

Committee of the Parties

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Recommendation to France on building trust by delivering support, protection and justice on the basis of the Istanbul Convention

IC-CP(2025)25

Adopted on 11 December 2025

Published on 15 December 2025

Secretariat of the monitoring mechanism of the Council of Europe Convention on
preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

The Committee of the Parties to the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”), acting under the terms of Article 68(12) of the Convention;

Having regard to the purposes of the Convention to protect women against all forms of violence, and prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women and domestic violence; to contribute to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and promote substantive equality between women and men, including by empowering women; to design a comprehensive framework, policies and measures for the protection of and assistance to all victims of violence against women and domestic violence; to promote international co-operation with a view to eliminating violence against women and domestic violence; and to provide support and assistance to organisations and law enforcement agencies to effectively co-operate in order to adopt an integrated approach to eliminating violence against women and domestic violence;

Bearing in mind the provisions of Article 66 (1) of the Convention concerning the monitoring role of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (hereinafter referred to as “GREVIO”);

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the Parties;

Having regard to the instrument of ratification deposited by France on 4 July 2014;

Having regard to the Baseline Evaluation Report adopted by GREVIO concerning the implementation of the Convention by France, the Committee of the Parties’ recommendations adopted on 30 January 2020 and the Committee’s conclusions on the implementation of those recommendations, adopted on 1 June 2023;

Having examined the First Thematic Evaluation Report “Building trust by delivering support, protection and justice” concerning the implementation of the Convention by France adopted by GREVIO at its 36th meeting (30 June – 3 July 2025), as well as the comments of the Government received on 5 September 2025;

Welcoming the measures taken by the French authorities to implement the Convention and noting in particular:

- the changes that followed in the wake of the Grenelle Forum on intimate partner violence of 2019, particularly the adoption of several laws which have strengthened the protection of victims of intimate partner violence and their children; the introduction of new measures such as electronic tagging and immediate interim protection orders;
- the establishment of new mechanisms for the protection and support of women victims of violence including dedicated healthcare facilities for women victims of violence, universal emergency assistance and the “new start” package;
- measures to prevent violence against women in the sports sector; development of a core syllabus for teaching in school about intimate and emotional relationships and sexuality;
- the efforts made to provide training for certain professionals on violence against women and the provision, for various professional groups, of teaching packs on the various forms of violence against women;
- the establishment of specialised legal taskforces and posts for liaison judges on violence within the family; an increase in the number of social workers and psychologists in police and gendarmerie stations; the substantial work of the digital platform for reporting violence; the possibility of having forensic evidence collected and preserved without having to press charges beforehand.

-
- A. Recommends, in the light of the considerations outlined in the preamble above, that the Government of France take the following measures identified in GREVIO's First Thematic Evaluation Report as requiring immediate action:¹
1. develop a long-term overarching strategy to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention, including an effective steering mechanism, and ensure that adequate resources are allocated to the body co-ordinating policies to prevent and combat violence against women; develop an intersectional approach and ensure that women's rights associations are fully involved in developing, designing, implementing and assessing these policies; regularly assess these policies on the basis of pre-defined indicators (Articles 3 and 7).
 2. continue their efforts to ensure adequate funding, commensurate with increasing needs, for policies to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and improve the clarity of the budgets allocated to these policies; ensure that women's rights organisations have sufficient and stable financial resources to carry out the work assigned to them by the authorities (Article 8);
 3. take measures to ensure that data collected by the judicial services are disaggregated according to the sex of the victim and the perpetrator, and to the nature of their relationship, and continue efforts to monitor cases of violence against women along the entire path of the criminal justice chain; set up data collection – broken down by type of violence, age of the victim and the alleged perpetrator, and their relationship to each other – on the number of women and girls who seek help from healthcare services (Article 11);
 4. step up their efforts in the area of primary prevention of violence against women, assess the impact of these measures and strengthen prevention of violence against women exposed to the risk of intersectional discrimination (Article 12); take steps to ensure that all pupils have effective access to education on the matters outlined in Article 14 of the Istanbul Convention (Article 14);
 5. continue and expand measures aimed at ensuring that all professionals in contact with victims and perpetrators of violence against women receive compulsory and systematic initial and in-service training on all forms of violence against women and the specific needs of women exposed to intersectional discrimination; ensure that the expertise of specialist associations is drawn on when devising and implementing training; carry out assessments of such training courses (Article 15);
 6. adopt and implement minimum standards for programmes for perpetrators of violence in line with the European Standards for Perpetrator Programmes in close co-operation with specialist support providers, which would include work on gender stereotypes and an approach centred on victim safety and support; ensure that there are clear programme referral routes for perpetrators of violence; assess the impact of programmes including those for perpetrators of sexual violence (Article 16);
 7. ensure that co-ordination bodies are set up throughout the country, that they cover all forms of violence, that they involve all relevant bodies and that they follow standardised protocols for multi-agency co-operation; ensure that the new one-stop-shop facilities

