

Committee of the Parties

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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

IC-CP(2025)30

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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 Poland on 27 April 2015;

Having regard to the Baseline Evaluation Report concerning the implementation of the Convention by Poland adopted by GREVIO at its 24th meeting (21-23 June 2021), as well as the comments of the Government received on 8 September 2021;

Having regard to the recommendation on the implementation of the Convention addressed to Poland by the Committee of the Parties, published on 9 December 2021;

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 Poland 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 Poland in the implementation of recommendations for the implementation of the Convention, noting in particular:

- the creation of a Ministry for Equality in 2023, later transformed into the Secretary of State for Equality in the Prime Minister's Office in 2025 as part of institutional restructuring, to serve as the national co-ordination body for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention with a mandate to monitor the implementation of policies on domestic violence as well as to develop and implement policies on equality and non-discrimination;
- the initiation of a legislative process to secure stable funding for the National Action Plan for Equal Treatment 2022–2030;
- the implementation of a grant programme, including additional funds for local governments, to combat violence against women and domestic violence;
- the efforts to strengthen co-operation with civil society organisations through organising regular meetings with representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working to promote equal rights for men and women and providing them with financial assistance for their activities;
- the implementation of a population-based survey in 2022 regarding violence against the elderly and persons with disabilities, which also shed light on the gendered aspects of such violence;
- the expansion of emergency barring orders which apply only to domestic violence cases to cover, in addition to removal of the perpetrator from a shared residence, the prohibition of approaching or contacting the victim as well as the restriction on entering workplaces, schools or institutions attended by the victim or their children;
- the broadening of the definition of domestic violence in 2023 to include violence between non-cohabiting partners in line with the Istanbul Convention’s definitions, such as former partners and spouses, as well as to recognise children who witness domestic violence as victims in their own right, ensuring the applicability of protective measures to safeguard their safety;
- the efforts to increase the number of female police officers progressively;

- the introduction of guidelines for prosecutors handling domestic violence cases in 2024, which stress the need for comprehensive evidence collection beyond the victim's testimony and the need for mandatory training to safeguard victims' rights and prevent secondary victimisation;
- the establishment of diagnostic and support groups, composed of social workers and police officers, which aim to ensure risk assessment and management in cases of domestic violence;
- the gradual increase in jurisprudence and administrative decisions granting international protection on the grounds of the risk of gender-based persecution of women in the home country.

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

1. stepping up efforts to ensure the provisions of the Convention are implemented without discrimination on any of the grounds listed in Article 4, paragraph 3 and address the multiple forms of discrimination in accessing protection and support faced by certain groups of women victims of violence, such as women with disabilities, migrant women, Roma women, older women, LBTI women and women in prostitution;
2. developing a nation-wide, comprehensive and co-ordinated set of policies to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women covered by the Convention, strengthening interinstitutional co-operation mechanisms among national and local authorities in order to improve their capacity to ensure women victims' access to protection and support mechanisms as well as conducting independent comparative analyses of existing measures and programmes;
3. increasing financial resources for preventing and combating all forms of violence against women, reviewing spending levels to address gaps in the provision of specialist support services and shelters, ensuring that all relevant government agencies systematically introduce dedicated budget lines to measures to prevent and combat violence against women, providing equitable and stable funding opportunities for women's NGOs based on transparent criteria while continuing efforts to provide a supportive environment for women's NGOs and establishing a framework to ensure their participation in implementing and monitoring or all relevant policies with the aim of harnessing their experience and knowledge;
4. allocating the necessary human and financial resources to the Office of the Secretary of State for Equality in its role as the co-ordinating body for the Istanbul Convention, and ensuring that the co-ordination and implementation of policies and measures, on the one hand, and their monitoring and evaluation, on the other, are carried out in close co-operation with women's rights organisations, while supporting these functions with adequate and appropriate data;
5. expanding the data collected by police and courts to cover all forms of violence against women disaggregated by sex and age of victim and perpetrator as well as the relations of the perpetrator to the victim and harmonising data collection between law enforcement and the judiciary in order to be able to track cases within the justice system and identify attrition rates, while also ensuring the collection of disaggregated data by healthcare providers on women patients' experiences of gender-based violence;
6. ensuring that all relevant professionals involved in custody and visitation decisions are aware of and take into account the negative impact on children of witnessing violence by one parent against the other, proactively screening cases for a history of such violence, refraining from using concepts that label victims of violence against women as alienating or unco-operative parents or similar notions as well as taking steps to ensure that parental separation procedures and decisions do not endanger the safety of women victims of intimate partner violence;

7. extending the scope of the framework governing emergency barring, restraining and protection orders to cover all forms of violence under the Convention while ensuring their vigilant enforcement and guaranteeing that breaches are sanctioned effectively, proportionately and in a dissuasive manner;
8. ensuring that women asylum seekers have swift access to the asylum procedure regardless of where they apply, with gender-sensitive procedures that ensure the identification of their international protection needs, as well as systematic vulnerability assessments prior to placement in guarded centres for foreigners and systematic referrals to specialist services to facilitate disclosure of gender-based persecution, while taking into account country-specific factors that may have prevented reporting of violence in their countries of origin, and upholding the principle of non-refoulement, in particular at the border crossing point with Belarus.

C. Invites the Government of Poland to report back on these measures by 10 December 2027.

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