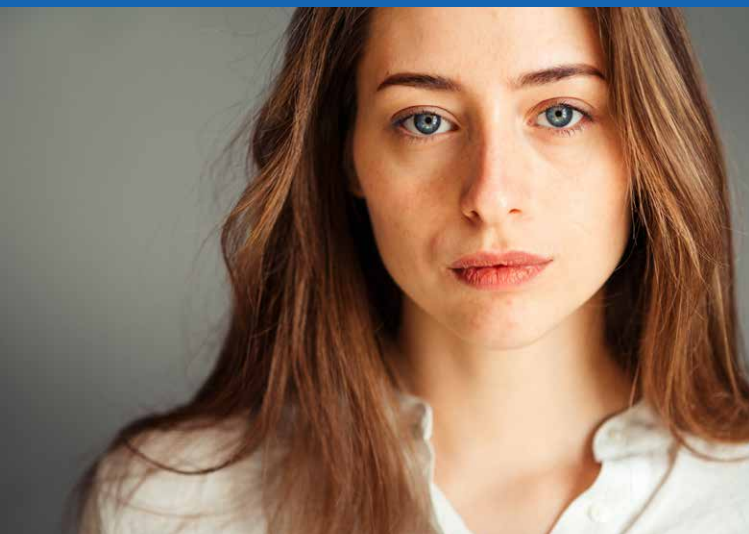


PROJECT

**“COMBATting VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN IN UKRAINE”
(COVAW)**



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

The project “Combatting Violence Against Women in Ukraine” (COVAW) provides support for reforms regarding violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine, as well as advancing the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (also known as the Istanbul Convention).

The COVAW project focuses on two key aspects to propel Ukraine forward in its efforts to combat violence against women and domestic violence: awareness raising and legislative frameworks.

1. COVAW focuses on raising awareness on the Istanbul Convention in the Verkhovna Rada and at multiple levels of government. Awareness raising activities also target the general public in diverse regions of Ukraine, bringing to light both the problem of violence against women and domestic violence, the need to combat it, and the benefits of applying the Istanbul Convention and other international instruments in this area.
2. Through COVAW, the Council of Europe continues to support the enhancement of legislative and institutional frameworks drawing Ukraine closer to full implementation of the Istanbul Convention. Through an analysis of gaps between current laws in Ukraine and Istanbul Convention standards, the COVAW project supports the government of Ukraine to identify priority areas for the strongest impact on protecting victims of gender based violence against women.



WHO ARE THE PROJECT PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS?

The project partner institution is the Ministry of Social Policy (Kiev and in the regions). The project also works with select amalgamated communities and the Verkhovna Rada/Parliament of Ukraine. Other stakeholders include the Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy, Ukrainian Bar Association, selected Ukrainian civil society organisations, media outlets, and other key Ukrainian authorities.



WHY IS THE PROJECT BEING IMPLEMENTED IN UKRAINE?

The COVAW project builds on the lessons learned and tools developed under previous Council of Europe projects, including “The Istanbul Convention: a tool to advance in fighting violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine” (2018-2020) and “Combating violence against women and children in Ukraine” (2017).

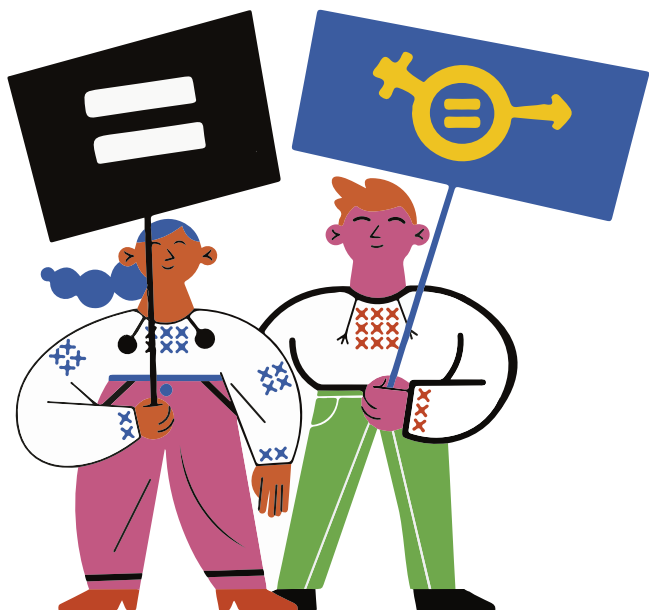
The COVAW project is in line with the priorities of the Council of Europe Ukraine Action Plan (2018-2022) on combating violence against women and domestic violence including to advance in the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, as well as supporting national legislation and policy reforms related to counteracting gender-based violence against women, and raising awareness of authorities and the Ukrainian public to support women’s human rights.

WHY FOCUS ON THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION?

In November 2011, Ukraine signed the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention, but it has not yet been ratified. The COVAW project will simultaneously focus on advancing ratification efforts and enhancing implementation of the Istanbul Convention standards in Ukraine.

In recent years, a number of changes have been made to Ukrainian legislation to protect women from violence. This is a good start, but the Istanbul Convention is a comprehensive treaty rooted in human rights and international best practise which can serve as a useful guide for countries to end violence against women and domestic violence. The convention covers gaps in Ukrainian legislation and practices, such as criminalising many forms of violence against women, ensuring that all victims can access shelters and apply for compensation, and that perpetrators are brought to justice. In addition, by ratifying the convention Ukraine will join a growing number of states parties who regularly exchange practices and approaches for better implementation. In this way Ukraine sends a strong signal to the international community about its engagement against these forms of violence. Finally, after ratification, Ukraine will be assessed by external experts who monitor the Istanbul Convention, and who can provide guidance and recommendations leading to a better prevention of violence, protection of victims and prosecution of perpetrators.





PROJECT DURATION

24 months (1 January 2021 - 31 December 2022)

WEBSITE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

www.coe.int/en/web/kyiv/combating-violence-against-women-in-ukraine-covaw-



ENG

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

www.coe.int

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE