

**Group of Experts on Action against Violence
against Women and Domestic Violence
(GREVIO)**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Questionnaire
on legislative and other measures
giving effect to the provisions of the
Council of Europe Convention on Preventing
and Combating Violence against Women
and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)
as adapted for the European Union**

Adopted by GREVIO on 18 October 2024

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I. Introduction

The baseline evaluation questionnaire was originally adopted by GREVIO on 11 March 2016 to define the scope of the baseline evaluation procedure of the parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating violence against women and domestic violence (hereafter “the convention”). Following the accession by the European Union (EU) to the convention in 2023, the baseline evaluation questionnaire was adapted for the EU in order to account for differences between state parties and the EU as a supranational organisation. This adapted questionnaire, therefore, reflects the same articles and pillars of the convention addressed in the original questionnaire, with no additional questions having been introduced.

The European Union is requested to use this questionnaire as a basis for its report on legislative and other measures giving effect to the provisions of the convention as provided for under its Article 68, paragraph 1. Although questions are formulated in broad terms, requests for information contained in this questionnaire are to be understood as pertaining only to those areas where the EU has competence to act through legislative, policy, strategic or other measures. The questions are formulated to account for action taken at the level of EU institutions, bodies and agencies and any legislative or other measures taken by the EU to place obligations on EU member states and to ensure their effective implementation.

All legal provisions cited refer to the articles of the convention unless otherwise specified. Further guidance on the meaning of any of the questions can be obtained from the text of the [convention](#) and its [explanatory report](#).

Unless otherwise indicated, all requests for information and data apply since the entry into force of the convention in respect of the European Union (1 October 2023), however the EU is welcome to provide any relevant earlier information. The reply to the questionnaire should be submitted in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe (English or French).

A. General Principles of the convention

Throughout the preparation of its report, the EU is invited to bear in mind the general principles set out in Chapter I of the convention; principles which apply to all substantive articles contained in Chapters II to VII.

- It is a *fundamental human right* for everyone, particularly women, to live a life free from violence in both the public and the private sphere.
- The principle of *equality between women and men* must be embodied in the constitution or other appropriate legislation and effectively realised in practice.
- *Discrimination against women* must be prohibited, including through the use of sanctions, where appropriate, and laws and practices which discriminate against women must be abolished.
- The convention must be implemented *without discrimination on any ground* and the potential for, and effects of, multiple discrimination should be borne in mind.
- *Special measures* which are necessary to prevent and protect women from gender-based violence are not considered as discrimination.
- The Parties must include a *gender perspective* in the implementation and the evaluation of the impact of the convention and implement policies promoting equality between women and men and the empowerment of women.

B. Scope of application of the convention and key definitions

In light of the scope of the convention set out in its Article 2, paragraph 1, the report submitted by the EU should focus on measures taken in relation to all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, which affects women disproportionately. The term “*violence against women*” used throughout this questionnaire thus refers to all forms of violence against women criminalised (or, where applicable, otherwise sanctioned) under Chapter V of the convention, which are *psychological violence, stalking¹, physical violence, sexual violence, including rape, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, forced abortion, forced sterilisation and sexual harassment*. It also refers to *domestic violence against women*, which is defined as physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence which occurs within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim. For the purpose of the convention, the term “*women*” includes girls under the age of 18.

As provided for in Article 2, paragraph 2, Parties are required to pay particular attention to women victims of domestic violence, when applying provisions of the convention to *all* victims of domestic violence.

The EU is also required to provide information on any legislative and other measures taken to secure the continued applicability of the convention in situations of armed conflict (Article 2, paragraph 3).

C. Obligations of the Parties and due diligence

When drawing up its report on the basis of the present questionnaire, the EU must pay particular attention to its *obligations to refrain from engaging in any act of violence* covered by the convention and to ensure that all those acting on its behalf conduct themselves in conformity with this obligation, as required by Article 5, paragraph 1.

The report submitted by the EU should contain information on measures taken to exercise *due diligence* to prevent, investigate, punish and provide reparation² for any acts of violence covered by the convention as required by Article 5, paragraph 2.

This includes on the one hand the obligation of EU institutions, bodies and agencies, and, on the other hand, the obligation of state authorities, officials, agents, and other actors in EU member states when implementing EU law.

D. Bodies, agencies, institutions and organisations involved in the preparation of the report submitted by the Party in application of Article 68, paragraph 1

Please indicate which official body is responsible for co-ordinating the collection of information in response to this questionnaire and the preparation of the report.

Please also specify:

- a. which EU institutions, bodies and agencies contributed to the preparation of the report;

1. Stalking includes engaging in unwanted communication “through any available means of communication, including modern communication tools and ICTs” (Explanatory Report, paragraph 182).

2. The term “reparation” may encompass different forms of reparation under international human rights law such as restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantee of non-repetition (Explanatory Report, paragraph 60).

- b. which other bodies, institutions or organisations were consulted when preparing the report (non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other civil society actors, etc.).

II. Integrated policies and data collection

(Chapter II of the convention, Articles 7 to 11)

Please provide information on the adoption of comprehensive and co-ordinated policies on violence against women, the financial resources dedicated to the implementation of these policies, and support of the work of international organisations, states, NGOs and other civil society actors, in particular women's organisations, the establishment of effective co-operation with these organisations, as well as data collection.

- A.** Please provide details of action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure adoption and implementation of comprehensive policies at the EU level and at the level of EU member states when implementing EU law to address violence against women, as referred to in Article 7. Please describe in particular:
1. which forms of violence are covered;
 2. the timeframe(s);
 3. how the human rights of victims are placed at the centre of these policies;
 4. how policies are co-ordinated to offer an effective holistic and comprehensive response;
 5. progress made in their implementation.
- B.** Please provide an account of financial resources allocated to the implementation of the above-mentioned policies, as required by Article 8, with an indication of the sources of financing (amount of financing allocated and its percentage of the total annual budget; amounts from other sources).
- C.**
1. How is the work of **NGOs and other civil society actors**, in particular women's rights organisations, recognised, encouraged and supported by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, as required by Articles 8 and 9?³
 2. Which measures are taken to ensure that effective co-operation is established with these organisations at the level of the EU and have any legislative or other measures been taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies to place obligations on EU member states to establish such effective co-operation?
- D.** Please provide details on the **body(ies) established or designated in application of Article 10.**
1. Have one or more official bodies⁴ been established or designated for the co-ordination and implementation of EU policies and measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by the convention?

If so, for each body, please indicate the:

 - a. name;

3. Support for NGOs and other civil society actors means allocating appropriate financial resources for the activities by such actors and recognition of their work by, "for example, tapping into their expertise and involving them as partners in multi-agency co-operation or in the implementation of comprehensive government policies which Article 7 calls for" (See Explanatory Report, paragraphs 66 and 69).

4. The term "official body" is to be understood as any entity or institution within the European Union.

- b. administrative status;
- c. powers and competences;
- d. composition (in particular, please specify if NGOs active in combating violence against women are members);
- e. annual budget;
- f. human resources (namely number of staff, their general professional backgrounds and any training on the convention received); and
- g. main results obtained since its establishment.

2. Have one or more separate body(ies) been established or designated for the monitoring and evaluation of EU policies and measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by the convention?

If so, for each body please indicate the:

- a. name;
- b. administrative status;
- c. powers and competences;
- d. composition (in particular, please specify if NGOs active in combating violence against women are members);
- e. annual budget;
- f. human resources (namely number of staff, their general professional backgrounds and any training on the convention received); and
- g. main results obtained since its establishment.

E. 1. Please specify which EU institutions, bodies and agencies collect **data** on violence against women and domestic violence, the type of data collected and the respective data categories in use. Please also specify the obligations on data collection and reporting placed on EU member states by EU legislative or other measures, in as far as they pertain to the area of preventing and combating violence against women.

2. With regard to each type of data collected or data category in use, please indicate if it is disaggregated by sex, age, type of violence as well as the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim, geographical location, and any other factors deemed relevant, for example disability.

3. How is this data collated and made public at the level of the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies?

