

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 Estonia
adopted by the Committee of the Parties
to the Istanbul Convention

IC-CP(2026)6

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 Estonia on 26 October 2017;

Having regard to the Baseline Evaluation Report concerning the implementation of the Convention by Estonia adopted by GREVIO at its 28th meeting (10-13 October 2022);

Having regard to the recommendation on the implementation of the Convention addressed to Estonia 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 Estonia on the implementation of the recommendation addressed to its authorities, through the reporting form provided for that purpose, as well as the information submitted by civil society;

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

- the adoption of the Action Plan to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence for the period 2024–2027, with a view to strengthening the prevention of domestic violence, improving the response to such violence, ensuring that victims receive systematic support and conveying a message of zero tolerance to society;
- commissioning a wide variety of studies in the period 2023–2024 to examine the prevalence of different forms of violence against women in Estonian society as well as to assess the responses to such violence, including: a large-scale prevalence survey on intimate partner violence; an evaluation of the impact of the MARAC network model; an assessment of the attitudes of emergency dispatchers and police officers who handle cases of domestic violence; a survey on public awareness of domestic violence and of human trafficking; reviews of the authorities’ handling of cases of domestic violence resulting in death; and a study on the normalisation of misogyny and sexism in Estonian media;
- the amendment of the Victim Support Act in 2023 to improve the provision of specialist and generalist services to victims of violence against women, including by removing the requirement of the initiation of criminal proceedings to benefit from psychosocial support;
- the opening of a new sexual assault centre on Saaremaa island in 2025 to improve the availability of holistic, trauma-informed services for victims of sexual violence throughout Estonia.

B. Encourages the Government of Estonia to take further measures to implement the recommendations addressed to its authorities, in particular by:

1. ensuring that all policies and measures in relation to the Istanbul Convention address all forms of violence against women covered by the convention and are implemented based on a gendered understanding of violence, including in ensuring access to and delivering specialist support services for women victims; the impact of such policies and measures should be

subject to systematic, gender-sensitive evaluation to ensure their effectiveness in addressing the specific needs and experiences of women victims of violence;

2. ensuring the obligation for courts to take incidents of violence against women into account when determining custody and visitation rights, notably by introducing a systematic screening process in custody and visitation cases to identify whether violence has occurred or been reported; by providing appropriate training to all relevant professionals, and by ensuring that due consideration is given to the safety of women victims of domestic violence and their children, including where allegations of parental alienation or similar notions are made;
3. continuing the efforts to reform all sexual offences contained in the Estonian Penal Code to fully incorporate the notion of freely given consent as required by Article 36 of the Istanbul Convention and ensuring appropriate sanctions for all sexual acts without the consent of the victim;
4. taking the necessary legislative and/or policy measures to bring the Estonian legal framework and practice in line with Article 52 of the Istanbul Convention to ensure that “bans on stay” are issued for a sufficient period and can be followed by restraining orders providing longer-term protection, and ensuring that both bans on stay and restraining orders are effectively enforced while analysing and addressing the reasons for their low use.

C. Invites the Government of Estonia to report back on these measures by 1 June 2028.

D. Invites the Government of Estonia to continue taking measures to implement the Istanbul Convention, particularly on the basis of the conclusions of GREVIO’s baseline evaluation report.