

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

Reply by Bosnia and Herzegovina to the reporting form on the implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of the Parties adopted on 6 December 2022

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on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

**REPORT OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (ISTANBUL CONVENTION)**

In accordance with Article 68, paragraph 12, of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, the Committee of the Parties adopts, on the basis of the report and conclusions of GREVIO, recommendations addressed to state parties concerning the measures to be taken to implement the conclusions of GREVIO.

The applicable procedure for issuing recommendations was settled by the Committee of the Parties at its 4th meeting and is described in document IC-CP(2018)6. In accordance with this procedure, the recommendations call upon state parties to implement all the proposals and suggestions set out in GREVIO's baseline evaluation report. However, the obligation to report on measures taken is limited to those specifically outlined in section A of the recommendation, namely: a) all the proposals and suggestions formulated by GREVIO throughout the report which require immediate action – these are qualified by the use of the verb “urge”, and b) the proposals and suggestions related to Chapters I and II of the convention which require taking remedial action in the near future and are qualified by the use of the expression “strongly encourage”. According to the agreed procedure, state parties are given a period of three years to implement the recommendations of the Committee of the Parties and report back to the Committee. To facilitate this reporting, member states are requested to use this questionnaire to report on the implementation of recommendations issued by the Committee of the Parties. Recommendations not issued in relation to Bosnia and Herzegovina do not need to be reported on. As a result, the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina are not required to answer question 20 in the reporting form. The reporting deadline given to Bosnia and Herzegovina was set at 4 December 2025.

Bearing in mind the constitutional and administrative structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the competences of various administrative units, GREVIO analysed the legal and institutional framework of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the baseline evaluation report. In this regard, recommendations have been defined that refer to the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina or to one or more administrative units. Consequently, the report on the implementation of the recommendations contains relevant information collected from all the mentioned administrative units, and the format is adapted to the fact that a larger number of institutions are responsible for the implementation of one measure/recommendation.

I. Fundamental rights, equality, and non-discrimination (Article 4)			
1	Have your authorities taken measures to ensure that the provisions of the Istanbul Convention are implemented without discrimination on any grounds listed in Article 4, paragraph 3, of the convention, including in terms of the availability of services and the protection by law enforcement agencies?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
1.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>A new Law on Protection from Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been adopted in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", No. 19/25), in which Article 5 prescribes the general principles of providing protection from violence, according to which protection from violence regulated by this Law and other laws and regulations shall be applied in accordance with international treaties and standards accepted by Bosnia and Herzegovina regulating protection from violence, and shall be applied in all cases in order to ensure the most effective protection of the rights of victims of violence without discrimination on any grounds, such as sex, gender, race, language, religious belief, political or other opinion or affiliation, national or social origin, membership of a national minority, property, birth, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, health status, disability, marital status, migrant or refugee status, or any</p>		

other status. The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Decision on the policy of zero tolerance towards acts of sexual harassment and gender-based harassment in federal administrative bodies, organizations, services and other bodies founded by the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number: 101/22). Based on point VI of the Decision on the policy of zero tolerance towards acts of sexual harassment and gender-based harassment in federal administrative bodies, federal administrative organizations, services and other bodies founded by the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, all employees of federal administrative bodies are obliged to sign a Statement confirming that they have been informed of the contents of this Decision.

Article 36 of the Constitution of Republika Srpska guarantees that the family, mother and child have special protection. In addition to the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Law on Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the Republika Srpska full equality of citizens is ensured through laws and by-laws, regardless of any personal characteristics, which ensures the full application of the Istanbul Convention. Some of the most relevant new regulations in terms of applying the Istanbul Convention are:

