

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

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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 Denmark on 23 April 2014;

Having regard to the Baseline Evaluation Report concerning the implementation of the Convention by Denmark adopted by GREVIO at its 12th meeting (9-13 October 2017) as well as the comments of the Government received on 17 November 2017;

Having regard to the recommendation on the implementation of the Convention addressed to Denmark by the Committee of the Parties, published on 30 January 2018;

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 Denmark 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, civil society, and the Danish Institute for Human Rights;

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

- a number of positive legislative developments, including an amendment made to the Criminal Code in December 2020, whereby rape is based on the lack of freely given consent and has been accompanied, in parallel, by a campaign to raise awareness on the new consent-based legislation, on the support available to victims and what it means to give and obtain consent;
- an increase in the capacity of shelters and an increase in funding of the national unit against domestic violence;
- work underway by the Danish police in collaboration with the Danish Statistics Office to enable the police database to disaggregate data by relationship between victim and perpetrator;
- the 2021-2023 Multi-year strategy of the police which foresees the strengthening of the fight against certain forms of violence against women, including by: setting up special teams for handling cases of domestic violence, sexual offences, stalking and honour-related crimes; the possibility given to victims of sexual violence to benefit from a recorded interview; and the development of guidelines for the police on how to handle cases of stalking, coercive control, as well as on the use of risk assessment tools and on how to operate new GPS alarm systems for victims of violence;
- close cooperation with civil society in developing national action plans on domestic violence and awareness raising campaigns on certain forms of violence against women;
- several initiatives that aim to screen for and identify women victims of domestic violence during pre-natal care;
- some first steps made to amend the legal framework and infrastructure governing custody and visitation of children, including in cases of domestic violence; and
- Steps taken to initiate ad hoc external evaluation of policies on violence against women.

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- B. Encourages the Government of Denmark to take further measures to implement the recommendations addressed to its authorities, in particular by:
1. developing a long-term co-ordinated plan/strategy that addresses *all* forms of violence against women and that adopts a gendered understanding of such violence, thereby increasing the level of attention paid to women victims of gender-based violence, including through financial means;
 2. acknowledging the central role played by a fully institutionalised coordination body/ies provided with dedicated and sustainable financial resources and staff in the fight against violence against women. This body/ies should be entrusted, inter alia, with the coordination and implementation of policies - including the ability to take corrective measures where shortcomings have been identified; and the systematic and periodic monitoring and evaluation of policies so as to further and perfect the policies employed in the fight against violence against women;
 3. ensuring that all sectors of the administration, including law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, social services and the public health sector collect at regular intervals data disaggregated, at a minimum, by sex, age, type of violence, type of relationship of the perpetrator with the victim, age of the victim and location of the violence at regular intervals so that the prevalence of violence against women and women's experience can emerge and inform policy-making. Special attention should be given to collecting data on the extent to which reports of domestic violence are taken into account in decisions made around custody and visitation of children, as well as to the collection of data that can show how the safety of all family members is ensured;
 4. raising the awareness of the police and prosecutors on the role and the importance of emergency barring orders and protection orders with a view to ensuring their implementation and enforcement; and taking legislative or other measures to remove exceptions to such orders to allow for communication around common children; and
 5. ensuring that the newly established Agency of Family Law and family courts that are vested with decision-making power on custody and visitation of children and the related applicable legislation ensure, in law and in practice, respect for the key principles set out in paragraph 160 of the GREVIO baseline evaluation report.
- C. Invites the Government of Denmark to report back on these measures by 8 December 2023.
- D. Invites the Government of Denmark to continue taking measures to implement the Istanbul Convention, particularly on the basis of the conclusions of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report.