1. The articles of the Istanbul Convention to which GREVIO's proposals and suggestions refer are shown in brackets.

set up to provide support for women victims of violence involve all the bodies concerned (Article 18);

8. ensure that all women victims of violence have access to a forensic examination and the possibility of preserving evidence, even when they have not pressed charges; improve the quality of medical certificates and ensure that women have access to them; review the requirement for girls seeking asylum to produce a non-excision certificate; take further measures to prevent and combat violence against women with disabilities and ensure that the safeguarding measures provided for by the law in the event of contraceptive sterilisation are properly implemented (Article 20);
9. ensure that specialist support is available for women victims of violence and their children residing in shelters; ensure that specialist services are available and accessible throughout the country; ensure that such services are able to respond to the digital dimension of violence against women (Article 22); provide victims of sexual violence with medical care, trauma support, forensic examinations and immediate and long-term psychological assistance by qualified professionals (Article 25);
10. ensure the safety of victims and their children when decisions are made on custody and visiting rights by reviewing judicial practice regarding the legal provisions requiring judges to take incidents of violence into account in cases of parental separation, broadening the application of measures to strengthen co-operation between civil and criminal courts, stepping up efforts to make the professionals concerned aware that there is no scientific basis for the so-called parental alienation syndrome and ensuring that children are not removed from the custody of non-violent parents; ensure that there are enough facilities for supervised visits, including measures of accompaniment under protection (Article 31);
11. ensure that the tighter legislation banning the use of mediation in cases of intimate partner violence is properly implemented and that mediation procedures carried out in family law proceedings do not constitute quasi-mandatory mediation in cases where there is a history of violence, by setting up mechanisms for the systematic detection of histories of domestic violence in such proceedings and putting in place adequate safeguards to ensure that free and informed consent is given by women victims of violence throughout voluntary family mediation processes (Article 48);
12. strengthen the measures taken to encourage women victims of all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention to report such violence by eliminating any factors preventing victims from reporting violence to the law enforcement agencies and providing appropriate reception and support services; continue to deploy social workers and psychologists on law enforcement premises; take measures to ensure that more sexual violence cases reach the prosecution stage through improved investigation and evidence gathering and analysis of the reasons for the attrition of such cases; ensure that the definition of sexual violence which is adopted is based on the absence of free consent from the victim; continue in their efforts to secure a proper judicial response to all forms of violence against women (Articles 49 and 50);
13. ensure that risk assessments are conducted systematically in all cases of violence against women and that they result in a proper safety plan for victims (Article 51); make increased use of protection orders and ensure that they are accessible to victims of all forms of violence, that they are properly followed up on and that all breaches are suitably punished (Article 53);

-
14. limit the secondary victimisation to which women victims of violence may be exposed during proceedings, particularly by informing them within a reasonable time of the action taken in response to their complaint and their entitlement to give statements in the perpetrator's absence, limiting infringements of their privacy and ensuring that qualified sworn interpreters are available throughout the proceedings (Article 56).
- B. Requests the Government of France to report to the Committee of the Parties on the measures taken to improve the implementation of the Convention in the above-mentioned areas by 8 December 2028.
- C. Recommends that the Government of France take measures to implement the further conclusions of GREVIO's first thematic evaluation report.
- D. Invites the Government of France to continue the current dialogue with GREVIO.