



MINISTRY OF WELFARE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Presentation of report and expert debate

Establishing specialist support services for victims of violence against women and domestic violence in Latvia in line with the Council of Europe standards

In the framework of the project

“Ending violence against women: multi-country programme 2020-2021”

Implemented by the Gender Equality Division of the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia

23 April 2021, 10:00 – 12:00 CET

Background

On November 2020, the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia produced a report offering a roadmap for the establishing of specialised support services for victims of violence against women and domestic violence in Latvia in line with the Council of Europe standards. The report is intended to provide guidance in setting up a network of support services specialised in assisting victims of violence against women and domestic violence.

The overarching principles of the [Council of Europe minimum standards for support services for victims of violence against women \(2008\)](#) and the principles of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ([Istanbul Convention](#)) define what a specialist service for victims of violence against women and domestic should look like and how it should operate.

The aim of this report is not to “monitor” the situation in regard to violence against women and domestic violence in Latvia, rather it seeks to provide an overview of what exists in Latvia for victims of violence against women, where the gaps and challenges are for victims needing a specialist service, and what is available that might be built upon. The report works to recommend a “roadmap”, a basis for a strategy for establishing a network of specialist support services for victims of violence against women and domestic violence across Latvia which meets the needs of victims, and has the potential for embedding the Council of Europe standards.

Aims of the event

The Council of Europe in co-operation with the Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia are organising on-line expert debate with Latvian stakeholders, including relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), media, members of the Parliament (MPs), with participation of national and international experts. The main aims of the event are to:

- present the report “Roadmap for establishing specialist support services for victims of violence against women and domestic violence in Latvia in line with the Council of Europe standards” (please, see the links for [ENG](#) and [LV](#) versions)
- discuss specific actions to establish specialist support services for victims of violence against women and domestic violence in Latvia in line with the Council of Europe standards
- raise awareness of violence against women and domestic violence and exchange of good practices and experiences of the Council of Europe member states

Participants

- representatives of the Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia
- representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior and State police
- Members of Parliament, representatives of political parties’ decision-makers
- representatives of the Council of Europe
- national and international experts
- representatives of Latvian mass media
- representatives of civil society
- other Latvian stakeholders

Working languages

English and Latvian with simultaneous interpretation.

On-line venue

The meeting will be hosted by the KUDO videoconferencing platform with Remote Simultaneous Interpretation. Links will be made available before the meeting and 1,5-hour training sessions will be organized for the participants/speakers to check the quality of the connections.

23 April 2021, Friday

09:45 – 10:00

On-line registration and connectivity tests

10:00 – 10:15

Opening remarks

Ramona PETRAVICA, Minister of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia

Claudia LUCIANI, Director of the Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, Council of Europe

Moderator of the event:

Marta BECERRA, Head of capacity building and co-operation Unit, Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe

10:15 – 10:40

Presentation of the report “Roadmap for establishing specialist support services for victims of violence against women and domestic violence in Latvia in line with the Council of Europe standards”

Dickie JAMES, Council of Europe Consultant

Iluta LACE, MARTA Centre

Zane LINDE-OZOLA, University of Latvia

10:40 – 11:00

Questions and answers

11:00– 11:20

Presentation of international experiences

Nicole JACOBS, Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales

Nicki NORMAN, Deputy Chief Executive, Women’s Aid Federation of England

11:20 – 11:50

Further steps establishing specialist support services for victims of violence against women and domestic violence in Latvia

General discussion and exchange of views

11:50 – 12:00

Conclusions, final remarks