- Law on the Special Register of Persons Convicted of Criminal Offenses of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", No. 28/23)
- Law on Police and Internal Affairs ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", no. 57/16, 110/16, 58/19, 82/19, 18/22 - Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republika Srpska, 55/23 and 48/24)
- Law on protection and treatment of children and minors in criminal proceedings ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", no. 13/10, 61/13 and 68/20).
- Family Law ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", no. 17/23, 27/24, 59/24 - Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republika Srpska, 20/25 - Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republika Srpska and 61/25)
- Labor Law ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", no. 1/16, 66/18, 91/21 - Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republika Srpska, 119/21, 112/23 and 39/24)
- The Law on Higher Education of the Republika Srpska ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska" no. 67/2020 and 107/2024)
- Law on Secondary Education ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", no. 41/18, 35/20, 92/20 and 55/23)
- Law on Basic Education ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", No. 81/22)
- Preschool Law education ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", no. 79/15, 63/20 and 64/22)
- Law on health care ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", number 57/22 and 62/25)
- Law on Compulsory Health Insurance ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", no. 93/22 and 132/22)
- Law on Social Protection ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", no. 37/12, 90/16, 94/19, 42/20 and 36/22)
- Law on Local Self-Government ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", no. 97/16, 36/19 and 61/21)
- Law on Protection from Harassment at Work ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", No. 90/2)
- Rulebook on the content of records and reports on domestic violence ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", no. 58/21)
- Rulebook on procedure and the method of conducting risk assessment ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", number 12/20)
- General protocol on handling cases of domestic violence in the Republika Srpska ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", number: 14/22)
- Protocol for the protection of children from violence, neglect and abuse ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", number: 38/24, 47/24, 30/25 - Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republika Srpska and 43/25). Law on Protection from Domestic Violence ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska" no. 102/12, 108/13, 82/15 and 84/19)
- Criminal Code of the Republic of Srpska ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska", no. 64/17, 104/18 - Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Srpska, 15/21, 89/21, 73/23, 105/24 - Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Srpska, 19/25 and 31/25). In addition to legal and by-laws, numerous public policy documents that directly contribute to the application of the Convention also ensure equal treatment regardless

	<p>of personal characteristics. The regulations of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republika Srpska prohibit all types of violence, abuse and neglect, as well as all activities that threaten, discriminate or single out students, or groups of students, on any basis, which is in accordance with current laws and international conventions. The Law on Preschool Education and the Law on Secondary Education of the Republika Srpska stipulate that all types of violence are prohibited in education and training. abuse and neglect, as well as all activities that threaten, discriminate or single out students, or groups of students, on any basis, in accordance with applicable laws and international conventions. In 2024, the Government of the Republika Srpska adopted the Action Plan of the Government of the Republika Srpska for Combating Human Trafficking 2024-2027, which contains measures for which the competent institutions of the Republika Srpska are responsible, and which will contribute to the improvement of the system of support, prevention, and prosecution for criminal offenses of human trafficking, confiscation of the proceeds of crime, protection of victims and witnesses of victims of human trafficking, and improving cooperation at the domestic and international level. A referral coordination mechanism was established to coordinate activities and implement measures from the Action Plan of the Government of the Republika Srpska. These activities were implemented with the support of the program "EU support for the fight against migrant smuggling and human trafficking in the Western Balkans - EU4FAST". Action plan of the Government of the Republika Srpska for combating human trafficking 2024-2027. In 2018 define measures in the area of the Istanbul Convention are foreseen through the following activities: Create assistance programs for girls who are victims of forced marriages in accordance with their needs and conduct training for all actors to identify children who are potential victims of all forms of human trafficking, especially for the purpose of forced begging, forced commission of criminal acts and early or forced marriage. The Rulebook on the Procedure and Way of Conducting Risk Assessment in the Republika Srpska stipulates that a police officer who performs risk assessment must attend and successfully complete specialist training for working on cases of domestic violence and providing protection to victims of violence (obligation to have a certificate of completed training). The aforementioned Ordinance stipulates that the Directorate for Police Education is responsible for organizing and conducting specialist training for police officers in this area, and a Curriculum and Program for specialist training entitled "Specialist Training for Working on Domestic Violence Cases" was developed and adopted.</p>		
1.2	<p>[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:</p> <p>By decision of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina number: 02-000006/25 dated January 9, 2025, a working group was appointed to draft the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence and Violence against Women of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which will also cover the protection of marginalized categories (Roma women, women with disabilities, migrant women).</p>		
2	<p>Have your authorities taken measures contributing to prevent and combat violence against women who are or might be exposed to intersectional discrimination?</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
2.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>Article 15 of the Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 19/25) prescribes the rights of victims of violence, which, among other things, enumerate the right to be accompanied by a personal assistant if the victim of violence is a person with a disability who uses the services of a personal assistant. Article 16 of this Law stipulates the obligation of protection entities to inform the victim, in a language they understand and in a manner accessible to them, about all the rights and protection measures and services they have in accordance with this law and other regulations, as well as about institutions, bodies and legal entities that provide specialized support services from Article 14 of this law. Article 19 of this law stipulates the duty of protection entities to ensure the immediate resolution of cases of violence, taking into account that the interest and well-being of the victim are a priority in these proceedings, especially if the victim is a child, a person over 65 years old, a person with a disability and a person under guardianship. Article 21 of this law stipulates the obligation of the competent police authority to carry out a risk assessment for all victims of violence</p>		

