

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

IC-CP/Inf(2023)10

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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 the Netherlands on 18 November 2015;

Having regard to the Baseline Evaluation Report concerning the implementation of the Convention by the Netherlands adopted by GREVIO at its 19th meeting (14-15 November 2019) as well as the comments of the Government received on 16 January 2020;

Having regard to the recommendation on the implementation of the Convention addressed to the Netherlands 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 the Netherlands 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 non-governmental organisations and civil society;

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

- the various efforts made to improve the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in relation to all women victims of violence without discrimination, notably for women with disabilities, migrant women and women without residence status, including through co-operation with relevant NGOs;
- the development of comprehensive and co-ordinated policies, through the launching in 2023 of a comprehensive national action plan on the prevention, identification and reduction of sexual transgressive behaviour and sexual violence, which aims at changing societal culture on these issues, and explicitly formulates the link between unequal power relations between men and women; and the appointment of an independent government commissioner on sexual transgressive behaviour and sexual violence,
- the ambition to improve the co-ordination of policies and measures through the development of a national action plan, which is currently being drafted, and which focuses on an integrated and co-ordinated approach to gender-based violence;
- a new national action programme “Future scenario child and family protection” which focuses on all domestic situations that are unsafe;
- the increased attention to sexual harassment, sexual violence, psychological violence, and coercive control, including through the above policies and action plans, as well as legislative initiatives and public debates, and the establishment of “service points” where sexual harassment can be reported;
- the steps taken to move away from gender-neutral policies in relation to violence against women and domestic violence and to start applying a gender-sensitive approach;
- continuous efforts in the areas of research and prevalence studies to inform policy-making, such as the conduct of a second population-based survey on domestic violence and sexually transgressive behaviour, the impact monitor and the dashboard on domestic violence and child abuse, and the Sexual Violence Against Child Victims study;

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- the training of the staff of the Child Care and Protection Agency on aspects of domestic violence and child abuse, and the co-operation between the child protection board, judges deciding on child custody and visitation rights, law enforcement agencies and specialist domestic violence organisations, in cases where there is a suspicion of domestic violence.
- B. Encourages the Government of the Netherlands to take further measures to implement the recommendations addressed to its authorities, in particular by:
1. drawing up an implementation plan and taking all possible measures, including financial, to encourage and assist Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten to ratify and implement the provisions of the Istanbul Convention and to extend the application of the Convention to Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba;
 2. ensuring stable and sustainable funding levels for all policies and measures to combat violence against women, while researching into the funding made available for services and measures to prevent and combat violence against women at local level;
 3. ensuring steps are taken to support the work of women's NGOs, including black, migrant and refugee women's organisations and maintaining their continued participation in local and national policy making on violence against women, while ensuring that adequate funding is provided to women's NGOs;
 4. assigning the role of co-ordinating body to fully institutionalised entities, to equip them with clear mandates, competences and the necessary human and financial resources, while ensuring that their functions apply to all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention, and that they are supported by adequate data;
 5. developing standardised data categories for mandatory use by law-enforcement agencies, the judiciary and all other relevant actors, on the gender and age of the victim and perpetrator, their relationship, type of violence and the geographical location;
 6. ensuring the expansion of the provision of women's shelters to reach the goal of one family place per 10 000 head of population;
 7. taking the necessary measures to ensure that courts consider all issues relating to violence against women and domestic violence when determining custody and visitation rights, while adopting gender-sensitive guidelines, and recognising that the risk of witnessing violence against a close person jeopardises the best interests of the child.
- C. Invites the Government of the Netherlands to report back on these measures by 2 June 2025;
- D. Invites the Government of the Netherlands to continue taking measures to implement the Convention, particularly on the basis of the conclusions of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report.