

Impact factsheet Albania

From ratification to the end of the baseline evaluation procedure under the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

2013 Ratification

Ratification of the Istanbul Convention by Albania on 4 February 2013.

2017 Baseline evaluation report by GREVIO

Findings made by GREVIO on the level of implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Albania, including on the need for measures that address all forms of violence against women, with regard to their gendered nature and involving the healthcare sector, greater financial resources for women non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and specialist support services, the prohibition of mandatory alternative dispute resolution, the introduction of risk assessment and management, the enhancement of emergency barring and protection orders and the establishment of a legal aid system. Assessment made on the basis of the Albanian Government's state report, NGOs shadow reporting and an evaluation visit.

2017 Comments from the Albanian Government

Comments from the authorities on GREVIO's assessment.



Ratification by Albania, 4 February 2013

2018 Recommendations of the Committee of the Parties

Adoption of nineteen recommendations based on GREVIO's findings for further action regarding comprehensive and co-ordinated policies that address all forms of violence against women, aligning the definition of domestic violence with the convention, the provision of appropriate human and financial resources for women's NGOs, the strengthening of the national co-ordinating body, data collection, support for victims of sexual violence, the system of emergency barring and protection orders, the development of standardised procedures for risk assessment, the rules regarding ex parte and ex officio prosecution and the establishment of an effective legal aid system.

2021 Government reporting on progress made

Information on progress made in Albania between 2018 and 2021 in relation to the recommendations received.

More information on Albania's ongoing progress in implementing the Istanbul Convention is available at coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/albania

2021 Committee of the Parties' conclusions

Adoption of conclusions on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations, confirming progress made regarding gender-sensitive budgeting and funding for gender mainstreaming efforts, the setup of new institutional bodies to co-ordinate responses and evaluate policies, the expansion of the country's co-ordinated multi-agency response to violence against women, the introduction of data collection on domestic violence in the judicial sector, the set-up of Albania's first sexual violence referral centre, new obligations regarding mandatory risk assessment in cases of domestic violence, the increased enforcement of emergency barring and protection orders and the strengthening of the provision of free legal aid. Further measures encouraged in relation to human and financial resources for central government policies, establishing a national co-ordination body and the amendment of the definition of rape and sexual violence to align it with the convention.

2023 Final implementation report from the Albanian government

Report detailing the measures taken in response to the conclusions, especially regarding the establishment of the national co-ordinating body, data collection, the issuing of protection orders and amendments to the definition of sexual violence in the criminal code.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS



Over the course of the baseline evaluation procedure, the legal and policy framework in Albania was enhanced, for example by introducing, in 2017 the Law "On free Legal Aid provided by the State" to strengthen legal aid, support the opening of several legal clinics and to increase the funding for NGOs providing free legal aid. In 2018, amendments to Law 9669/2006 on Domestic Violence introduced risk assessment in domestic violence cases prior to issuing emergency barring orders and whether protection orders should be ordered for the benefit of children, which may include the temporary limitation of parental rights.



A significant increase both in the number of court judgements that explicitly refer to the Istanbul Convention and in the successful prosecutions of domestic violence was attained.



The Coordinated Referral Mechanism, Albania's centrepiece for its co-ordinated multi-agency response to domestic violence, was rolled out across all 61 municipalities and its mandate extended to provide support in respect of all forms of violence against women, beyond domestic violence.



Albania's first sexual violence referral centre was set up in a hospital setting, providing emergency and short-term support services, such as healthcare, forensic medical services, psychological support, legal assistance, as well as accommodation to victims of sexual violence for a period of up to 72 hours on a one-stop-shop basis.