

March 27, 2026

Dear colleagues in GREVIO,

Thank you for your work and effort to help women and girls in Norway who are affected by domestic violence!

Without international support from you, CEDAW, and other institutions, we would have faced even greater challenges.

We have been reviewing the Norwegian authorities' submission to the Committee of the Parties, received on 4 December 2025, and have some additional comments. Our comments are in addition to the Norwegian Civil Society's Shadow Report No. 2 on the Istanbul Convention, which has already been submitted and which we have joined.

1. Regarding Fundamental rights, equality, and non-discrimination (Article 4)

In the overall discussion about domestic violence, most policymakers and stakeholders talk about domestic violence as if gender does not have much to do with it. In general, we do not talk about men's violence against women anymore in Norway.

We will give you one concrete example from the Strategy for gender equality:

From the preface (page 5)

"The time is also overdue to take a closer look at men's specific equality challenges. We want to elevate the debate about boys' and men's equality. Therefore, in addition to this strategy, the government has decided to present a report to the Storting on challenges to boys' and men's equality. Here, the proposals from the Men's Committee's report will be considered and followed up on."

This sums up the situation in Norway.

There are many reasons for this, but one of them is that the men's movement and the LGBTQ movement have grown quite large in Norway. They receive significantly more government funding than the women's movement ever did, and the Department of Family has been very focused on the rights of men, boys, and fathers.

In the Gender Equality strategy launched by the government in 2025, they don't point out many specific needs to combat the violence against women, besides a commission that will investigate all partner murders in Norway. The government doesn't give much attention to the gender differences in domestic violence, and why.

Gender as so is being erased from national legislation (In the new Abortion – law we don't talk about a woman who goes through an abortion – we call her “the pregnant one”, we have no special leave for women given birth as EU has - it is all “maternal leave” divided into 3 equal parts; 1 for the mother 1 for the father and 1 for sharing In the newly launched national plan for Municipalities, there is no analysis of how changes in this sector will affect women, even though women predominantly staff this sector.

2. Have your authorities taken measures to prevent and combat violence against women who are or might be exposed to intersectional discrimination?

It is correct, as informed by the state, that the Shelter Act has included Established a duty to provide alternative shelters for users who cannot utilize the residential services at the center. However, it is a growing concern that this takes money and focus from all the women in the shelters.

We disagree with the State's YES answer to question 6.

Comprehensive and coordinated policies implemented under the responsibility of an adequately mandated and resourced coordinating body (Articles 7 and 10)

We are happy about the Escalation plan against violence against children and domestic violence. Still, as in the Gender Equality plan, the government highlights the special needs of boys and men.

From the preface:

Both the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the monitoring body of the Istanbul Convention, GREVIO, recommend that the gender dimension be made clearer to a greater extent in work against violence in close relationships. NKVTS also highlights the importance of such an approach in its prevalence study and recommends strengthening efforts and measures that can change perceptions of norms around gender and gender relations.

A gender perspective on violence also concerns men's vulnerability. In addition

to being exposed to violence in public spaces, men are also affected by violence in close relationships and sexual abuse.

We acknowledge domestic violence against men, but we are worried the authorities haven't developed a long-term plan/strategy to prevent and combat violence against women.

Financial resources (Article 8)

Many of the listed funds in number 13 use more money on men's equality and LGBT than on women and girls, for example, the so-called gender equality centers. We still lack information about how many resources are used on men versus women, but the overall impression is that men's challenges are easier to get funding for than women's.

Custody, visitation rights, and safety (Article 31)

The new Children Act, which has been passed by the Parliament and is planned to enter into force in 2027, brought about huge concerns for parents and children exposed to violence. A huge group of law experts, attorneys, NGO, district court judges, shelters, ATV, Stine Sofie Stiftelse and more tried to get the government to take this act back because of major concerns that this act will make the situation for children and parents (most often women) exposed to domestic violence worse than today. The act had widespread support among men's rights groups.

We are deeply concerned about the new act and urge GREVIO to address this issue. Please refer to the Norwegian Civil Society report for more details.

Immediate response, prevention, and protection (Article 50)

Short: Victims of domestic violence do not have any rights for a risk assessment and risk management, and there are huge differences around in Norway. We need acts that ensure that the victim has the right to these services.

Emergency barring, restraining, or protection orders (Articles 52 and 53)

Regarding the restraining order: The state writes that, in principle, there is no limit to how many times a restraining order may be extended. This is not the reality. In reality, it is very hard to get a restraining order if the investigation into a criminal case is dropped.

To get a restraining order, you have to report a person, and we have emphasized that, in most cases, protection is too closely tied to the criminal case.

Victim of domestic violence is entitled to have a legal counsel for the aggrieved party, but many criminal cases end up just being a case of bodily harm. In these cases, there are no standards or procedures for supporting a victim. Some places it works well – other places it does not work at all.

As a victim, you face criticism in the court system that is beyond what you would expect anywhere else.

And we would like to add:

There is very limited psychological help offered to victims of domestic violence. This is a major concern. Support is offered, but in-depth therapy is really hard to get.

Please let us know if you have any questions!

Kind regards,



Gunhild Vehusheia, Attorney and President for The Norwegian Association for Women's Rights (Norsk Kvinnesaksforening)

and

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