F. Please give information on any research supported by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, in relation to Article 11 paragraph 1b. Please also provide information on any legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies to place obligations on EU member states on supporting research, in line with Article 11 paragraph 1b.

G. Please provide information on any **population-based survey(s)** conducted by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, on violence against women as required by Article 11, paragraph 2. Please provide information on any legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies to place obligations on EU member states to conduct population-based surveys, in line with Article 11 paragraph 2.

For each survey, please indicate:

1. the form(s) of violence covered;
2. its geographic reach;
3. its main results; and
4. whether the results were made public (with an indication of the sources).

III. Prevention

(Chapter III of the convention, Articles 12 to 17)

In light of the overarching general obligations in the area of prevention provided for in Article 12, paragraphs 1 to 6, please provide an account of any preventive action taken, including to promote changes in the social and cultural patterns of behaviour of women and men with a view to eradicating prejudices, customs, traditions and other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority of women or on stereotyped roles for women and men. Such preventive action must address the specific needs of persons made vulnerable by particular circumstances and place the human rights of all victims at their centre. It must also encourage all members of society, especially men and boys, to contribute actively to preventing all forms of violence, and include the promotion of programmes and activities for the empowerment of women. Please also indicate which measures have been taken to ensure that culture, custom, religion, tradition or so-called honour are not considered as justification for any acts of violence. Please bear in mind that the above principles apply to all preventive measures taken in accordance with the obligations contained in Chapter III.

- A.** 1. What **campaigns and programmes** on any of the forms of violence covered by the convention have been promoted or conducted by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, in accordance with Article 13, paragraph 1?
2. Please provide information on any legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies to place obligations on EU member states to conduct campaigns and programmes in accordance with Article 13, paragraph 1.
- B.** What action has been taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to encourage the inclusion of **teaching material** on issues such as equality between women and men, non-stereotyped gender roles, mutual respect, non-violent conflict resolution in interpersonal relationships, gender-based violence against women and the right to personal integrity in formal and informal education settings in EU member states, as required by Article 14, paragraph 1 and 2?
- C.** 1. Please indicate any action taken to provide or strengthen appropriate **initial and in-service training** of relevant professionals working for the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, as required by Article 15.⁵ Please indicate the categories and the number of professionals who received such training.
2. Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that **initial and in-service training** of relevant professionals is provided or strengthened in EU member states.
- D.** Please provide information on action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that: programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence are set up or supported in EU member states in accordance with the principles set out in Article 16, and notably that the measures taken within the framework of these programmes have the safety of, support for and the human rights of women victims as a primary concern; and that such programmes are implemented in close co-ordination with specialist support services for women victims and incorporate a gendered understanding of violence against women.

5. This comprises training on the prevention and detection of violence against women, standards of intervention, equality between women and men, the needs and rights of victims, prevention of secondary victimisation, multi-agency co-operation.

- E.** Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that programmes for perpetrators of sexual violence are set up or supported in EU member states in accordance with the principles set out in Article 16, and notably that the measures taken in the framework of these programmes have the safety of, support for and the human rights of women victims as a primary concern, and that such programmes are implemented in close co-ordination with specialist support services for women victims and incorporate a gendered understanding of violence against women.
- F.** 1. Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to encourage the private sector, the information and communication technology (ICT) sector and the media, including social media, to participate in the elaboration and implementation of policies as set out in Article 17, paragraph 1?
2. Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies to place obligations on EU member states to encourage the private sector, the information and communication technology (ICT) sector and the media, including social media, to participate in the elaboration and implementation of policies as set out in Article 17, paragraph 1.
- G.** Please specify any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to encourage the development of self-regulatory standards, such as codes of conduct for the ICT sector and the media, including social media, in the area of violence against women and/or gender equality (for example to refrain from harmful gender stereotyping and spreading degrading images of women or imagery which associates violence and sex).
- H.** Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies to encourage the establishment of protocols or guidelines in the private sector, for example, on how to deal with sexual harassment in the workplace; and to raise awareness of human resources professionals on issues of violence against women, including domestic violence?
- I.** 1. Please indicate any other measures taken or planned to strengthen EU legislation and policies as regards the prevention of violence against women within the EU institutions, bodies and agencies.
2. Please provide information on any other legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies to place obligations on EU member states in relation to the prevention of violence against women.

IV. Protection and support

(Chapter IV of the convention, Articles 18 to 28)

Please provide general information on measures taken to ensure, within the scope of EU competence, appropriate protection and support to women victims and child witnesses of any form of violence covered by the convention as required by Article 18, paragraphs 1 and 2. This includes measures to ensure multi-agency co-operation and effective referrals to general and specialist support services, bearing in mind the general principles set out in Article 18, paragraph 3 that must be applied to all measures taken in implementation of Chapter IV of the convention. These are the need for a gendered understanding of violence against women, a focus on the human rights and safety of victims, and an integrated approach to protection and support services. All protective and supportive measures must also aim at avoiding secondary victimisation, address the specific needs of vulnerable persons, including child victims, and aim at the empowerment and economic independence

of women victims. In addition, general and specialist support services must be offered irrespective of the victim's willingness to press charges or testify against the perpetrator.

- A.** 1. Please provide details on any action taken to ensure that at the level of the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, women victims of all forms of violence covered by the convention receive **information on support services and legal measures available to them**, as required by Article 19. The information must be adequate;⁶ timely⁷ and in a language they understand.⁸
2. Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure the provision of such information to women victims at level of EU member states.
- B.** 1. Please provide a short description of any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure women victims' access to the following **general support services**⁹ at the level of EU member states (as referred to in Article 20, paragraph 1) and that these services take the situation of women victims systematically into account, employ measures and interventions to ensure their safety, and are equipped to meet their specific needs and to refer them to the appropriate specialist services:
- a. financial support services;
 - b. housing services;
 - c. legal counselling services;
 - d. psychological support services;
 - e. education and training services;
 - f. employment services; and
 - g. any other relevant service.
2. Please provide a short description of any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, in relation to Article 20, paragraph 2, to ensure that women victims benefit from appropriate health care and social services at the level of EU member states. Please also provide information on protocols and guidelines for staff assisting women victims and for their referral to additional appropriate services.
- C.** What steps have been taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that women victims within EU member states have information on access to and assistance with individual or **collective complaints mechanisms** (including legal advice) offered at international level (Article 21)?¹⁰
- D.** Please provide a description of any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, in relation to Articles 22, 23 and 25 to ensure the provision of **specialist women's**

6. "Adequate information" is understood as information that sufficiently fills the victim's need for information. This could include, for example, providing not just the name of a support service organisation, but issuing a leaflet that contains its contact details, opening hours and information on the exact services it offers (Explanatory Report, paragraph 124).

7. "Timely information" refers to information that comes "at a time when it is useful for victims" (Explanatory Report, paragraph 124).

8. This obligation is limited to languages that are most widely spoken in the Party (Explanatory Report, paragraph 124).

9. "General support services" are understood as "help offered by public authorities such as social services, health services and employment services, which provide long-term help and are not exclusively designed for the benefit of victims only but that serve the public at large" (Explanatory Report, paragraph 125).

10. Individual complaints can be addressed, for example, to the ECtHR or the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee), whereas collective complaints can be addressed to the European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe.

support services¹¹ at the level of EU and its member states for all women victims and their children in compliance with the convention standards.

- E.** 1. Please provide information on any action taken to set up **telephone helplines** at the EU level to provide advice to callers in relation to all forms of violence covered by the convention, as referred to in Article 24.

In this context, please specify:

1. if they are free of charge;
2. if they operate round-the-clock (24/7);
3. how confidentiality and/or anonymity is ensured;
4. if those responding to calls have been trained on all forms of violence against women; and
5. the annual number of calls made to seek help for women victims.

2. Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that such telephone helplines are set up at the level of EU member states.

- F.** Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that, in the provision of the above-mentioned general and specialist support services to victims, due account is taken at the level of EU member states of the rights and needs of **child witnesses** of all forms of violence against women as specified in Article 26, including age-appropriate counselling.

- G.** Please indicate any **other action** taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, in order to provide protection and support to victims of violence against women at the EU level and to ensure this is provided at the level of EU member states.

V. Substantive law

(Chapter V of the convention, Articles 29 to 48)

Please provide information on the EU legal framework pertaining to violence against women, with particular emphasis on the criminalisation of acts of violence against women, unacceptable justifications for such acts (including crimes committed in the name of so-called honour), sanctions and measures, action taken to provide women victims with adequate civil remedies and to ensure their right to claim compensation as well as to prohibit mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes.

- A.** 1. Please provide information on the relevant **EU legal framework** in place which gives effect to the provisions of the convention, including any action taken to avoid legislative gaps.
2. Does the EU legal framework contain any specific legislative acts addressing violence against women?
3. Please provide in an appendix a compilation of extracts from or summaries of the relevant legal texts, including specific legislative acts addressing violence against women.

11. Specialist support services refer to dedicated services for victims of the different forms of violence against women made up of "specialised and experienced staff with in-depth knowledge of gender-based violence", including among others counselling centres, shelters, rape crisis centres and sexual violence referral centres.

These texts should be provided in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe (English or French).

- B.** 1. Please describe what action has been taken to ensure the provision of guidance to officials, and other persons working for and with EU institutions, bodies and agencies **on how to implement the above legal framework?**
2. Please describe what action has been taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies to ensure that EU member states provide guidance to relevant professionals on **how to implement the above legal framework** (for example drawing-up of protocols for police and other law enforcement officials, guidelines for prosecutors, and setting up of special units).
- C.** Please describe what legislative and other measures have been taken by the EU to ensure that women victims can avail themselves of **civil remedies against the perpetrators**, and, where applicable, **against state authorities** in EU member states.
- D.** 1. Please provide information on any internal EU procedures available to women victims to claim **compensation from perpetrators** for any of the offences established in accordance with the convention perpetrated by an EU official or employee at the workplace (Article 30, paragraph 1).
2. Please provide information on any legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that women victims can claim compensation from perpetrators for any of the offences established in accordance with the convention (Article 30, paragraph 1) at the level of EU member states.
3. Please provide information on any legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that women victims can claim **state compensation** from authorities in EU member states when any such offence involves sustained serious bodily injury or impairment of health (Article 30, paragraph 2).
- E.** Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that, in decisions taken at the level of EU member states:
1. incidents of violence against women are taken into account in the **determination of custody and visitation rights of children** (Article 31, paragraph 1) as a superseding concern;
 2. women victims and their children remain safe from any further harm in the **exercise of any visitation or custody rights** (Article 31, paragraph 2).
- F.** Please provide information on any legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that the following forms of violence are criminalised at the level of EU member states:
1. **psychological violence**, as defined in Article 33;
 2. **stalking**, as defined in Article 34;¹²
 3. **physical violence**, as defined in Article 35;¹³
 4. **sexual violence, including rape**, as defined in Article 36, paragraph 1, having due regard to the definition of consent under Article 36, paragraph 2.

12. See also Explanatory Report, paragraph 182.

13. See also Explanatory Report, paragraph 188.

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- i. Please also indicate whether and how acts of sexual violence, including rape, committed against former or current spouses or partners are criminalised (Article 36, paragraph 3).
 - ii. Please specify the age, under EU law, at which a person is considered to be legally competent to consent to sexual acts;
 5. **forced marriage**, as defined in Article 37;
 6. **female genital mutilation** as defined in Article 38;
 7. **forced abortion**, as defined in Article 39a;
 8. **forced sterilisation**, as defined in Article 39b.
- G.** Please provide information on any legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that **sexual harassment**, as defined in Article 40, is criminalised or otherwise addressed at the level of EU member states.
- H.** 1. Please provide information on any legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions and agencies, to ensure that **aiding or abetting** in relation to psychological violence, stalking, physical violence, sexual violence (including rape), forced marriage, the performance of female genital mutilation, forced abortion and forced sterilisation (Article 41, paragraph 1) are addressed at the level of EU member states.
2. Please provide information on any legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that **attempts** of physical violence, sexual violence (including rape), forced marriage, female genital mutilation, forced abortion and forced sterilisation (Article 41, paragraph 2) are addressed at the level of EU member states.
- I.** Please indicate any legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions and agencies, to ensure that, in criminal proceedings initiated at the level of EU member states following the commission of any of the acts of violence covered by the convention, **culture, custom, religion, tradition or so-called honour** cannot be regarded as justification for such acts nor as mitigating circumstances (Article 42).
- J.** Please indicate any legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that the offences established in accordance with the convention at the level of EU member states apply notwithstanding the nature of the **relationship of the perpetrator to the victim** (Article 43).
- K.** For each form of violence covered by the convention, please specify:
- a. any legislative measures taken by the EU in relation to the applicable **sanctions** in EU member states, including sanctions other than criminal, and, where appropriate, any legislative measures governing sanctions that involve deprivation of liberty which can give rise to extradition (Article 45, paragraph 1);
 - b. any legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that, at the level of the EU member states, the following issues in relation to perpetrators are addressed:

