gender - Pick-up artists and incels - Femicide: relationship dramas or a motive based on misogyny?
- Criminal judges - Juvenile judges - Family judges - Prosecutors - Employees of the SDdJ	39	No ("Destructive violent relationships – Psychoanalytical background knowledge in cases of domestic	1x in 2022	Guidelines of the Istanbul Convention and the State Coordination Office	6.5 hours - Why do people remain in destructive relationships? - Why do people return to a destructive relationship after a separation?

		violence")			relationship? - Possibilities and limitations of German criminal law
Teachers	250	No	Needs-based	Based on the KMK strategy for education in the digital world and the supplement on teaching and learning in the digital world; Presentation and collection of materials (task card) will be provided	Workshop description (duration 90 minutes): Establishing media literacy as a cross-curricular task in the classroom poses major challenges for teachers. Limited time resources, curricular requirements and uncertainties regarding content in this subject area often lead to understandable reactions such as: "I'll do it next term!" When topics such as sexting, internet pornography or image-based (sexualised) violence come up, the natural reflex for teachers is often: "Is that any of my business at school?" In our teacher training courses and workshops, we want to stimulate discussion among colleagues, provide them with materials (such as the app "KNOWBODY" app for contemporary sex education) and ideas for their own lessons. Our fundamental aim is to encourage teachers to address these important areas of young people's lives together with their pupils. We would like to present all of this and provide an insight into what schools are already doing today and how we can offer support with these topics.
Health professionals in schools, health professionals in the neighbourhood	80	No	Needs-based	Orientation towards the KMK strategy Education in the digital world and the supplement Teaching and learning in the digital world; Presentation and collection of materials (task card) will be provided	Workshop, 90 minutes Insight into the media worlds of primary school children; developmental tasks, social media, digital communication, privacy, handling personal data, cybergrooming, etc.
Trainee teachers	160	No	According to inclination (as part of the introductory weeks in	based on the KMK strategy for education in the digital world and the	Workshop description (duration 90 minutes):

			teaching practice/media day)	Supplement Teaching and learning in the digital world; Presentation and collection of materials (task card) will be provided	Establishing media literacy as a cross-curricular task in the classroom poses major challenges for teachers. Limited time resources, curricular requirements and uncertainties regarding content in this subject area often lead to understandable reactions such as: "I'll do it next semester!" When topics such as sexting, internet pornography or image-based (sexualised) violence come up, the natural reflex for teachers is often: "Is that any of my business at school?" In our teacher training courses and workshops, we want to stimulate discussion among colleagues, provide them with materials (such as the app "KNOWBODY" app for contemporary sex education) and ideas for their own lessons. Our fundamental aim is to encourage teachers to address these important areas of young people's lives together with their pupils. We would like to present all of this and provide an insight into what schools are already doing today and how we can offer support in these areas .
	Seminar on domestic violence/stalking 37 (2023/24)	No	2-day seminar on domestic violence/stalking/1-2 times per year		
	Basic seminar on victims' rights 33 (2024)	No	General seminars on victim protection: 1-day basic seminar Victims' rights/twice a year, from 2025 onwards 2 days		
Law enforcement officers who come into contact with victims and perpetrators of stalking and domestic violence	Seminar on victims' rights Multiplier training	Yes, for multipliers		Yes: Service instructions, procedural instructions and employee information from the police:	The following topics are covered in the 2-day seminar on domestic violence/stalking: Topic area 'Stalking'

(Training Institute for the Police in the State of Bremen)	42 (2023/24)		1-day seminar on victims' rights Multiplier training/5 times per year	Prevention and combating of violence against women and domestic violence – implementation of the Istanbul Convention – service instructions for risk assessments in cases of individual risk, procedural instructions for dealing with domestic violence, employee information on data transfer in cases of domestic violence to "Neue Wege", Employee information on applying for protection orders, employee information on the disclosure of personal data for the purpose of applying for protection orders, employee information on handling data from accommodation	- Legal basis for stalking, - Presentation of the work of the stalking crisis intervention team (counselling), - Istanbul Convention – history, origins, national coordination office. - Topic area domestic violence: phenomenology / manifestations, - "New approaches": counselling work – perpetrators/victims, - Presentation of the work of the Violence Protection Clinic (contact point for all victims of violence in Bremen and Bremerhaven), - Reporting / Investigations, - Civil law protection – Protection Against Violence Act, - Risk management by the police, - Practical exchange of experiences, - Other changing content The following topics are covered in the one-day victim rights training courses: The importance of victim protection for the police and its implementation in practice, Police duties regarding victim rights and criminal procedure requirements, Domestic violence – phenomenology and prevalence, psychological reactions and

					effects of experiences of violence, risk management, risk analysis and risk factors, internal and external victim protection networks
Members of the social professions (social work, (social) education, psychology (IPoS)	18	No	During the period surveyed from 2020 to 2024, the psychosocial process support training course was held once. There were already two other courses before the period surveyed.	Yes, there are guidelines and schedules. In addition, participants receive literature references, scripts and presentations. At the end of the training course, participants must write a term paper and take part in a moot court.	The training comprises 133 contact hours, approx. 52 hours of trial observation (participation in two main hearings) and 220 hours of self-study. One focus of the training is on the topics of violence against women/domestic violence. Individual topics: Legal basis for criminal proceedings, in particular victim protection, substantive criminal law (in particular violent crimes, capital offences and homicides), objectives and principles of psychosocial trial support, civil law protection (GewaltSchG), PsychKG, victim compensation, European law dimension of victim protection, data protection, victimisation, stress factors and needs of victims of sexual and violent offences as well as people with disabilities and mental impairments, forensic medicine, handling of sexual offences by the police, testimony psychology and suggestion, trauma and

					trauma treatment, risk factors and resilience. Victim support organisations such as Neue Wege, Praksys, Schattenriss, Lessan, BBMeZ, Refugio, Notruf psychological counselling centre, TOA and AVIB are regularly involved in the training. In addition, lectures from the SfI (on the subject of right of residence) or the State Commissioner for the Disabled were part of the training programme.
Case workers and members of the AVIB Medical Service, employees of the Hamburg Pension Office (IPoS)	Continuing education course "Basic psychological knowledge for professional and sensitive handling of applicants in case processing in social compensation law" (20)	No	One-off	Curriculum	The training programme is tailored to the specific needs of the AVIB and deepens application-oriented psychological and legal knowledge in areas such as "psychology of violence", "statements and assessments in social law", "mental disorders" and "case management and supervision" with a focus on violence against women. The course (86 teaching hours) took place from 16 January 2023 to 22 May 2023.
Sociologists, social scientists, lawyers	Approx. 30	No	One-off	Presentation	Lecture by an IPoS representative on prostitution legislation in Germany as part of the ESC conference in Malaga on 22 September 2022 (as part of the EU-funded COST Action) Presentation by an IPoS representative on the right of residence for victims

					of human trafficking and forced prostitution (European law references and their implementation in national law) at the ESC conference in Florence on 7 September 2023 (as part of the EU funded COST Action)
Victim support workers from the White Ring (IPoS)	Approximately 15	No	One-off	Presentation	Lecture on victims' rights at the White Ring basic seminar on 11 May 2024

6. Baden-Württemberg

Specialists	Number of trained professionals	Is the training compulsory?	Frequency	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Already qualified contact persons in the municipalities and districts	35 persons	No	1 annual digital exchange meeting and 1 meeting in hybrid format	All meetings are documented on a continuous digital notice board	Digital information events (run by Aktion Jugendschutz) on the topic of forced marriage and violence in the name of honour Focus: current information and collegial advice 2.5 hours
Contact persons in municipalities and districts not yet reached	243 between 2022 and 2023	No	Three to five annual digital information events	yes	Information event on forced marriage and honour-based violence (organised by Aktion Jugendschutz) Focus: Raising awareness of the issue among professionals and familiarising them with the support and counselling services available in Baden-Württemberg 3.5 hours

Multipliers (employees of institutions, e.g. professionals, teachers, government employees, youth welfare office)	Approx. 383	No	31 information events in 2023,	yes	Raising awareness and providing information on forced marriage and violence in the name of honour
Young women	Approx. 175	Training on request	10 combined events	Yes, training courses are also adapted to the composition of the participants and combined with methods for prevention events	Prevention and information on forced marriage and violence in the name of honour
Police officers	533 (period 2020 – 2022)	As a matter of principle, the Baden-Württemberg police force not only provides training in connection with the Istanbul Convention, but also carries out needs-based training planning and . Therefore, no distinction is made between voluntary and (recurring) mandatory training courses.	Training courses are generally needs-based. Number of events held in the relevant period: 37.	Relevant documents (e.g. decrees from the IM-LPP, handouts, guidelines, sample forms, applications, information sheets) are made available in written and digital form as well as on state and federal information platforms.	A total of nine topic-related training courses were made available during the relevant period, varying in duration and content. In addition, two further topic-related training courses have been offered and conducted since 2024.

