

# **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 Montenegro adopted by the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention**

IC-CP/Inf(2022)3

Adopted on 8 June 2022

Published on 8 June 2022

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 Montenegro on 22 April 2013;

Having regard to the Baseline Evaluation Report concerning the implementation of the Convention by Montenegro adopted by GREVIO at its 14th meeting (25 – 27 June 2018), as well as the comments of the Government received on 14 September 2018;

Having regard to the recommendation on the implementation of the Convention addressed to Montenegro by the Committee of the Parties, published on 28 January 2019;

Bearing in mind the adoption, at its 9<sup>th</sup> 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 Montenegro on the implementation of the recommendation addressed to its authorities, through the reporting form provided for that purpose;

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

- the introduction of an electronic platform (Gender Map), serving as a multi-functional tool by pooling information on women’s exposure to violence against women and discrimination, their lower socio-economic status in society and information on available support services as well as data on the responses offered by statutory agencies;
- the adoption, in 2021, of a National Plan for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention, prepared by a working group involving a wide range of stakeholders, including the Ombudsman and women’s NGOs, and addressing all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention; and the adoption of the National Gender Equality Strategy for the period 2021-2025 which focuses, inter alia, on the protection against gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace;
- the increase in funds for programmes and projects run by NGOs, with priority focus on those combating violence against women and promoting gender equality as well as the measures taken to allocate state funding for domestic violence shelters and other specialist support services;
- efforts made to improve the collection and exchange of data on cases of violence against women, notably the introduction of a database for domestic violence as part of the Integrated Social Welfare Information System (SWIS) connecting the social welfare centres with the law enforcement authorities; and
- efforts made to set up premises designed to provide a safe environment and establish a relationship of trust between victims of the different forms of violence against women and the law enforcement personnel.

- 
- B. Encourages the Government of Montenegro to take further measures to implement the recommendations addressed to its authorities, in particular by:
1. pursuing its efforts to ensure equal access of all victims of violence against women, including Roma and Egyptian women, women with disabilities and women living in rural zones, to specialist support services when seeking protection from violence, including by further expanding the number of available shelters;
  2. further institutionalising the national co-ordinating body beyond the duration of government mandates in order to enable it to effectively exercise its functions, including by setting up separate bodies for, on the one hand, the co-ordination and implementation of policies and measures, and on the other hand for their monitoring and evaluation, in order to ensure objectivity in the evaluation of policies;
  3. ensuring appropriate human and financial resources for any policies, measures and legislation aimed at preventing and combating violence against women and the institutions and entities mandated for their implementation beyond the provision of specialist support services such as shelters;
  4. making protection orders available for immediate protection to all victims of domestic violence, irrespective of charging decisions by prosecution services or the institution of misdemeanour proceedings by victims;
  5. pursuing its efforts to ensure the systematic and compulsory initial training and more regular in-service mandatory training for all professional groups that come in contact with victims, in particular law enforcement officials, including on the basis of the measures set out in the Protocol on Action in Cases of Gender-Based Violence adopted in 2018;
  6. setting up rape crisis and/or sexual violence referral centres in sufficient numbers in order to ensure a sensitive response by trained and specialised staff;
- C. Invites the Government of Montenegro to report back on these measures by 7 June 2024.
- D. Invites the Government of Montenegro to continue taking measures to implement the Convention, particularly on the basis of the conclusions of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report.