



Committee of the Parties

Council of Europe Convention
on preventing and combating violence
against women and domestic violence
(Istanbul Convention)

Recommendation on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence by Liechtenstein

IC-CP(2024)1

Adopted on 31 May 2024

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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;

Having regard to the purposes of the Convention to protect women against all forms of violence, and prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women and domestic violence; to contribute to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and promote substantive equality between women and men, including by empowering women; to design a comprehensive framework, policies and measures for the protection of and assistance to all victims of violence against women and domestic violence; to promote international co-operation with a view to eliminating violence against women and domestic violence; and to provide support and assistance to organisations and law enforcement agencies to effectively co-operate in order to adopt an integrated approach to eliminating violence against women and domestic violence;

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 Liechtenstein on 17 June 2021;

Having examined the Baseline Evaluation Report concerning the implementation of the Convention by Liechtenstein adopted by GREVIO at its 31st meeting (23 - 26 October 2023), as well as the comments of the Government received on 1 December 2023;

Considering the overarching priorities set out in Chapter I of the Convention (purposes and scope of the Convention, definitions, equality and non-discrimination, due diligence and gender-sensitive policies);

Bearing in mind the primordial importance of the provisions set out in Chapter II of the Convention, in particular the obligations to (1) ensure a holistic response to violence against women by devising a set of comprehensive and co-ordinated policies implemented by way of effective multi-agency cooperation; (2) institutionalise and fully mandate one or more co-ordinating bodies as required by Article 10 of the Convention; (3) adequately resource policies, measures and mandates introduced to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women, including government and nongovernmental specialist support services; and (4) to collect relevant statistical data disaggregated, at a minimum, by sex, age, type of violence, relationship of the perpetrator to the victim and geographic location;

Welcoming the measures taken and progress achieved by the authorities of Liechtenstein in implementing the Convention and noting in particular:

- the solid legal framework in place in Liechtenstein to combat violence against women and domestic violence, including the introduction of the offence “continuous use of force”, thereby criminalising the typical course of conduct of domestic violence, and the criminalisation of several forms of digital manifestations of violence against women, such as cyberstalking, online harassment, the unauthorised sharing of images and sexual harassment via information and communication technologies (ICT);
- the fact that multi-agency co-operation is very well established in Liechtenstein, ensuring that relevant authorities communicate on cases of domestic violence and offer victims the necessary support, with the Threat Management Service at the police playing a central role in assessing risks and monitoring cases, and the Victims Assistance Office providing support to victims;
- the strong understanding among all relevant professionals that children who witnesses domestic violence are victims of violence in their own right, and the comprehensive measures of support that are enshrined in law in Liechtenstein for the protection and support of child victims in civil and in criminal proceedings;

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- the strong efforts to prevent violence through the education system, in particular addressing sexual violence, the digital manifestations of violence and harassment, including by involving parents in violence prevention and media literacy;
 - the solid financing of women's rights NGOs and their active involvement by the Liechtenstein Government in policy making; and
 - the comprehensive approach to the reception and accommodation of asylum-seekers, which includes screening for experiences of violence, security measures for single women asylum-seekers at the reception centre, health care and integration measures, and the fact that staff members of the centre are trained on issues related to violence against women.
- A. Recommends in light of the considerations indicated in the preamble above, that the Government of Liechtenstein take the following measures identified in GREVIO's baseline evaluation report¹ for immediate action to:
1. adopt definitions of the terms set out in Article 3 of the Istanbul Convention and, where such definitions already exist, to further align them with the convention (paragraph 12),
 2. enhance the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in relation to all forms of violence against women currently less addressed by policies, programmes and support services, with due regard to their gendered nature, and to ensure the application of a gendered perspective in such efforts (paragraph 13);
 3. continue their efforts to strive for gender equality, including by taking measures to combat gender stereotypes (paragraph 21);
 4. address the rights and needs of women and girls exposed to, or at risk of, intersectional discrimination in all future laws, measures and policies relating to violence against women and domestic violence, including improving the accessibility of services and information on their rights, in particular for migrant women, women with disabilities and LGBTI women (paragraph 22);
 5. develop a long-term, comprehensive, evidence-based strategy or action plan, offering an effective and co-ordinated set of policies to prevent and prosecute all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention, including in their digital dimension, placing the rights and the protection of victims at the centre of all measures and giving due importance to the gendered nature of the different forms of violence against women (paragraph 34);
 6. take steps, in particular through gender budgeting and planning earmarked funding, to identify more effectively the sums spent on addressing violence against women and domestic violence by all relevant institutions, and ensure adequate and sustainable funding opportunities for civil society organisations working to combat violence against women and domestic violence (paragraph 39);
 7. allocate the necessary human and financial resources to those bodies carrying out the functions under Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention, including on the one hand the co-ordination and implementation of policies and measures in relation to all forms of violence against women and, on the other hand, their monitoring as well as their independent and objective evaluation (paragraphs 49, 50 and 64);
 8. harmonise the data-collection systems used by law enforcement and the judiciary, based on a common set of data categories that includes all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention, broken down by sex and age of the victim and the perpetrator, type of violence and relationship of the perpetrator with the victim, and introduce a case-management system that would allow cases to be tracked across all stages of the criminal justice system (paragraph 59);

¹ The number of the paragraph setting out GREVIO's proposals and suggestions in the report is indicated in brackets.

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9. ensure that medical, healthcare and social welfare services collect data on contact made by victims of violence against women, broken down by sex and age of the victim and the perpetrator and their relationship (paragraph 59);
 10. regularly conduct population-based surveys on all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention and promote research on the situation of women victims, including those exposed to intersectional discrimination (paragraphs 61 and 64);
 11. ensure the provision of a dedicated state-wide telephone helpline for all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention that is free of charge and available 24/7, in all relevant languages, providing easy and confidential access to information and counselling by trained professionals, including referrals to an appropriate service (paragraph 141);
 12. make use of police barring orders more frequently and rigorously, in order to protect the right to safety of women victims of domestic violence and their children, and to collect data on the number of breaches of emergency barring, restraining and protection orders, the number of sanctions imposed as a result of such breaches, and the number of cases where a woman was re-victimised or murdered as a consequence of such breaches (paragraphs 59 and 252);
 13. collect and analyse data from the justice system on the forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention to identify and address the factors that may contribute to attrition in these cases (paragraph 236).
- B. Requests the Government of Liechtenstein to report to the Committee of the Parties on the measures taken to improve the implementation of the Convention in the above-mentioned areas by 30 May 2027.
- C. Recommends that the Government of Liechtenstein take measures to implement the further conclusions of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report.