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- i. the monitoring or supervision of convicted persons;
 - ii. the withdrawal of parental rights, if the best interests of the child, which may include the safety of the woman victim, cannot be guaranteed in any other way (Article 45, paragraph 2).
- L.** Please provide information on any legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that at the level of EU member states the circumstances referred to in Article 46, insofar as they do not already form part of the constituent elements of the offences, may be taken into consideration as **aggravating circumstances**?
- M.** 1. Please provide information on any legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that – in criminal and civil law – **mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes** are prohibited at the level of EU member states, including mediation and conciliation, in relation to all forms of violence covered by the convention (Article 48).
2. Please provide information on any legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that such processes are not otherwise imposed on women victims of domestic violence, for example within the framework of legal separation and divorce proceedings in EU member states.
- N.** Please provide information on any legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its EU institutions, bodies and agencies to ensure that **administrative and judicial data** is collected at the level of EU member states, on a yearly basis, on the following matters:
1. in relation to cases resulting in the death of a woman:
 - i. the number of such cases;
 - ii. the number of cases in which the authorities had prior knowledge of the woman's exposure to violence;
 - iii. the number of perpetrators convicted in relation to these cases;
 - iv. the number and type of sanctions and further measures imposed as a result of criminal proceedings (including deprivation of liberty), with an indication, where appropriate, of their suspended execution and average length;
 2. in relation to acts of violence against women amounting to attempted murder:
 - i. the number of such cases;
 - ii. the number of cases in which the authorities had prior knowledge of the woman's exposure to violence;
 - iii. the number of perpetrators convicted in relation to these cases;
 - iv. the number and type of sanctions and further measures imposed as a result of criminal proceedings (including deprivation of liberty), with an indication, where appropriate, of their suspended execution and average length.
 3. in relation to all other cases of violence against women:
 - i. the number of complaints made by victims and the number of reports by third parties, to law enforcement agencies/criminal justice authorities;
 - ii. the number of criminal proceedings and/or any other legal action initiated as a result;
 - iii. the number of perpetrators convicted;

- iv. the number of criminal and other sanctions imposed with an indication of the type of sanctions imposed (for example fine, court-ordered participation in perpetrator programmes, restriction of liberty, deprivation of liberty) and, where appropriate, of their suspended execution and average length;
- v. the number of further measures imposed, with an indication of the type of measures adopted (for example monitoring or supervision of the perpetrator, withdrawal of parental rights);
- vi. the number of perpetrators subjected to further measures referred to in Article 45, paragraph 2.

Please describe the measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure the above-requested data is disaggregated following the criteria described earlier (see section I. Introduction).

- 4. the number of cases which resulted in the death of the children of the women victims.
- O.** Please provide information on any **other measures** taken or planned by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, in relation to substantive law, together with any available data on the recourse to such measures.
- P.** 1. Please indicate concrete action taken to ensure the implementation of the relevant EU legal framework by officials and other persons working for and with EU institutions, bodies and agencies.
2. Please indicate concrete action taken to ensure the implementation of the relevant EU legal framework by EU member states (including infringement proceedings).

