

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

IC-CP/Inf(2022)5

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 Sweden on 1 July 2014;

Having regard to the Baseline Evaluation Report concerning the implementation of the Convention by Sweden adopted by GREVIO by written procedure in December 2018 as well as the comments of the Government received on 17 January 2019;

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

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 Sweden 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 Sweden in the implementation of recommendations for the implementation of the Convention, noting in particular:

1. the various efforts made to improve the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in relation to all women victims of violence without discrimination, notably by supporting the Sámi Parliament in preventing and combating violence against Sámi women and girls and increasing gender equality, as well as by assessing the situation of women with disabilities and women’s exposure to violence in the digital sphere with a view to making proposals for improvement;
2. the increased multi-agency co-operation in detecting female genital mutilation and providing support to victims, and in domestic violence cases involving children in Gothenburg on the basis of the so-called Iceland model involving the police, prosecutors, social services, social emergency service and the healthcare service;
3. improvements in data collection at the level of law enforcement agencies and prosecution services, such as the introduction in 2019 of new crime codes, indicating the sex and age of the victim as well as the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator for several crimes, including attempted murder or manslaughter, harassment, threat, violation of privacy, rape and sexual assault, covering reported offences and those processed, including those brought to indictment, among other categories;
4. the designation of the Division for Gender Equality within the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs as national co-ordinating body under Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention, complemented by the mandate of the Swedish Gender Equality Agency to co-ordinate the implementation and the monitoring/evaluation on the basis of data, equipped with adequate financial and human resources for their functioning;
5. the availability of stable funding for women NGOs which provide specialist support services to victims of violence, in particular domestic violence shelters, at a level higher than

-
- previously offered and the overall increase in and the allocation of permanent funding to essential measures to prevent and combat violence against women;
6. the adoption of new legislation strengthening the position of children in cases concerning custody, residence and contact after domestic violence by ensuring their right to information as well as their right to be heard and ensuring increased protection of children who witnessed violence;
 7. the increase in the number of female police officers and more training for the law enforcement officials aimed at improving their investigation skills; the adoption of measures to improve the collection of evidence at the early stage of the investigation;
- B. Encourages the Government of Sweden to take further measures to implement the recommendations addressed to its authorities, in particular by:
1. pursuing the efforts to enhance and formalise co-operation structures in relation to cases of all forms of violence against women among all relevant actors, in particular local authorities (law enforcement agencies, social services, unemployment agencies) and the public health sector as well as the specialist support services for women victims of violence;
 2. strengthening the systematic and comparable collection of data, disaggregated by sex, age and the relation of the victim to the perpetrator at the level of the judiciary, so that all cases of violence against women can be tracked at all stages of the law-enforcement and judicial proceedings with a view to using such data to analyse attrition rates, clarify underlying causes of attrition, follow trends and create evidence-based policies and/or enhance legislation;
 3. revamping its system of protection orders and equipping the competent authority with the power to specifically expel a perpetrator of domestic violence from the residence that he shares with the victim in situations of immediate danger, and as an emergency safety measure and for this expulsion to remain in force for an appropriate length of time to allow the victim to feel safe and to take other measures to ensure safety;
 4. swiftly implementing the proposals made by the Committee of Inquiry on a strengthened “child rights perspective” in sheltered accommodation to ensure the necessary support and counselling for children who accompany their mothers to domestic violence shelters, including for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), as well as their continued access to education.
- C. Invites the Government of Sweden to report back on these measures by 7 June 2024.
- D. Invites the Government of Sweden to continue taking measures to implement the Convention, particularly on the basis of the conclusions of GREVIO’s baseline evaluation report.