in relation to each report of violence in cooperation with protection entities, especially the risk of mortality, the seriousness of the situation and the risk of repetition of violence with the aim of risk management and coordinated provision of protection and support for victims of violence. From the aspect of vulnerable groups, the risk assessment, among other things, considers information on whether the victim of violence is particularly at risk due to pregnancy, disability and old age. Article 77 prescribes the obligation to keep records and report to competent institutions, according to which the records should contain data on the sex, age and disability of the victim and the abuser, the type of violence and the relationship between the abuser and the victim. During the preparation of the new Strategy for the prevention and fight against domestic violence 2024-2027, in addition to representatives of institutions, representatives of organizations working in the field of violence against women and domestic violence, as well as Roma organizations and associations of persons with disabilities were included in the work of the working bodies. Also, in the process of creating the Strategy, the principles of equal access, territorial balance and the inclusion of various vulnerable groups were used. In the Decision on the appointment of the Partner Group in the process of developing the Strategy, number: 01-45-1-330-23/21, representatives of Roma organizations, as well as organizations that work to improve the rights of persons with disabilities were appointed, among others. This obligation, including the principle of the open method of coordination, is also defined in Article 3, paragraph k) of the Law on development planning and development management in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 32/17). Also, the programs for the education of professionals in different sectors in this field include topics dedicated to the treatment of different vulnerable groups. The Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs adopted the Rulebook on the procedure and method of conducting risk assessment for victims of domestic violence and violence against women and the Rulebook on the method of implementing protective measures for perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women under the jurisdiction of the police authorities ("Official Gazette of the Federation of BiH", number 86/25 of 7 November 2025). Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 contain measures taken by police authorities so that victims of violence are not exposed to intersectional discrimination. The Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of FBiH", number 58/25) prescribes a number of criminal offenses which, in their qualified forms, prescribe heavier punishment if they are committed against a person who is in a relationship of subordination or dependence to the perpetrator or who is particularly vulnerable due to age, illness, disability, pregnancy, serious physical or mental impairment: Article 170 (Participation in suicide), Article 171 (Unlawful termination of pregnancy), Article 172 (Serious bodily injury), Article 173 (Slight bodily injury), Article 173a. (Female genital mutilation), Article 173b. (Forced sterilization), Article 179a. (Stalking), Article 181b. (Psychological violence), Article 203. (Rape), Article 203a. (Sexual harassment), Article 208 (Lewd acts), Article 210c. (Sexual intercourse with a child under 15 years of age), Article 210d. (Sexual abuse of a child over 15 years of age), Article 210g. (Inducing a child into prostitution), Article 210h. (Exploitation of a child for pornography), Article 210i. (Exploitation of a child for pornographic performances), Article 215a. (Forced marriage) and Article 222. (Domestic violence). Article 13 of the Law stipulates that when determining the punishment for criminal offenses against life and body, human trafficking and organized human trafficking, criminal offenses against sexual freedom and morality, criminal offenses of sexual abuse and exploitation of a child and criminal offenses against marriage, family and youth, culture, customs, religion, tradition and so-called honour cannot be taken as mitigating circumstances. Also, at the Police Academy of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, by amending the Curriculum, the course "Domestic violence, juvenile delinquency and gender-based violence" was introduced, which is attended by participants of basic police training for the rank of "policeman" and participants of basic police training for the rank of "junior inspector" of the cantonal ministries of the interior from all 10 cantons in FBiH. In the period 2024/2025 1,734 participants attended classes about domestic violence, juvenile delinquency and gender-based violence for participants of basic police training for the rank of "policeman", of which 1,475 were male and 259 were female. In the period 2024-2025 108 students attended classes on Domestic violence, juvenile delinquency and gender-based violence for students of basic police training for the rank of "junior inspector", of which 90 were male and 18 were female. In addition to basic police training, the Police Academy of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs organizes specialist training for police officers from all police agencies in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which aim to improve existing knowledge. Thus, in the period 2024-2025, 640 participants attended the specialist training on the topic "Crimes committed out of hatred and freedom of assembly", of which 529 were male and 111 female. The specialist training on the topic