VI. Investigation, prosecution and procedural law and protective measures

(Chapter VI of the convention, Articles 49 to 58)

Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, in accordance with the principles set out in Article 49 of the convention, in order to ensure that at the level of EU member states: i) investigations and judicial proceedings are carried out without undue delay while taking into consideration the rights of women victims during all stages of the criminal proceedings; and ii) acts of violence against women are investigated and prosecuted in an effective manner.

To this end, the competent authorities must be able to respond promptly and appropriately to all forms of violence covered by the convention, issue emergency barring orders or restraining or protection orders and take measures of protection during the investigations and criminal proceedings. Non-governmental/civil society organisations must be able to assist and/or support women victims in legal proceedings (for example as third parties) and appropriate arrangements must be made to facilitate women victims' access to justice.

- A.** 1. Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure a **prompt and appropriate response** from law enforcement agencies in EU member states to all forms of violence covered by the convention by offering adequate and immediate protection to women victims (Article 50).

2. Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that administrative data on the number of interventions carried out annually by law enforcement agencies in relation to violence against women is collected at the level of EU member states (see section I. Introduction).
- B.** Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that procedures regarding the **assessment** of the lethality of the risk, the seriousness of the situation and the risk of repeated violence are carried out by all relevant authorities of EU member states, and duly taken into account at all stages of the investigation and the application of protective measures (Article 51).
- C.** 1. Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that the relevant authorities in EU member states are granted the power to issue an **emergency barring order** when a woman victim (or at risk) of domestic violence is in a situation of immediate danger, as referred to in Article 52 (that is, ordering the perpetrator to immediately vacate the residence of the woman victim and/or prohibiting the perpetrator from entering the residence of or contacting the woman concerned).
2. Please specify whether the measures taken address:
- the time required to issue an emergency barring order;
 - the maximum duration of an emergency barring order;
 - if the duration can be extended until a protection order can be issued;
 - if emergency barring orders can apply to all women victims of domestic violence; if not, please specify any exceptions;
 - the type of measures used to enforce emergency barring orders and ensure the safety of the woman victim;
 - what sanctions can be imposed in case of a breach of such an emergency barring order;
 - the support and advice made available to women seeking such protection.
3. Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that **administrative and judicial data** is collected on a yearly basis at the level of EU member states (see section I. Introduction) on:
- the number of emergency barring orders issued by the competent authorities;
 - the number of breaches of such orders;
 - the number of sanctions imposed as a result of these breaches.
- D.** Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies or agencies, to ensure that **restraining or protection orders** are made available to women victims of all forms of violence covered by the convention (Article 53, paragraph 1) at the level of EU member states.

Please specify whether the measures address:

- the procedures that must be in place to apply for a restraining or protection order;
- the need for restraining or protection orders to apply to all victims of violence covered by the convention; if not, please specify any exceptions;
- the levying of fees against the applicant/woman victim;
- the delay between issuing such an order and when it takes effect;
- the maximum duration of restraining or protection orders;
- whether such orders are available irrespective of, or in addition to, other legal proceedings;

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7. whether restraining or protection orders can be introduced in subsequent legal proceedings;
 8. the criminal and other legal sanctions which can be imposed (including deprivation of liberty, fines, etc.) in case of breach; and
 9. the support and advice made available to women seeking such protection.
- E.** Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that **administrative and judicial data** is collected on a yearly basis at the level of EU member states (see section I. Introduction) on:
1. the number of restraining or protection orders issued by the competent authorities;
 2. the number of breaches of such orders; and
 3. the number of sanctions imposed as a result of these breaches.
- F.** Please provide information on action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that **legal proceedings are initiated ex officio** in EU member states (namely, in order not to place the onus of initiating such proceedings and securing convictions on the women victims) in relation to each of the forms of violence covered by the convention (Article 55, paragraph 1)?
- G.** Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that **legal proceedings can continue ex parte** in EU member states (even if, for instance, the woman victim withdraws her statement or complaint) as referred to in Article 55, paragraph 1?
- H.** Please provide information on action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that **NGOs or other civil society actors and domestic violence counsellors** may assist or support victims in legal proceedings initiated in EU member states (Article 55, paragraph 2), including the conditions required for such participation and any requirements pertaining to the legal status to be afforded during these proceedings.
- I.**
1. Please provide information on action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that **measures of protection** are available during investigations and judicial proceedings (Article 56, paragraph 1) at the level of EU member states.
 2. Please provide details on all measures referred to in Article 56 paragraph 1, in particular to:
 - inform women victims, at least where they and their family might be in danger, when the perpetrator escapes or is released temporarily or definitively;
 - enable women victims to be heard, to supply evidence and have their views, needs and concerns presented (directly or through an intermediary), and considered;
 - provide women victims with appropriate support services so that their rights and interests are duly presented and taken into account;
 - ensure that contact between women victims and perpetrators in law enforcement agency and court premises is avoided whenever possible.
 3. Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that special measures are available to offer protection to child victims and child witnesses of violence covered by the convention (Article 56, paragraph 2) at the level of EU member states.