7. Hesse

Skilled workers	Number of trained specialists	Is the training compulsory?	Frequency	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Judges	28	No	annually	Yes	One-day interdisciplinary workshop on access rights in cases of domestic violence with other participants from the police, women's shelters and youth welfare offices.
Prosecutors	5	No	annually	Yes	One-day interdisciplinary workshop on access rights in cases of domestic violence with other participants from the police,

					women's shelters and youth welfare offices.
Judges	13	No	annually	Yes	Two-day interdisciplinary workshop on domestic violence with other participants from the police, women's shelters, youth welfare offices and lecturers from the fields of family law, women's shelters, public prosecution, police and youth welfare offices
Public prosecutors	9	No	Annually	Yes	Two-day interdisciplinary workshop on domestic violence with other participants from the police, women's shelters, youth welfare offices and lecturers from the fields of family court, women's shelters, public prosecution, police and youth welfare offices
Social services employees	29	No	annually	Yes	Two-day interdisciplinary workshop on domestic violence with other participants from the police, women's shelters, youth welfare offices and lecturers from the fields of family court, women's shelters , public prosecutors, police and youth welfare offices
Judges	52	No	annually		Five-day conference on the criminal and family law aspects of domestic violence, in particular the origins of domestic violence, homicides against women (femicide), credibility assessment in cases of suspected sexual abuse
Prosecutors	23	no	Annually		Five-day training course on the criminal and family law aspects of domestic violence, in particular the causes of domestic violence, homicides against women (femicide), credibility assessment in cases of suspected sexual abuse
Judges	24	No	annually		Three-day training course on proceedings relating to the sexual abuse of children with lecturers from the fields of criminal courts, public prosecution and psychotherapy (questioning children)
Public prosecutors	26	No	annually		Three-day training course on proceedings relating to child sexual abuse, with lecturers from the criminal courts, public prosecution service and psychotherapy (interviewing children)
Police officers	12 participants in 2020, 20 participants in 2021, 11 participants in 2022, 16 participants in 2023, 28 participants in 2024	Optional	1 seminar in 2020, 2 seminars in 2021, 1 seminar in 2022, 1 seminar in 2023, 2 seminars in 2024		Domestic violence / violence in the immediate social environment (5 days)

Police officers	11 participants in 2020, 9 participants in 2021, 54 participants in 2022	Optional	1 seminar in 2020, 4 seminars in 2021, 2 seminars in 2022,		Child pornography / sexual abuse (1 day)
Police officers	28 participants in 2020, 12 participants in 2021, 39 participants in 2023	Optional	2 seminars in 2020, 1 seminar in 2021, 2 seminars in 2023		Sexual abuse and child maltreatment (4 days)
Police officers	8 participants in 2020, 23 participants in 2021, 31 participants in 2022, 16 participants in 2023, 34 participants in 2024	Optional	1 seminar in 2020, 2 seminars in 2021, 2 seminars in 2022, 1 seminar in 2023, 2 seminars in 2024	Police service regulation 382	Basic seminar on police youth work (5 days)
Police officers	8 participants in 2020, 10 participants in 2021, 20 participants in 2022, 17 participants in 2024	Optional	1 seminar in 2020, 1 seminar in 2021, 2 seminars in 2022, 1 seminar in 2024	Police service regulation 382	Advanced seminar on police youth work (5 days)
Interdisciplinary target group		No	Annual	No	"Optimal coordination – how to succeed in custody and access proceedings against a backdrop of domestic violence". The training course, which is run by the Hessian Ministry of Labour, Integration, Youth and Social Affairs, teaches how the welfare of children can be better taken into account in custody proceedings against a backdrop of domestic violence Duration: 3 days

8. Brandenburg

Professionals	Number of professionals trained	Is this training mandatory?	Frequency	Training efforts supported by guidelines and protocols	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Police officers	3 x 60	No	1 x per year	Yes	**Specialist conference on victim protection**: 1 day with changing topics on dealing with victims, offers of help, etc.
	2 x 16	No	Once a year	Yes	**Victim protection seminar**: 2 days of legal topics, manifestations and consequences of violence, services offered by victim support organisations, etc.
	3 x 80	No	Once a year	Yes	**Specialist day on sexual crime:** 1 day with changing topics, e.g. victims' rights, support options, raising awareness of special features
	2 x 40	No	Once a year	Yes	**Life hack knowledge:** 1.5 hours on changing topics, e.g. victim-offender mediation, work of women's shelters
	2022–2024 76 participants	No	2022- 1x annually 2023- 2x yearly 2024- twice yearly	Yes	**Course** "Violence in close social relationships - special module on domestic violence": 4 days Contents: - Origins and effects of domestic violence - Cycle of violence and forms of violence - Children affected by domestic violence - Offender profiles and offender work - Basic principles of police law, criminal law and criminal procedure - First attack/safety attack
Judges	6	No	Annually	No	"The hearing of children and adolescents in family law" The training deals with the scientific, psychological foundations of listening to children and young people. Developmental-psychological aspects of conducting interviews are presented and appropriate interview techniques are practised. One day
Judges; public prosecutors	7	No	Annually	No	"Basics of interviewing and dealing with traumatised persons in court proceedings"

					The training course teaches the basics of psychotraumatology and is intended to focus on the problems of interviewing traumatised persons - as well as providing tips on how to conduct interviews. The training also deals specifically with the handling and questioning of traumatised children. Two-day
Judges; public prosecutors	10	No	Annually	No	"Interdisciplinary family law series: Child - psychological and psychiatric aspects" The topic of the training was the developmental psychology of the child, the developmental-psychological significance of attachment, separation and loyalty, as well as the child-friendly organisation of proceedings and child hearings. Two-day
Judges; public prosecutors	10	No	Annually	No	"Interdisciplinary Family Law Series: Youth - Psychological and Psychiatric Aspects" The training focused on the perspectives of young people with illnesses and serious problems, the hearing of young people and development in adolescence Two-day
Judges; specialists from youth welfare offices	3	No	unique	No	"Stalking and intimate partner violence as a threat to child welfare" One day
Judges; public prosecutors; specialists from the police and youth welfare offices	5	No	annually	No	"Recognise child endangerment in order to act! - Overview of medical diagnostics and presentation of support services" One day
Judges; public prosecutors; police specialists	10	No	Unique	No	"Victim protection in sexual offences" The aim of the event is to strengthen a perspective on sexual offences that focuses on the behaviour of the accused and anchors responsibility for sexual offences with the accused in order to avoid distortions in sentencing. Preventing sexuality and sexual violence One day

Judges; public prosecutors; police specialists	5	No	Yearly	No	"Psychological and psychotraumatological aspects in criminal proceedings for sexual offences" The aim of the event is to teach behaviour and conduct in the context of sexual offence proceedings. better understand the statements of victim witnesses and prevent re-traumatisation and secondary traumatisation Two-day
Judges and magistrates; public prosecutors	5	No	biennial	No	"Interrogation in juvenile criminal proceedings" The training course covers both legal principles and psychological aspects of interrogation in juvenile criminal proceedings. The focus is on the special requirements for interrogations in juvenile criminal proceedings. One day
Judges; public prosecutors	11	No	yearly	No	"Juvenile criminal law - basics and new developments" The focus is on Special features of juvenile criminal proceedings, the parties to proceedings under the JGG, the legal consequences system of juvenile criminal law – also in connection with other regulatory systems – and the application of juvenile criminal law to adolescents. In addition, current decisions will be discussed. One day
Judges; public prosecutors; district attorneys	8	No	Biennial	No	"Violence against women: Misogyny, femicide and honour violence" Violence against women is an old phenomenon and is currently known to have many facets: Domestic violence is regularly based on patterns that promote escalation dynamics. The so-called incel movement combines misogyny with right-wing extremist attitudes. Misogyny can also go so far as to become a motive for murder. But traditional principles of honour in patriarchal structures curtail women's rights and place them above the lives of the people who live after them. In the seminar, the basics are explained and specifics are explored on the basis of real cases. One day

Judges; public prosecutors; police specialists	2	No	Biennial	No	Psychosocial process support Psychosocial process support as non-legal support for injured witnesses of serious crimes – a look behind the scenes half-day

9. Saxony-Anhalt

Specialists	Number of professionals trained	Is the training compulsory?	Frequency	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Judges, public prosecutors	1	No	1	No	Psychiatry and criminal law, including the assessment of sex offenders, conference of the German Judicial Academy (DRA) from 19 to 24 January 2020
Judges, public prosecutors	1	No	1	No	Psychiatry and psychology in criminal proceedings, including forensic psychiatric assessment of sexual offences, DRA conference from 12 to 17 January 2020
Judges, public prosecutors	0 (advertised)	No	1	No	Prosecution of sexual assault – The "no means no" solution in the Criminal Code, DRA conference, 20-24 September 2020,
Judges, public prosecutors	1	No	1	no	Family psychological reports and amicable conflict resolution, DRA conference, 6–10 January 2020
Judges, public prosecutors	0 (advertised)	No	1	No	Domestic violence – family and criminal law aspects, assessing credibility in cases of suspected sexual abuse, DRA conference, 9 February – 14 February 2020
All judicial officers	unknown, only	No	1	no	Conference for all state employees:

