

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

IC-CP(2026)12

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 Switzerland on 14 December 2017;

Having regard to the Baseline Evaluation Report concerning the implementation of the Convention by Switzerland adopted by GREVIO at its 28th meeting (10-13 October 2022), as well as the comments of the Government received on 9 November 2022;

Having regard to the recommendation on the implementation of the Convention addressed to Switzerland 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 Switzerland on the implementation of the recommendation addressed to its authorities, through the reporting form provided for that purpose, and taking into account other available information sources;

- A. Welcomes the measures taken and progress achieved by Switzerland in the implementation of recommendations for the implementation of the Convention, noting in particular:
- the adoption in 2022 of a national action plan for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Switzerland (2022-2026) comprising 44 measures and involving the federal, cantonal and local authorities, as well as civil society; the adoption or the renewal of cantonal and local action plans on equality, against domestic violence and for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention;
 - legislative changes, in particular the introduction of an offence of obsessional harassment (stalking), the amendments to criminal law on sexual offences and the adaptation of the provisions on cases of hardship in immigration law to take account of domestic violence and enable foreign women who are victims of violence to obtain residence permits of their own;
 - the launch in November 2025 of a national campaign to prevent domestic, sexualised and gender violence; the ongoing preparation of a national study on the prevalence of violence against women and domestic violence, to be conducted in 2027;
 - the promotion and co-ordination work by the Federal Office for Gender Equality (FOGE), in particular the publication of studies and guidelines on various aspects of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention; the establishment of a fund managed by the FOGE for federal financial support for violence prevention;
 - the publication of minimum standards for initial and in-service training for professionals on gender-based, sexual and domestic violence;
 - the publication in 2024 of an analysis for the cantonal authorities concerning emergency shelters and accommodation, setting out measures to improve provision and better respond to the needs of women victims of violence.

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- B. Encourages the Government of Switzerland to take further measures to implement the recommendations addressed to its authorities, in particular by:
1. continuing efforts to ensure that strategies and action plans address all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention and to develop a common understanding of the phenomenon of violence against women, through harmonised definitions; continuing to expand multi-agency co-operation at all levels of authority; and stepping up efforts to prevent and combat violence affecting women exposed to intersectional discrimination;
 2. continuing efforts to provide appropriate funding for policies and measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women, and sustainable funding for organisations providing specialist support services to women victims of violence, in particular specialist shelters;
 3. continuing efforts to improve the collection of data in the criminal justice sector so as to cover all forms of violence against women in criminal and civil proceedings, disaggregated by sex and age of both the victim and the perpetrator, the type of violence, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator and the geographical location;
 4. ensuring that victims of all forms of violence against women and their children have access to specialist shelters, regardless of their canton of residence, and harmonising support services for victims throughout the country;
 5. taking all necessary measures to ensure that incidents of violence against women and domestic violence are duly taken into account when measures affecting the exercise of parental authority and visitation rights are adopted and to improve the safety of women victims of violence and their children in this context.
- C. Invites the Government of Switzerland to report back on these measures by 1 June 2028.
- D. Invites the Government of Switzerland to continue taking measures to implement the Convention, particularly on the basis of the conclusions of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report.