

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

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Secretariat of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating
Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

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 France on 4 July 2014;

Having regard to the Baseline Evaluation Report concerning the implementation of the Convention by France adopted by GREVIO on 28 October 2019 and the comments of the Government received on 14 November 2019;

Having regard to the recommendation on the implementation of the Convention addressed to France 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 France 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 France in the implementation of recommendations for the implementation of the Convention, noting in particular:

- the efforts made to make the policies to prevent and combat domestic violence more comprehensive, as reflected in the adoption in November 2019 of a “*Grenelle*” plan to combat intimate partner violence and, in 2021, of additional measures including increased use of electronic bracelets and high danger phones, and the establishment of a national register to monitor perpetrators of intimate partner violence;
- the measures to prevent and combat other forms of violence against women, including the adoption in 2019 of a national action plan against female genital mutilation, measures to combat online harassment, street harassment, sexual violence in sport and in higher education and research (2021) and against forced marriages;
- the measures to prevent violence against women with disabilities, in particular making the 3919 helpline accessible to the deaf and hard of hearing people and setting up resource centres on “intimate, emotional and sexual life and parenting support for people with disabilities”, including measures to combat violence; the measures to improve access by women in rural areas and overseas territories to support and legal remedies concerning violence against women;
- the increase in the resources allocated to victim support, in particular through the provision between 2020 and 2022 of 3 000 new places in emergency accommodation for women victims of violence and their children, the establishment of a platform for geolocation of emergency accommodation and the continuation of the support for the 3919 helpline;
- the continued efforts to train the police and judges and prosecutors and the provision to the police of a risk assessment questionnaire and specific interview templates for domestic violence victims;

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- the measures taken in 2019 to improve the protection of children exposed to domestic violence, including amendments to the legislation to extend victim status to children exposed to domestic violence;
 - the measures taken to facilitate the filing of complaints by women victims of violence, in particular allowing complaints to be filed in hospital settings and setting up police duty desks to receive complaints in women's shelters ("*maisons de femmes*").
- B. Encourages the Government of France to take further measures to implement the recommendations addressed to its authorities, in particular by:
1. stepping up efforts to foster access to support and protection by all women victims of all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention, in particular women subject to multiple discrimination;
 2. continue supporting civil society organisations specialised in preventing and combating violence against women, including by ensuring that they have access to stable and sustainable funding to carry out their work;
 3. continuing the efforts to strengthen the legislation and the measures to ensure effective protection of children exposed to domestic violence during the process of determining custody and visitation rights, from the outset of the legal proceedings;
 4. amending the Criminal Code to bring it fully into line with the requirements of Article 36 of the Convention; continuing the efforts to improve the judicial response to sexual violence; taking measures to establish a sufficient number of rape crisis and sexual violence referral centres;
 5. taking all necessary measures to ensure that victims in situations of immediate danger have effective access to emergency barring orders that meet the requirements of Article 52 of the Convention; taking measures to ensure the availability and effective application of restraining and protection orders in relation to all forms of violence against women, notably stalking, forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
- C. Invites the Government of France to report back on these measures by 2 June 2025.
- D. Invites the Government of France to continue taking measures to implement the Convention, particularly on the basis of the conclusions of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report.