	Advertised				Prevention of sexual harassment and sexualised violence in everyday working life, 2020
All judicial officers who deal with this issue	Unknown, only advertised	No	1	No	Access and custody rights in cases of domestic violence – implementation of the Istanbul Convention, 24 June 2021 as an online event; organiser: LIKO – State Coordination Office for Domestic Violence and Stalking
Judges, public prosecutors	1	No	1	No	Sexual offences and forced prostitution, DRA conference, 9–12 May 2021
Judges, public prosecutors	0 (advertised)	No	1	No	Juvenile protection proceedings with a focus on sexual offences, DRA conference, 2–7 May 2021
Judges, public prosecutors	13	No	1	No	Conference of the LSA judiciary: Traumatisation – typical reactions to traumatic experiences and possible consequences, 25-27 August 2021
Judges, public prosecutors	Unknown, only advertised	No	1 x	No	Domestic violence – legally secure procedures and medical support, on 28 April 2021 as an online event; organised as part of the "Protection and assistance in cases of domestic violence" project by the federal-state working group "Domestic Violence"
all judicial officers	Unknown, only advertised	no	1 x	No	Conference for all state employees: Preventing sexual harassment and sexualised violence, 21 June 2021
Judges, public prosecutors	1	No	1	No	The right to self-determination between taboo and stigma: Female genital mutilation (FGM/C)! Conference organised by DaMigra, 7 February 2022, online
All interested judicial officials	Unknown, only advertised	No	1 x	No	From war to honour killings – what are the dimensions of violence? International conference at the University of Magdeburg

					on the connections between gender and violence over six centuries, 14–16 February 2022
Judges, public prosecutors	1	No	1	No	Domestic violence – family and criminal law aspects, credibility assessment in cases of suspected of sexual abuse, DRA conference, 2022
Judges, public prosecutors	0 (advertised)	no	1	no	Fundamentals of marriage and family law (including matters relating to protection against violence), conference of the DRA, 2022
Judges, public prosecutors	1	No	1 x	No	Psychiatry and criminal law (including the assessment of sex offenders), DRA conference, 2022
Judges, public prosecutors	1	no	1 x	No	New developments in sexual criminal law, DRA conference, 2022
All judicial officials	unknown, only advertised	no	1	No	Conference for all state employees: Preventing sexual harassment and sexualised violence, 2022
Judges, public prosecutors	0 (advertised)	no	1	no	Human trafficking for sexual exploitation in the digital age, 28 March to 9 June 2023, CEPOL Blended training programme
Judges, prosecutors	2	No	1	No	Fundamentals of marriage and family law, including protection against violence (e.g. protection against violence cases), DRA conference, 2023
Judges, public prosecutors	0 (advertised)	no	1	no	Law without legislation, justice without judges – The world of shadow justice (including gender-based violence against women, so-called "honour killings"), DRA conference, 2023
Judges, public prosecutors	1	No	1 x	no	Domestic violence – family law and criminal law aspects, credibility assessment in cases of suspected

					of sexual abuse (including Islamic culture and violence against women, homicides against women/femicide), DRA conference, 2023
Judges, prosecutors	1	No	1	No	Current developments in criminal law (including violence against women), DRA conference, 2023
Judges, public prosecutors	0 (advertised)	No	1	no	Violence in care, DRA conference, 2023
Judges, public prosecutors	1	no	1	No	SGB XIV – A milestone for victims of violent crime? Conference of the DRA, 2023
Judges, public prosecutors	0 (advertised)	No	1	no	Sexual offences and forced prostitution, DRA conference, 2023
Press officers for the judiciary in Saxony-Anhalt	20	No	1	No	Conference for the LSA judiciary: Reporting on violence against women (lecture), 24 April 2023
All interested judicial officials	Unknown, only advertised	No	1	No	Childbirth, obstetrics, motherhood in history and the present day, conference at the University of Magdeburg, 20–21 April 2023
All judicial officers involved in this matter	Unknown, only advertised	No	1 x	No	Recognising forced marriage and intervening effectively – support and assistance for victims and professionals, conference organised by the VERA specialist unit, 20 April 2023, online
All judicial officials dealing with this issue	Unknown, only advertised	No	1	No	Persecution and forced marriage of LGBTIQ* persons in the context of honour culture – background information and protection services, conference organised by the specialist unit VERA, 9 May 2023, online
All judicial officials dealing with this issue	Unknown, only advertised	No	1	No	Interdisciplinary online course "Protection and assistance in cases of domestic violence", 2023

All judicial officials dealing with this issue	17	No	1	No	Conference for the judiciary LSA: Sexual harassment from the perspective of the AGG and criminal law, 7 November 2023
Judges, public prosecutors	14	No	1	No	Conference for the judiciary LSA: Dealing with access (including causes and origins of conflicts, highly contentious situations and domestic violence), 13 June 2024
Judges, public prosecutors	1	No	1 x	no	Sexual offences and forced prostitution, DRA conference, 18–21 November 2024
All judicial officials dealing with this issue	17	No	1	No	Conference for the judiciary LSA: Sexual harassment from the perspective of the AGG and criminal law, 7 June 2024
All judicial officials dealing with this issue	2	No	1 x	No	Persecution and forced marriage of LGBTIQ persons – background and protection services. Conference of the VERA specialist unit, 5 December 2024, online
Child and youth welfare professionals: professionals in ASD, counselling centres, family court judges	16	No	1	No	Dealing with domestic violence in custody proceedings; dealing with high-risk families 1-day seminar
KJH specialists in ST Specialists from girls' work	11	No	1	No	Girls* online, self-representation and external images of girls* and women* on the internet; including as victims of stereotypes, antiquated role models, violent fantasies and misogynistic attitudes 2-day seminar
Child and youth welfare professionals ST: here nursery + after-school care centre	13	No	1	No	The facility's internal violence protection concept 2-day writing workshop for professionals from daycare centres and after-school care centres
Professionals working in childcare and	79	No	3x	no	Children's rights as a preventive building block

Youth welfare in ST:					against (sexualised) violence Asynchronous digital offering: Duration approx. 12 hours
Police officers (PVB)	since 2022 A total of 109 PVB (as of 20 April 2025)	No	State concept for appropriate action in cases of domestic violence, stalking and child welfare risks (VS-NfD)	As needed	Three days of training Definitions Manifestations and causes Legal basis Practical aspects of case handling Cooperation with victim support system High- risk management Work with perpetrators Intercultural competence

10. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Specialists	Number of trained professionals	Is the training mandatory?	Frequency	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Support network, judiciary, police, medical professionals	Interdisciplinary victim protection conference (approx. 150)	No	One-off	Yes, among other things Prevention programme: www.bewusst-sign.de with educational videos and accompanying media education booklet	-one day
Education/social services	Internet-based + in training courses approx. 200 - 400	no	multiple	Yes Prevention programme: www.bewusst-sign.de with Instructional videos and accompanying media education booklet	- Summer academy 4 teaching units for educators - Further training for panel doctors Association 1 teaching unit
Police	Approx. 20-30 per session	Yes	2020-2024 (18 appointments at Neubrandenburg Police Headquarters)	Istanbul Convention and child protection guidelines	The structure, function and accessibility of the emergency room for victims of violence 2 teaching units each

Medical professionals	20-30 per session	Yes	2020-2024 13 Appointments with doctors	Istanbul Convention and child protection guidelines	The forensic medicine outpatient clinic for victims of violence and the child protection outpatient clinic at UMG, 2 teaching units each
Social services (youth welfare offices, social workers, intervention and counselling centres)	20-30 per appointment	Yes	2020-2024: 27 Appointments for the districts of MSE, VG and VR	Istanbul Convention and child protection guidelines	The forensic medicine emergency room for victims of violence and the child protection emergency room at UMG, 2 teaching units each
Daycare	Per appointment: 20-30	Yes	2020-2024: 5 Appointments	Istanbul Convention and Child Protection Guidelines	The forensic medicine outpatient clinic for victims of violence and the child protection outpatient clinic at UMG, 2 teaching units each
Criminal prosecution	30	Yes	2022	Istanbul Convention and child protection guidelines	The forensic medicine emergency room for victims of violence and the child protection emergency room at UMG, 2 teaching units each
Medicine (doctors in the emergency medical service) From 2021	30-40 registered doctors each	Yes	Twice a year	Yes. Istanbul Convention	The UMG's forensic medicine outpatient clinic for victims of violence as a relevant service for general practitioners dealing with victims of violence The UMG's forensic child protection clinic 1 teaching unit
Social services/education	100 (International Federation, Jambus, Kita, Neubrandenburg Association for the Disabled)	Yes	Once a year (2020-2025)	Child Protection Guideline Istanbul Convention	Between 3 teaching units and 6 teaching units
Vorpommern-Greifswald district The District Administrator. Staff Unit for Central Tasks, Health Promotion and Social Planning / Health Promotion Children from families with mental health and addiction problems.	Approx. 80-90	Yes	Three times (2023 and 2024)	Child protection guideline Istanbul Convention	The UMG's forensic medical outpatient clinic for victims of violence as a relevant service for those affected by domestic violence. 2 teaching units The child protection clinic at the Institute of Forensic Medicine at UMG
Equality officers (central/decentralised)	approx. 10	No	As required		
Student bodies (ASTA)		no	as required		

