

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

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Adopted on 1 June 2023

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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 Finland on 17 April 2015;

Having regard to the Baseline Evaluation Report concerning the implementation of the Convention by Finland adopted by GREVIO at its 17th meeting (22-23 May 2019), as well as the comments of the Government received on 28 June 2019;

Having regard to the recommendation on the implementation of the Convention addressed to Finland by the Committee of the Parties, published on 4 February 2020;

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 Finland in the implementation of the recommendation addressed to its authorities, through the reporting form provided for that purpose, as well as the information submitted by non-governmental organisations and civil society;

- A. Welcomes the measures taken and progress achieved by Finland in the implementation of recommendations for the implementation of the Convention, noting in particular:
- the measures taken to improve the access of women with disabilities to support services for women victims of violence, including by carrying out a disability access audit and providing funding to shelters and other services to address the identified shortcomings in the audit reports;
 - the efforts to improve the access of Roma women victims of violence to available services, in co-operation with civil society organisations working with Roma women;
 - the addition of Thai and Spanish to the languages in which the Nollalinja helpline provides support;
 - the Adoption of the Action Plan for Combatting Violence against Women, with measures to prevent and combat domestic violence and, to a certain extent, sexual violence, violence committed in the name of so-called “honour”, and online and technology facilitated violence against women;
 - the allocation of funding for the Action Plan for Combatting Violence against Women, and the provision of earmarked funds for the reform of the legal framework on sexual offences, and the improvement of restraining orders;.
 - the introduction of a consent-based definition of rape in the Criminal Code, and efforts to train relevant professionals on the implementation of the new provision;
 - the amendment of the Marriage Act to allow for the dissolution of forced marriages by annulment;
 - the amendment of the Act on Child Custody and Right of Access to introduce the obligation for judges to take into consideration a history of domestic violence when deciding on custody and visitation rights;
 - the steps taken to introduce a risk assessment system based on the MARAK model;
 - the amendments of the legal framework governing emergency barring orders allowing police officers to decide ex officio to remove the perpetrator from the shared residence, and providing for the electronic monitoring of perpetrators in serious cases;

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- The task given to the Ombudsperson to evaluate policies on violence against women.
- B. Encourages the Government of Finland to take further measures to implement the recommendations addressed to its authorities, in particular by:
1. addressing all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention which are not included in the current Action Plan for Combatting Violence against Women, based on a gendered understanding of such violence, and allocating adequate financial means;
 2. ensuring that all sectors of the administration, including law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, social services and the public health sector collect data at regular intervals and disaggregated, at a minimum, by sex, age, type of violence, relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, the age of the victim, and the place where the violence took place, so that the prevalence of violence against women and women's experiences can emerge and inform policy-making. Special attention should be given to collecting data on the extent to which reports of domestic violence are taken into account in decisions about the custody and visitation of children, as well as to the collection of data showing how the safety of all family members is ensured;
 3. reconsidering the power vested on police officers to propose mediation in violence against women cases, ensuring that all law-enforcement and prosecution staff are informed that mediation is prohibited in cases of repeated violence, and that there is no discontinuation of criminal investigation and prosecution in violence against women cases under mediation.
- C. Invites the Government of Finland to report back on these measures by 2 June 2025.
- D. Invites the Government of Finland to continue taking measures to implement the Convention, particularly on the basis of the conclusions of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report.