

Committee of the Parties



Council of Europe Convention
on preventing and combating violence
against women and domestic violence
(Istanbul Convention)

Conclusions on the implementation of
recommendations in respect of
Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted by
the Committee of the Parties
to the Istanbul Convention

IC-CP(2026)4

Adopted on 2 June 2026

The Committee of the Parties to the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”), acting under the terms of Article 68(12) of the Convention and Rule 1(2b) of the Committee of the Parties’ Rules of Procedure;

Bearing in mind the provisions of Article 66(1) of the Convention concerning the monitoring role of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (hereinafter referred to as “GREVIO”);

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the Parties;

Having regard to the instrument of ratification deposited by Bosnia and Herzegovina on 7 November 2013;

Having regard to the Baseline Evaluation Report concerning the implementation of the Convention by Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted by GREVIO at its 27th meeting (20 – 24 June 2022);

Having regard to the recommendation on the implementation of the Convention addressed to Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Committee of the Parties, published on 12 December 2022;

Bearing in mind the adoption, at its 9th meeting on 15 December 2020, of a reporting form which focuses on a maximum of ten areas of the Convention and which states are required to use to report back to the Committee of the Parties on measures taken to implement the recommendations addressed to their authorities;

Having examined the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina on the implementation of the recommendations addressed to its authorities, through the reporting form provided for that purpose, and taking into account other available information;

A. Welcomes the measures taken and progress achieved by Bosnia and Herzegovina in the implementation of recommendations for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, noting in particular:

- the adoption in March 2025 of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina which aims at ensuring *inter alia* the implementation of the Istanbul Convention without discrimination on any of the grounds listed in Article 4, paragraph 3, while also introducing measures to integrate the perspectives and needs of Roma women and women with disabilities into comprehensive and co-ordinated policies for preventing and combating violence against women;
- the adoption, at state level, of the Gender Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2023-2027), which makes preventing and combating violence against women its first priority area; the adoption in Republika Srpska of the strategy for combating domestic violence (2026-2032) and in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina of the strategy for preventing and combating domestic violence (2024-2027);
- the amendments to the family law of Republika Srpska, which aim at raising the awareness of judges, prosecutors and other relevant professionals in the family court system about the importance of taking domestic violence into account when deciding on custody and visitation rights of children;
- the amendments to the criminal codes of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of the Brčko District aimed at basing the definition of rape on the lack of freely given consent to sexual acts;

- measures taken as part of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to enhance the efficiency of the system of emergency barring orders.
- B. Encourages the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to take further measures to implement the recommendations addressed to its authorities, in particular by:
1. conducting a comparative analysis to identify promising practices in responding to violence against women, harmonise policies and measures taken for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention by ensuring they cover all forms of violence against women, and all parts of the state territory, and that they are independently monitored and evaluated;
 2. streamlining the number of existing co-ordination bodies, while at the same time, providing the principal ones designated in accordance with Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention with sufficient resources;
 3. pursuing their efforts to collect systematic and comparable data on all forms of violence against women, from all relevant administrative sources, disaggregated by all relevant categories and covering all parts of the state territory;
 4. taking additional steps to ensure that incidents of domestic violence are taken into account in the determination of custody and visitation rights of children, as well as providing training and guidelines to all relevant professionals to safeguard the rights and safety of the victim and her children;
 5. ensuring that emergency barring orders are issued in a quick manner, in situations of immediate danger, and that they can extend to the victim's children while also ensuring that there is no gap in the protection of victims between an emergency barring order and a protection order issued thereafter;
 6. amending the Law of Aliens to enable migrant women victims of forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention to apply for an autonomous residence permit.
- C. Invites the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to report back on these measures by 1 June 2028.
- D. Invites the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue taking measures to implement the Istanbul Convention, particularly on the basis of the conclusions of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report.