Students, university members	50	No	One-time	HS anti-discrimination policy Workshop on quick-wittedness training for women -half-day	Various events such as Action month against violence against women and girls. - Various lectures and discussion panels (orange) flag raising Workshop: Countering hate speech -half-day Book presentation and discussion "Sexual Harassment" – 2-hour event Workshop on empowering women - half-day Workshop on quick-wittedness training for women -half-day Input and discussion on "Domestic violence" -1-hour event
University staff	15	No	One-off	HS anti-discrimination policy	Workshop on professionalising counselling in cases of "sexual harassment, discrimination and violence" -full day
Students and employees		No	Annual		Self-assertion courses, verbal, mental, physical
Equal opportunities officer		No	Regular		
Professors and staff, students		No			Sexual discrimination, harassment and violence (SDG) in the higher education context
University staff	Approximately 80 per year	No	Annually	Yes	Seminars on non-violent communication: Focus on empathy, conflict resolution, respectful communication. Duration: 1 day.
Teachers and school social workers (approx.	approx. 50 per year	No	Project-related, annually	Yes	DiNet training courses: promoting digital literacy, dealing with online violence,

framework of cooperation)					Prevention of radicalisation. Duration: 1–2 days, depending on the module.
Family court judges Public prosecutor's office	Approx. 30	No	1x 2025	No	Conference on the Istanbul Convention (JM M-V)
Family judges	2	No	2x (1x in 2024 and 1x in 2023)	No	Psychology for family judges (DRA)
Family judges Criminal judges Public prosecutors	1	No	1x (2024)	No	Domestic violence (DRA)
Family court	4	No	2x (1x in 2024 and 1x in 2023)	No	Fundamentals of Marriage and Family Law (DRA)
family court	6	No	3x (1x 2024 and 2x 2023)	No	Family law crash course (DRA)
Family law judgeship	1	No	1x 2024	No	Solution-oriented work taking into account the best interests of the child (DRA)
Criminal judges Public prosecutors	2	No	1x 2024	No	Juvenile protection proceedings (DRA)
Family court	2	No	1x 2024	No	Child protection proceedings (DRA)
Criminal judges	2	No	2x (1x 2024 and 1x 2023)	No	Forensic questioning of children (DRA)
Family court	1	No	1x 2024	No	Hearing of children and young people in family court proceedings (DRA)
Family judges	1	No	1x 2024	No	Family psychological assessments (DRA)
Family court	1	No	1x 2024	No	Practical issues in family law (DRA)
Family law judges	1	No	1x 2023	no	Family law for advanced learners (DRA)
Family law judges	1	No	1x 2024	No	Child custody law in family court practice (DRA)
Family judges	3	No	1x 2024	No	Online conference on family law (DRA)

Family judges	1	No	1x 2023	No	Current family law (DRA)
Family judges	1	No	1x2023	No	What works in the family (DRA)
Police officers (PVB) of different ranks	?	No	2/year	Yes, training plan	Course OZ 4440 "Domestic violence and stalking". This course lasts 2 days and is designed for up to 15 participants. The course covers: Domestic violence: basics (definition of terms, theories, legal basis and its application in practice – SOG, HG decree of the IM M-V, ODARA – risk analysis model); Support services for victims (women's shelters, intervention centres); Stalking (definition of terms, gathering and securing evidence, support services for victims of stalking); Requirements for the work of the PVB in HG and stalking cases from a legal/lawyer's perspective. Furthermore, lecturers from the FHöVPR M-V 2022 participated in various conferences on related topics or, upon request, provided relevant content.

11. Thuringia

Number of trained specialists	**Number of skilled workers trained specialists**	**Is the training compulsory?**	**Frequency**	**Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?**	**Please describe the content and duration of the training**	Please indicate whether the expertise of women's rights organisations or specialised support services is incorporated into the design and/or implementation of the training .
Law enforcement officers	Unknown	No	Irregular	Yes It is defined by various guidelines	- Definition, origin and	No

				supported	Manifestations - Specific areas of violence - Preservation of evidence - Legal basis and police intervention - Victim protection issues/stalking - Possible interventions	Yes, for individual training measures decentralised in police stations, where exchange takes place at local level.
School management	477	Partially	Ongoing	See "Concept of the Ministry responsible for education for the qualification of educational leaders in schools (as of 13 January 2020)"	see "Concept of the Ministry responsible for education for the qualification of educational leaders in schools (as of 13 January 2020)"	Yes, expertise is taken into account
Educators	1209	No	Ongoing	Thuringian child protection concept https://www.kinderschutz-thueringen.de/kinderschutz Offers within the framework of the creation of the child protection concept in Thuringian schools 2021 to 2028	Thuringian Child Protection Concept https://www.kinderschutz-thueringen.de/kinderschutz Offers within the framework of the creation of the child protection concept in Thuringian schools 2021 to 2028	Yes, child and youth protection will be included
Judges Public prosecutors	**Year Participants** 2022 78 2023 20 2024 55	No	regularly	No	2–5 days	
Doctors from the public health sector	Academy for	No			- Sexual violence - Domestic violence - Intervention in domestic violence - Violence during pregnancy	

Equality officers	Yes	No	-	Internal protocols of the Thuringian Ministry of Finance	Equal opportunities officers and their role in state authorities Me too – What helps in cases of sexual harassment in the workplace	
Heads of tax offices, department and division heads of the TFM	Yes	No	-	Internal protocols of the Thuringian Ministry of Finance	Equality for managers	

12. Schleswig-Holstein

Skilled workers	Number of skilled workers trained	Is training compulsory?	Frequency	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
State Office for Immigration and Refugees Employees of support organisations (social workers, educators) deal with the topic of violence in their initial training. As the LaZuF is not an employer, no validated information on training content can be provided. Nevertheless, tender texts and service specifications ensure that contracting parties are required to perform their tasks professionally.					
Administrative staff in contact with residents	Approx. 155 (deviations due to staff turnover are possible)	Yes	Annually	Yes	One-day training courses on forms of violence, gender-based violence and domestic violence, and women as a vulnerable group
Social services/care association	Approx. 140 (deviations due to staff turnover are possible)	Yes	Annually	Yes	One-day training courses on forms of violence, gender-based violence and domestic violence, and women as a a vulnerable group

Security service	60 (deviations due to staff turnover are possible)	Yes	Annually	Yes	Day courses on forms of violence, gender-based violence and domestic violence, and women as a vulnerable group
Caterers	10	Yes	Annually	Yes	Day training courses on forms of violence, gender-based violence and domestic violence, and women as a vulnerable group
Medical service	30	Yes	Annually	Yes	Day training courses on forms of violence, gender-based violence and domestic violence, and women as a vulnerable group
Language mediation	20	Yes	Annually	Yes	One-day training courses on forms of violence, gender-based violence and domestic violence, and women as a vulnerable group
Universities					
State conference of equal opportunities officers at universities in Schleswig-Holstein	9	No	One-off event as part of the closed-door meeting of the State Conference	No	N/A
Further training for judges/public prosecutors (The topics are also covered in numerous other training courses, particularly those on criminal and family law and courtroom psychology.					
Judges and public prosecutors	The number is not recorded centrally.	No	Once a year	No	Domestic violence – family and criminal law aspects, credibility assessments in cases of suspected sexual abuse (duration: 5 days) The structure of child custody proceedings in cases of parental partnership violence

					(Duration: 3 days) Current developments in criminalistics and criminal justice (Duration: 5 days) Psychological foundations of family law (Duration: 6 days) Psychotherapy and credibility in criminal proceedings (Duration: 3 days) Interrogation/hearing of (child) victim witnesses (duration: 5 days)
"Prävio – Prevention in Organisations" (see answer to question 9b, p. 75) **/ State funding**					
1) Employees in state and local government; employees - 2) in the private sector; - 3) in emergency services, - 4) in daycare centres - 5) in schools, in the cultural sector - 6) independent institutions, - 7) the fire brigade		1) partially 2-5) yes 6-7) no		Bff ethical guidelines	4 to 5 hours, 1-5) Contents: Training on sexual harassment in the workplace • Definition • Myths • Legal basis • Complaints office • Effects on those affected • Possible courses of action 3-5 hours 6-7) Contents: First steps in developing protection concepts • Forms of violence • Legal basis • Istanbul Convention • Components of protection concepts • Procedure Potential and risk analysis • Networking with support services for victims
Project **SCHIFF – Schleswig-Holstein Initiative for Women** – of the Landesverband Frauenberatung Schleswig-Holstein e.V. (LFSH) **/ State funding**					