- J. Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that **free legal aid** is provided **for women victims**, as required by Article 57, including eligibility criteria, at the level of EU member states.
- K. Please provide information on any other action or measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, pertaining to **any other existing investigation, prosecution, procedural law and protective measures** in relation to violence against women, together with any available data on the recourse to such measures, at the level of EU member states.

VII. Migration and asylum

(Chapter VII of the convention, Articles 59 to 61)

Please provide information on action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, in relation to migrant women victims of violence as covered by the convention, whose status makes them particularly vulnerable.

Please also provide information on action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, in relation to women asylum seekers who are fleeing gender-based violence.

- A. 1. Please provide information on action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that asylum case managers and decision-makers in EU member states may grant a migrant woman victim an autonomous residence permit in the following cases:
- a. in the event of the dissolution of the marriage or relationship due to particularly difficult circumstances such as violence, irrespective of the duration of the marriage or relationship (Article 59, paragraph 1);
 - b. in the event of the expulsion of the (abusive) spouse or partner on whom her residence status depends (Article 59, paragraph 2);
 - c. where her stay in the country is necessary owing to her personal situation (Article 59, paragraph 3a);
 - d. where her stay in the country is necessary for the purpose of her co-operation in investigation or criminal proceedings (Article 59, paragraph 3b);
 - e. where she lost her residence status as a result of a forced marriage for which purpose she was removed from her country of residence (Article 59, paragraph 4).
2. Please provide information on any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that data is collected at the level of EU member states on the number of women who have been granted the right to remain for any of the reasons set out in categories A.1.a to A.1.e and separate the data per type of residence status granted (permanent residence status, renewable residence status, other).
- B. 1. Please indicate what legislative or other measures have been taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure that legal frameworks of EU member states recognise **gender-based violence against women as a form of persecution for asylum claims** as referred to in Article 60, paragraph 1?¹⁴

14. Article 60, paragraph 1 of the Istanbul Convention refers to Article 1, A (2) of the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, which defines the term "refugee" as "any person who (...) owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling

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2. Please indicate any legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure a gender-sensitive interpretation of the forms of persecution set out in Article 1, A (2) of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees?¹⁵
- C. Please indicate any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to develop or to ensure the development of the following in EU member states:
- a. gender-sensitive reception procedures and support services for asylum seekers;
 - b. gender guidelines;
 - c. gender-sensitive asylum procedures, including refugee status determination and application for international protection, as required by Article 60, paragraph 3.
- D. 1. Please indicate any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, to ensure the principle of non-refoulement is upheld by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies in relation to women and girls, who are victims of gender-based violence and are crossing the EU external borders, as provided for in Article 61.
2. Please indicate any action taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies to place obligations on member states on the respect of the principle of non-refoulement in relation to women and girls, who are victims of gender-based violence.
- E. 1. Please indicate **any other action or measures** taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies, in relation to the protection of migrant women victims and women asylum seekers in the area of immigration and refugee law.
2. Please provide information on any other legislative or other measures taken by the EU, its institutions, bodies and agencies to place obligations on EU member states in relation to the protection of migrant women victims and women asylum seekers in the area of immigration and refugee law.

to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”.

15. See, for example, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Guidelines on International Protection: Gender-Related Persecution within the context of Article 1, A (2) of the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.