Local politics, state politics, employees and network partners of the job centre, people involved in sports clubs and associations, social work students, migration and diversity students, deaf association, women's representatives in workshops for people with disabilities		No	One-off, except *annually	Bff Ethics Guidelines	1-2 hours Implementation of the Istanbul Convention (depending on target group): in the community, at state level, in general support services and educational institutions, in organised sport, access and custody rights in the context of domestic violence, with a focus on migration and asylum, violence against women Contents (among others): • Obligations from the Istanbul Convention • Forms and dynamics of violence • Gaps in protectionfor women affected by violence and their children • Options for action for professionals
KIK network (cooperation and intervention concept) / state funding Here, using Kiel as an example: training courses are offered regionally (specifically) by the respective KIK coordinators in all 15 districts and independent cities in the state. Other target groups include employees at job centres and initial reception facilities in the state, FSJ volunteers, etc.					
Nursing training, Academy University Hospital SH	18–30 people per class per unit	Yes, part of the curriculum since 2015, relevant for examinations since 2022	4 times a year since 2015	Yes, UKSH SH Academy	2 double lessons Domestic violence /couple violence Extent, forms and consequences of violence; recognising the dynamics of domestic violence; recognising domestic violence as an area of action for the health care system; intervention and support options; legal framework and multi-professional cooperation
Students of medicine, psychology and biology	Approximately 30–50 students per lecture	in some cases	One lecture twice a year (45 minutes)	Yes, CAU Kiel	Domestic violence as part of the interdisciplinary lecture on violence • Recognising domestic violence in intimate relationships as an area of action for the health and social services system • Intervention and support options • Legal framework and

					multidisciplinary cooperation
Early intervention workers	40	No	1 x	No	Focus on children – domestic violence and high risk; 1.5 hours
Employees of municipal educational counselling centres	25	yes	1 x	No	Focus on children – domestic violence and high risk; 1.5 hours
AK Women and Addiction SH	15	No	1	No	Intervention options for HG; high risk; 1.5 hours
Staff at migration advice centres in Schleswig-Holstein	50	No	1	yes	4 hours Domestic violence in migration context; protection against violence in residence law; in cooperation with !
Employees of the immigration authorities in Schleswig-Holstein	2 x 30	Yes	2	Yes	5 hours; Domestic violence in the context of migration; Protection against violence in the right of residence; in cooperation
Emergency services personnel	1 x 30	Yes, obligation by management	1 x	no	Deployment in domestic violence scenarios and intervention in the emergency medical services
Specialists in training Psychosocial process support	1 x 20	yes	1	Yes	4 hours in cooperation
from women's counselling centres in Schleswig-Holstein	3 x 20	no	3 x	No	120 minutes each; counselling for domestic violence
Police					
Police officers	18	No	Once a year	Yes, guidelines for handling sexual offences in Schleswig-Holstein	**"Basic module on handling sexual offences" 14 days** Contents: • Manifestations, extent and characteristics of sexualised • violence • crimes against sexual self-determination • Substantive and formal law • Role and situation of victims of sexualised

					violence • Criminal tactics • Special requirements for case processing • File structure • Criminal technology • Serology, DNA • Textile and material traces • Searching for and securing evidence • Hearings/interrogations/recording • Exercises/role plays • Victim support • Cooperation with other institutions • Case processing • Reporting services/research/series • Recognition procedures • Digital traces • Prevention options
Dto.	18	No	Once a year	Ditto.	"Advanced module on dealing with sexual matters" 5 days Contents: • Advanced training in the areas of hearing/interrogation/recording • Practical exercises/role-playing for the interrogation of • suspects in sexual offences • Operational case analysis (OFA), VICLAS, aspects of criminal geography • Evaluation of findings from sexology • Language research/credibility assessment

Ibid.	68	No	Once a year	Yes, relevant legal sources and decrees	"Specialist conference on sexual offences" 1 day Annual refresher training for Sexual matters officers
Dto.	12	No	Once a year	Yes, relevant legal sources and decrees	"The phenomenon of stalking in everyday police work" 3 days • Possible courses of action in cases of stalking • Teaching the essential criminal law provisions, in particular Section 238 of the German Criminal Code • Police catalogue of measures and options for intervention and their limits • Cooperation with the public prosecutor's office • Cooperation with support organisations • Causes and background of typical victim behaviour • Risk analysis; dangerous behaviour/approach (perpetrator typologies/case analysis) • Basics of conversation techniques (four sides of a message) • Conversation training/practical exercises
Ditto	3 x 44 people = 132 people	No	3 times a year (in 2024)	Yes, relevant legal sources and decrees	"Domestic violence from the perspective of intervention law/amendment to the Administrative Procedure Act" 1 day Content s: Police measures in connection with with domestic violence/presentation of the amendment to the LVwG)/also under the

					consideration of a high-risk case/ED treatment of the accused
Ibid.	2x 40 persons = 80 persons	No	As required	Yes, relevant legal sources and decrees	"High-risk management of domestic violence" 1 day Training in the new provisions of the decree on police intervention in cases of domestic violence

13. Saarland

Number of trained professionals	Is the training mandatory?	Frequency	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Please describe the content and duration of the training	Support Expertise Women's rights organisations
eLearning courses offered by Ulm University Hospital on the child protection platform for educational professionals and management staff of the Medical Association					
Figures 6/2021 to 5/2025 with completed certificate	No	Ongoing platform	No	Modules via the child protection portal (including violence against girls) for residents of Saarland Available free of charge:	No
368 participants, including 49 participants based in Saarland				1. Child protection in medicine – a basic course for all health professions	
2,400 participants, including 225 based in Saarland				2. Trauma pedagogy	
968 participants, including 141 based in Saarland				3. Trauma therapy	
394 participants, including 33 based in Saarland				4. Management knowledge Child protection in institutions – An online course for managers	
506 participants, including 64 participants based in Saarland				5. Child protection concepts in organisations – participatory and mindful protection processes	

				mindful	
811 participants, including 79 participants based in Saarland				6. Sexualised violence against children and young people – basics, prevention and intervention.	
Police officers					
Up to 74 officers per year	No	-09HGO is available **three times** for 9 to 18 participants - 12HGK **once** a year for 10 to 20 participants	Guidelines for dealing with cases of domestic violence	The seminars **09HGO** Domestic Violence/Stalking "First Responders" and **12 HGK** Domestic Violence for Criminal Investigation **Officers** are not mandatory and are offered as part of the continuing education programme at the University of Applied Sciences for Administration. 09HGO: (2 days) - Phenomena of "domestic violence/stalking", situation overview - Legal situation, legal instruments available to the police, addressing perpetrators - Violence Protection Act - Victim protection measures, victim protection provisions - Criminal aspects in the context of initial intervention - Immediate measures to prevent an escalation of violence - Problems arising from the presence of children 12HGK: (4 days)	Integration takes place as needed

				- Phenomenon and situation assessment - Police, procedural and civil law aspects - Protection Against Violence Act - Restraining order - Criminal investigation case processing - Risk management - Cooperation in the network/case management	
Training and further education in criminal investigations, criminal proceedings and the prison system: The following training courses are offered on a regular basis:					
2024: 29 2022: 27	No.	Annually/every two years/as required.	Guidelines for the judicial examination of witnesses in accordance with Section 58a of the Code of Criminal Procedure.	Conferences organised by the Ministry of Justice, e.g. "Judicial video examination pursuant to Section 58a StPO – theory and practice (I-38/2024 and 2022)"	None.
No data available	No	Ongoing	Conference documents are provided internally by the speaker, if applicable.	Training courses offered by the Commissioner for Child-Friendly Justice and Victim Protection at the Ministry of Justice, e.g. "The role of the public prosecutor's office between law, ethics and society" (2024) as well as regular training for judges responsible for audiovisual witness examinations and the police (focus: raising awareness of victim protection issues, dealing with and questioning victim witnesses and children)	Where necessary, based on demand.
Capacity for up to 20 participants	No	Once a year	No	Internal training programme for prisons, KARO and the youth detention centre e.g. training course on "unconscious biases" (2024);	YALLAH! team at the Research and Transfer Centre for Social Integration and Migration (GIM)

				Among other things, the training aims to highlight gender-specific prejudices and their consequences and, in this respect, to raise awareness among staff working in the prison system and probation services; training against LGBTIQ* hostility	FITT - Institute for Technology Transfer at the Saarland University of Applied Sciences LSVD Saar
With regard to the participation of Saarland officials in events within the framework of the joint training programme of Saarland with Rhineland-Palatinate and other federal states, this data is held by the organising federal state.	No			Training events within the framework of the joint training programme of the Rhineland-Palatinate and Saarland judiciary, e.g. "Proceedings for child abuse and child pornography" (I-26/2024), "Learning to deal with the particular psychological stress situations associated with the questioning of victims of sexual abuse and assault" (I-28/2023), "Psychology for lawyers – reducing errors in legal decisions" (I-31/2023), "19th Interministerial Symposium on Violence in Close Social Relationships/Domestic Violence" (I-36/2024), "Violence in close social relationships/domestic violence – opportunities and challenges in victim protection – practical experience reports" (I-41/2023), "Introduction to statement psychology" (I-49/2023), "Symposium on Probation Services – Violence" (III-02/2024), "Victims of domestic and sexual violence – how victim-oriented is our	Not known, as this is the responsibility of the organising judicial administrations or the speaker.

				Criminal law" (III-04/2023), "Cyberstalking – When victims are defenceless" (III-05/2024)	
With regard to the participation of Saarland officials in events organised by the German Judicial Academy (DRA), this data is available to the federal government.	No	Annually/every two years	Conference documents are only made available to participants by the speakers through the respective organising judicial administration.	Regular training courses offered by the German Judicial Academy, e.g. "Interrogation/hearing of (child) victims and witnesses" (01b/2024), "Protection of minors proceedings with a focus on sexual offences" (24a/2024), "Psychology of statement assessment" (29c/2023, 36a/2024), "Sexual offences and forced prostitution" (32a/2023)	Not known, as this is the responsibility of the organising judicial administrations or the lecturer.
Training and further education on family court proceedings The requirements are met by regular further training measures within the framework of the further training programme described below					
2025 - 2 employees of the Saarland state government & 17 public prosecutors and judges from the state and federal judiciary 2023 – 2 employees of the state government & 20 public prosecutors and judges from the state and federal judiciary	No	2-year cycle	E.g. observation list for (supervised) contact, bonding and contact, parent training in cases of child abuse, parent counselling according to special guidelines on domestic violence (Munich Model guidelines), federal government action plans to combat violence against women, obligations to provide effective protection under the Istanbul Convention, high-risk management (assessment criteria for evaluating of a risk of homicide).	Conferences organised by the Ministry of Justice, e.g. "The design of child custody proceedings in cases of parental partnership violence" (34b/2023 and 13b/2025)	Coordination office for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, German Youth Institute, Intervention Centre against Domestic Violence in Southern Palatinate.
Regarding the participation of Saarland civil servants in events organised by the Joint	No	Annual/biennial	Conference documents are only provided to participants by the speakers through the the respective organising	training events as part of the joint training programme of the Rhineland-Palatinate and	Not known, as this is the responsibility of the organising judicial administration or the speaker.

training programme of the Saarland with Rhineland-Palatinate and other federal states, this data is available from the organising federal state			judicial administration.	Saarland judiciary, e.g. "International and European Family Law" (I-42/2023), "19th Interministerial Symposium on Violence in Close Social Relationships/Domestic Violence" (I-36/2024), "Violence in close social relationships/domestic violence – opportunities and challenges in victim protection – experience reports from practice" (I-41/2023)	
As regards the participation of Saarland officials in events organised by the German Judicial Academy (DRA), this data is held by the federal government.	No.	Annually/every two years.	Conference documents are only made available to participants by the speakers through the respective organising judicial administration.	Training courses offered by the German Judicial Academy, e.g. "Child custody law in family court practice with interdisciplinary references" (01c/2024), "Effective threat management – recognising, assessing and overcoming dangers" (07c/2024), "Family psychological reports and amicable conflict resolution" (37a/2023, 18a/2024), "Hearing children and young people in family court proceedings" (15a/2023, 19c/2024), "Child protection proceedings, in particular in cases of suspected sexual violence" (23c/2024), "Domestic violence – family law and criminal law aspects, credibility assessment in cases of suspected sexual abuse" (7a/2023)	Not known, as this is the responsibility of the organising judicial administration or the speaker.

Doctors and medical assistants					
25	No	Twice a year	No	As part of the campaign "Sexual violence leaves traces", the MASFG, in cooperation with the Saarland Medical Association, is holding network meetings to deepen, exchange and transfer knowledge among all those involved in the project. .	Yes Through the Saarland Women's Emergency Hotline
Specialist counsellors in pregnancy and pregnancy conflict counselling					
24	No	One-off, 11/2023	No	General information on the Istanbul Convention, recognising domestic violence, support services and networking in Saarland	No

14. Bavaria

Specialists	Number of trained specialists	Is training compulsory?	Frequency	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols? ?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Criminal justice/judges	98	Yes	10	Yes	Introduction to family court practice (Part 1), lecture on "Proceedings under the Protection Against Violence Act", 4 times a year, 5 days each
Criminal justice/judges	87	Yes	6	Yes	Introduction to family court practice (Part 3), lecture: "Istanbul Convention, domestic violence and protection against violence proceedings", twice a year, 5 days each time
Criminal justice/judges and public prosecutors	24	No	1	Yes	Stalking – effective combating and stalking, one day, offered regularly
Criminal justice/judges and prosecutors	113	No	2	Yes	Current case law of the Federal Court of Justice on sexual criminal law, one day, offered annually
Criminal justice/judges and public prosecutors	30	No	1	Yes	Femicide – Homicide of women, one day, offered regularly

Criminal justice/judges and prosecutors	93	No	2	Yes	Adhesion proceedings in criminal trials. One day, offered annually
Criminal justice/judges and prosecutors	33	No	1	Yes	One-day training event on offender-victim mediation, offered annually
Criminal justice/judges and public prosecutors	254	No	4	Yes	Interrogation techniques/statement psychology, one day, offered annually
Criminal justice/judges and prosecutors	170	No	3	Yes	The current case law of the Federal Court of Justice on substantive and procedural issues in homicide and bodily injury offences, one day, offered annually
Criminal justice/judges and public prosecutors	7	No	2	Yes	Current developments in criminal law, lecture on sexual criminal law, 5 days, offered annually
Criminal justice/judges and public prosecutors	3	No	2	Yes	Domestic violence – family and criminal law aspects, credibility assessment in cases of suspected sexual abuse, 5 days, offered annually
Criminal justice/judges and public prosecutors	5	No	2	Yes	Sexual offences and forced prostitution, 5 days, offered annually
Criminal justice/judges and prosecutors	5	No	2	Yes	Juvenile protection proceedings with a focus on sexual offences, 5 days, offered regularly
Criminal justice/judges and public prosecutors	3	No	2	Yes	Law without legislation, justice without judges – the world of shadow justice; lectures: the concept of honour and conflict resolution among the Yezidis; women, family teaching and Islam
Criminal justice/judges	1	No	2	Yes	Child custody law in family court practice with interdisciplinary references, lecture: "Effects of physical and emotional violence and domestic violence on child development", 5 days, offered offered regularly
Educational professionals and school administration staff	7693	usually voluntary			

15. Saxony

	Specialists	Number of trained professionals	Is the training compulsory?	Frequency?	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Please describe the content and duration of the training course	Participation
1	General social services provided by youth welfare offices	20	No	2-year cycle	No	Three-day seminar as part of an in-service training series devoted to the topic of "Sexuality in childhood and adolescence". Focus of the seminar: • age-appropriate sexual behaviour • sexual abnormalities • Case history between trivialisation and hysteria • Dealing with sexually transgressive behaviour • Prevention and intervention in cases of sexualised violence	
2	General social Services of youth welfare offices	20	No	One-off, as required		Exchange of expertise with the team leaders of the ASD in the district on the subject of access rights in cases of domestic violence	Exchange and Awareness raising of specialists at IKS Pirna (DRK Pirna District Association Pirna e.V. / Sächsische Schweiz-

							Osterzgebirge e.V.)
3	General Social Services of the Youth Welfare Offices	20	No	One-off, as required		Training for trainees (youth welfare office)	Training by specialists from the D.I.K. violence protection centre (Women's Shelter Dresden e.V.)
4	Educational assistance	18	No	1 to 2 seminars per year	No	Two-day seminar "Closeness and distance – dealing with sexuality in educational support". Focus of the seminar: • Distinction between successful sexuality and sexualised violence • Conversations with children and young people about sexuality and sexualised violence • How can sexualised violence be recognised? • Recommended actions in the event of sexual assault • Closeness and distance in everyday educational practice • Case studies	
5	Area of assistance for Education	30	no	One-off		Volkssolidarität Riesa – Training in social pedagogy Family support workers	Training and Awareness of the specialists at BIS Radbeul (SkF e.V.)

6	Educational support	30	No	One-off		Topic: Recognising, identifying and responding to domestic violence; the impact on children and young people (full day) - Training for educators in Hoyerswerda (from the Early Intervention Network)	Training by specialists from IST Ostsachsen (Bautzen Women's Shelter Association)
7	Area of educational assistance	30	No	One-off		Lecture on psychosocial support in criminal proceedings at the network conference of the Network for Child Protection and Early Intervention and the Working Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence in Nerchau (participants: professionals from social work, psychotherapy, and lawyers, family court judges)	Training by IKS LK Leipzig (Wegweiser e.V.)
8	Area of educational assistance	30	No	One-off, as required		Birth and Early Support Network Dresden and Surrounding Area	Training and awareness-raising for professionals at BIS Radbeul (SkF e.V.)
9	Area of educational support		No	One-off, as required		5 Prevention events at schools and mother-child facilities in Dresden	Training by specialists from the D.I.K. violence protection centre (Dresden Women's Shelter Association)

10	Area of educational assistance		No	One-off, as required		Co-organisation of the preparation and implementation of the symposium on domestic violence via the Child Welfare Network in LK Zwickau in Werdau	Training by specialists from IKS Zwickau (Wildwasser Zwickauer Land e.V.)
11	Specialists in the field of working with disabled people	18	No			Presentation at an AWO workshop for people with disabilities in Dippoldiswalde on the topic of domestic violence	Training and awareness-raising for specialists at IKS Pirna (DRK Kreisverband Pirna e.V. / Sächsische Schweiz-Osterzgebirge e.V.)
12	Nursery school teachers	30	No			Further training courses in several different daycare centres on the topics of recognising domestic violence and acting sensitively + children as victims, children as victims of sexual violence	Training by specialists from IKS Nordsachsen DKSB OV Torgau e.V.
13	Nursery teachers	30	No	One-off		Recognising, identifying and responding to domestic violence; the impact on children and young people Training counsellors at family and pregnancy counselling centres in the district of Bautzen	Training by specialists from IST Ostsachsen (Bautzen Women's Shelter Association)

						Workshop for daycare social workers/educators Training for telephone counselling advisors in the district of Bautzen	
14	Daycare centre teachers	30	No	One-off		Pending (May 2025) Training for nursery staff/nursery teachers (ESF Plus programme KINDER STRENGTHS 2.0)	Training by IKOS Chemnitz (Frauenhaus Chemnitz e.V.),
15	daycare teachers	30	No	one-off		Empowering Children 2.0: Training for nursery social workers	Training by KIS Leipzig (Women for Women Leipzig e.V.)
16	Daycare teachers		No	2x		Empowering children 2.0 – nursery staff (2 sessions)	Training and awareness-raising for professionals at BIS Radbeul (SkF e.V.)
17	Specialists Independent youth welfare organisations					Voluntary service with the German Red Cross in Saxony	Training by KOINS Central Saxony
18	Specialists Independent youth welfare organisations					Further training at various independent youth welfare organisations, such as Diakonie TG, Lebenshilfe, EJO, etc., on the topics of recognising HGW and acting sensitively + children as affected	Training by specialists from IKS Nordsachsen DKSB OV Torgau e.V.
19	Judges and	Within the framework of state-owned	No	State conference: in accordance with the	State conference: No.	The state conference in 2023 was a one-day	

	Prosecutors	Conference 2023: 12 Two participants per thematically relevant event of the German Judicial Academy (DRA).		identified training needs. DRA: in accordance with the annual training programme	The DRA will report on its events itself.	Event with the following main topics: • Human rights instruments in judicial practice • CEDAW – Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women • Istanbul Convention of 2011 • Case law on human rights, particularly in the context of gender-specific issues • "Victims", injured parties and "perpetrators" • Actors outside the judiciary and their possible involvement • Issues relating to protection in the judicial environment and secondary victimisation in criminal proceedings • Questions about protection in the judicial environment and secondary victimisation in the FamFG	
20	Prison officers / prison staff					Zeithain Prison	Training and awareness-raising for professionals at the BIS Radbeul (SkF e.V.)

21	Police	Approximately 30 each	There is a cooperation agreement between intervention centres and the police, which provides for regular training sessions.		No	Participation in 5 police training courses	Training by specialists from the D.I.K. violence protection centre (Dresden Women's Shelter Association)
22	Police	approx. 30 each	There is a cooperation agreement between intervention centres and the police, which provides for regular training courses.	4 times a year in 2024	No	Topic: Domestic violence, PD LK Meißen	Training and awareness-raising for specialists at BIS Radbeul (SkF e.V.)

23	Police	approx. 30 each	There is a cooperation agreement between intervention centres and the police department, which provides for regular training. Point 7: The agreement includes at least one annual exchange of experiences on the topics of domestic violence and stalking, ongoing analysis and possible updating of the intervention processes of the participating cooperation partners, and continuous documentation of cases and procedures. In addition, D.I.K. staff (also applies to Radebeul) are available to provide topic-specific training for officers of the Dresden Police Department.	Once a year (2024, 2025)	No	Topic: Domestic violence - Recognising, perceiving, acting and high-risk management: training at the Hoyerswerda police station Training at the Rothenburg Police Academy Training for the riot police at the Görlitz police headquarters	Training by specialists from IST Ostsachsen (Bautzen Women's Shelter Association)
24	Police	approx. 20 each	There is a cooperation agreement between intervention centres		No	At the training courses of the police stations and by the Victim Protection Unit	Training by IKS LK Leipzig (Wegweiser e.V.)

			and PD, which provides for regular training			Regular participation by employees of the intervention centre: 25 January 2024 Leipzig Southeast Police Station (Markkleeberg), 7 March 2024 Criminal Investigation Department Commissariat 13 (sexual offences), 25 April 2024 Leipzig Southeast Police Station (Südvorstadt), 15 August 2024 Leipzig Southwest Police Station, 30 September 2024 Borna Police Station, 28 October 2024 Borna Police Station, 11 November 2024 Borna police station. On 10 December 2024, a conference was also held at the Leipzig Police Headquarters for all police officers responsible for domestic violence cases. Colleagues from the intervention centre took part in this event to provide information about our work and to exchange ideas with the police forces.	

25	police	approx. 20 each	There is a cooperation agreement between intervention centres and the police, which provides for regular training courses.		No	Several police training courses	Training by IKOS Chemnitz (Chemnitz Women's Shelter Association)
26	Police	approx. 20 each	There is a cooperation agreement between intervention centres and the police department, which provides for regular training courses.		No	Training courses at the command and control centre (emergency number 110) of the Görlitz police in cooperation with victim protection officers, IKS LK GR, victim support Görlitz on 26 March, 9 April, 7 May, 22 May and 16 August.	Training by Soziale Projekte Zittau e.V.
27	Police		There is a cooperation agreement between intervention centres and the police department, which provides for regular training courses.		No	Participation in several police training courses	Training by KIS Leipzig (Frauen für Frauen Leipzig e.V.)
28	Police		There is a cooperation agreement between intervention centres and the police department, which provides for regular training courses.		No	4 police training courses on HGW in the district of Central Saxony	Training by KOINS Central Saxony
29	Police		There is a cooperation agreement between intervention centres and the police department, which provides for provides for regular training courses		No	Support for several police training courses organised by the Leipzig Police Department on the topic of recognising and sensitively dealing with domestic violence	Training by specialists from IKS Nordsachsen DKSB OV Torgau e.V.

30	Police		There is a cooperation agreement between intervention centres and the police department, which provides for regular training courses		No	Police training courses 6 x police academy Schneeberg (2024 and 2025)	Training by specialists IKS Zwickau (Wildwasser Zwickauer Land e.V.)
31	Teachers at schools	30	No		No	In cooperation with the Landesbühnen Sachsen theatre company, a prevention event on the topic of domestic violence was held in a secondary school class in Pirna.	Training and awareness-raising for specialists at IKS Pirna (DRK Kreisverband Pirna e.V. / Sächsische Schweiz-Osterzgebirge e.V.)
32	School social workers	40	no		No	Training on the topic of HG School social workers "Achieving Goals Together" e.V.	Training by specialists from IKS Zwickau (Wildwasser Zwickauer Land e.V.)
33	Employees in initial reception centres (EAE)	20	No	3 times a year		Three prevention events (knowledge about forms and consequences of domestic violence) took place at the initial reception centre for refugee women in Grillenburg	Training and awareness-raising for specialists at the IKS Pirna (DRK Kreisverband Pirna e.V. / Sächsische Schweiz-Osterzgebirge e.V.)
34	Foreigners' registration offices					Presentation of KOINS and the topic of domestic violence, as well as the impact on children in various situations.	Training by KOINS Central Saxony

						Departments of the district administration (immigration office, social services, Adult Social Services, SPDI)	
35	Migration counselling		No			Caritasverband für Dresden e.V. (for migration advice centre)	Training by specialists at the D.I.K. Violence Protection Centre (Women's Shelter Dresden e.V.)
36	Doctors		No			Elblandklinikum Radebeul – training for hospital staff on the topic of domestic violence	Training and awareness-raising for specialists at BIS Radebeul (SkF e.V.)
37	Doctors		No			Training of the doctors' conference at the Rodewisch psychiatric clinic	Training by IKS Vogtland (Weißenberg e.V.)
38	Doctors		No			Presentation of KOINS, topic of HGW and sex. GW against women at Freiberg District Hospital, training of medical staff in the emergency room on the topic of "emergency medical assistance and confidential evidence collection" in cooperation with Bellis e. V., KOINS counselling centre for those affected involved locally as a network partner	Training by KOINS Central Saxony
39	Rescue workers	20	No	as required		A total of ten training sessions were held for	training and awareness-raising

						employees of the German Red Cross (DRK) rescue service on the topic of domestic violence	for specialists at IKS Pirna (DRK Kreisverband Pirna e.V. / Sächsische Schweiz-Osterzgebirge e.V.)
40	Emergency care workers / care workers in hospitals and psychiatric wards					Interdisciplinary teaching in a training class for nurses on the topics of recognising HGW and acting sensitively under the premise of child protection (Rote Jahne Eilenburg)	Training by specialists from IKS Nordsachsen DKSB OV Torgau e.V.
41	Nurses in the field of inpatient care		No			Training for the managers of all inpatient care facilities in the Vogtland district (care home managers' round table Plauen)	Training by IKS Vogtland (Weißenberg e.V.)
42	Social workers in intervention and coordination centres against domestic violence and stalking	10	No			Training for social workers at Wegweiser e.V.	Training by KIS Leipzig (Frauen für Frauen Leipzig e.V.)
43	Social workers in intervention and coordination centres against domestic violence and stalking	3		2		Further training for colleagues at the new IKS in Leipzig	Training by KIS Leipzig (Frauen für Frauen Leipzig e.V.)
44	Job centre employees					Jobcentre Plauen à Health day at the jobcentre with	Training by IKS Vogtland (Weißenberg e.V.)

						Raising public awareness à information, exchange, training	

16. Berlin

Specialists	Number of trained specialists	Is the training compulsory?	Frequency	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Social Affairs Department					
Case manager	3	No	One-off	Yes	Violence against women: misogyny, femicide and honour violence on 8 November 2024 in Königs Wusterhausen
Case manager	3	No	one-off	Yes	BIG symposium on domestic violence on 26 June 2024
Case manager	1	No	One-off	Yes	Domestic violence against women and their children in child custody and protection from violence proceedings in the context of the Istanbul Convention on 10 May 2023
Case manager	1-4	No	half-yearly	Yes	Senate Department of Justice Victim Protection Working Group
Case manager	1	No	one-off	no	RTB* Action Day 09.10.2023 (The Berlin Round Table – Healthcare in cases of domestic and sexual violence)
Health Department					
Social educators/social workers at pregnancy counselling centres	70	Not yet, in preparation	One-off	Yes	Training on dealing with domestic and sexual violence
Registered medical professionals and their practice teams Medical, nursing, medical-technical and social-educational staff in clinics technical and social education staff in clinics	Not known	No	Repetition possible	Yes The training concept was developed as part of the federal model project funded by the BMFSFJ federal model project	The training provides knowledge and confidence in dealing with the topic of "violence in intimate relationships". Duration: 8.5 hours

				"Medical Intervention against Violence" (MIGG).	
Clinic staff at Charité	Unknown	No	2 times	Yes	The training promotes awareness of the problems of psychological and physical violence. You will acquire facts and specialist knowledge as well as background information on the extent, forms and dynamics of violent relationships. Your ability to take action will be expanded through knowledge of the current state of intervention options and the steps to be taken for people affected by violence and their children as (co-)victims. Duration: 1 day
Doctors, nurses, psychologists, clinical social workers, medical assistants, pharmacists (S.I.G.N.A.L. basic training)	Basic training: 2023: 38 people 2024: 46 people	No, voluntary	3x/year 1.5-day training course offered	Yes (WHO guideline, RTB recommendations for various areas of care)	8 teaching units - Basic knowledge of domestic and sexual violence (definition, prevalence, dynamics, forms, etc.) - Health consequences - Addressing violence and conducting conversations - Documentation of injuries - Support system, referrals
Doctors, nurses, psychologists, hospital social workers, medical assistants, pharmacists (S.I.G.N.A.L. basic training)	Advanced training: 2024: 23 People	No, voluntary	1-2 times/year	Yes, if available for the respective topic	2 teaching units, various topics
Midwives	2023: 40	No	One-off, midwives' congress	Yes, RTB recommendations for obstetrics	1 UE Intervention in obstetrics
Baby lotus* training	2023: 29 2024: 18	Yes, anchored in the curriculum	1-2 times per year	Yes, S.I.G.N.A.L. intervention & RTB recommendations Obstetrics	8 teaching units (45 minutes each) focusing on obstetrics • Basic knowledge of domestic and sexual violence (definition, prevalence, dynamics, forms, etc.) • Health consequences • Addressing violence and conducting conversations • Documentation of injuries

					• Support system, referrals
Baby lotus* Advanced	2024: 22	No	One-off workshop		6 teaching units (45 minutes each) Trauma-informed care and self-care
Adaptation course for midwives from third countries	2023: 40 2024: 40	Request made for each course	1 / year (2 groups in parallel, depending on the number of participants)		8 teaching units (45 minutes each) with a focus on obstetrics • Basic knowledge of domestic and sexual violence (definition, prevalence, dynamics, forms, etc.) • Health consequences • Addressing violence and conducting conversations • Documentation of injuries • Help system, further information
Education, Youth and Family Departments					
Social education workers in child and youth welfare	In 2024, 482 professionals were reached	No	In 2024, a total of 20 continuing education and training formats in which this topic was included were offered.	No	As a rule, these are one-day seminars where the topic was covered as at least one topic area.
Social education workers at the Berlin Child Protection Emergency Service (BNK)	12	No	Every 5 years	No	• Girls-specific • Forms of violence • Gender roles • Trauma
Teachers	Yes, see Table 1 above	No, there is only a general obligation to undertake further training	No	SenBJF	Various offers from different providers
Ministry of Justice					
Judges	15	No	Annually	No	"Hearing children and young people in family law" This training course deals with the scientific and psychological principles of hearing children and young people. It covers developmental psychological aspects of conducting interviews

					demonstrated and appropriate conversation techniques practised. One day
Judges; public prosecutors	40	No	Annually	No	"Basics of questioning and dealing with traumatised persons in court proceedings" This training course teaches the basics of psychotraumatology and aims to highlight the problems involved in questioning traumatised persons, as well as providing tips on how to conduct interviews. The training course also deals specifically with dealing with and questioning traumatised children. Two days
Judges; public prosecutors	15	No	Annually	No	"Interdisciplinary family law series: Children – psychological and psychiatric aspects" The training course focused on child development psychology, the developmental psychological significance of attachment, separation and loyalty, as well as child-friendly procedural design and child hearings. Two days
Judges; youth welfare office specialists	15	No	One-off	No	"Stalking and domestic violence as a threat to child welfare" One day
Judges	15	No	One-off	No	"Domestic violence against women and their children in child custody and protection from violence proceedings in the context of the Istanbul Convention" One day
Judges; public prosecutors;	150	No	Annual	No	Recognising child welfare risks in order to take action! - Overview of

police and youth welfare office professionals					Medical diagnosis and presentation of support services" One day
Judges; public prosecutors; police professionals	9	No	One-off	No	"Victim protection in sexual offences" The aim of the event is to strengthen a perspective on sexual offences that focuses on the behaviour of the accused and anchors responsibility for sexual offences with the accused in order to prevent biased judgements with regard to sexuality and sexual violence. One day
Judges; public prosecutors; police specialists	12	No	Annually	No	"Psychological and psychotraumatological aspects in criminal proceedings for sexual offences" The aim of the event is to enable participants to better understand the behaviour and statements of victim witnesses in sexual offence proceedings and to prevent retraumatisation and secondary traumatisation. Two days
Judges; public prosecutors	13	No	Two years	No	"Interrogation in juvenile criminal proceedings" This training course covers both the legal basis and the psychological aspects of interrogation in juvenile criminal proceedings. The focus is on the special requirements for interrogations in juvenile criminal proceedings. One day
Judges; public prosecutors;	14	No	Annually	No	"Juvenile criminal law – fundamentals and new developments"

					The focus is on the special features of juvenile criminal proceedings, the parties involved in proceedings under the JGG, the legal consequences system of juvenile criminal law – also in connection with other regulatory systems – and the application of juvenile criminal law to young adults. In addition, current decisions will be discussed. One day
Judges; public prosecutors; local prosecutors	28	No	biennial	No	"Violence against women: misogyny, femicide and honour violence" Violence against women is an age-old phenomenon and currently has many facets: domestic violence is regularly based on patterns that promote escalation dynamics. In the so-called incel movement, misogyny is combined with right-wing extremist attitudes. Misogyny can also go so far as to become a motive for murder. However, traditional principles of honour in patriarchal structures also curtail women's rights and take precedence over the lives of the people who live by them. The seminar will explain the basics and explore specific issues using real-life cases. One day
Judges; public prosecutors; police officers	18	No	Two years	No	"Psychosocial support during legal proceedings" Psychosocial support as non-legal assistance for witnesses who have been victims of serious crimes – a look behind the scenes Half-day
Mitte district					

Employees of the Mitte District Office and other specialists from the district	Approx. 100	No	1x each	No	Training courses on violence against women and girls with disabilities, conducted by the MUT office in 2025