"Training on the combating domestic violence and violence against women" was attended by 4 participants, namely 1 male and 3 female. Individual cantonal ministries of internal affairs organize internal professional training programs, which is detailed in chapter VII. Emergency response, prevention and protection (Article 50).

In the Republika Srpska, when drafting laws and by-laws, as well as public policy documents, the views and needs of multiple marginalized groups are integrated in the following ways: direct participation in working groups for the drafting of acts, participation in public debates, conducting analyses and submitting proposals and initiatives. In accordance with strategic objective 5. "Protection against domestic violence in emergency/crisis situations" of the Strategy for Suppression of Domestic Violence for the period 2020-2024, the experience gained during the pandemic period indicated special forms of support and responses to the needs of victims of domestic violence during emergency/crisis situations. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection sent social welfare centres and social protection services Recommendations for actions aimed at preserving the health of the population and protecting vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities and victims of violence, abuse or neglect) during the COVID 19 pandemic. In the said recommendations, centres for social work/social protection services are directed to contact families in which there is a possibility of an increased risk of violence, abuse or neglect and, if necessary, to conduct a field visit to the family. The mentioned recommendations also include the organization of consultative meetings of relevant experts in the local community who were involved in working with the family until then, in coordination with the municipal headquarters for emergency situations. It was recommended that, during the visit, the vulnerable person be provided with information about potential risks in an understandable and adapted manner, that the help line that the person could contact be indicated and that appropriate actions be taken in accordance with the legal possibilities in order to protect them. Centres for social work/social protection services submitted reports on the implementation of the aforementioned recommendations to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection. In 2020, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection issued "Instructions for organizing activities to preserve sexual and reproductive health, prevent gender-based violence and respond to it in emergency situations in local communities in the Republika Srpska". During 2022, Action Plans for the protection of sexual and reproductive health and the prevention and response to gender-based violence in emergency situations were adopted for the area of the City of Banjaluka, the City of Prijedor, the City of Bijeljina, the City of Trebinje and the Municipality of Srebrenica. During the period of emergency, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports was in constant contact with legal entities that, in accordance with the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, implement a special measure of support for victims of domestic violence - safe houses. The safe houses organized and adapted their work to the new situation, applying measures to prevent the spread of the corona virus and diseases caused by this virus, which were issued by the Republic Headquarters for Emergency Situations. During the reporting period, the Centre for the Education of Judges and Public Prosecutors in the Republika Srpska continuously conducted training for judges and prosecutors in the field of application of the Istanbul Convention. Representatives of police agencies were also present at most of the trainings. A special part of the Centre's Program is dedicated to the aforementioned area. All seminars are available in the Centre's official Programs and the Centre's annual reports, which have been confirmed by the Board of Directors and approved by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thus, trainings were held on the following topics: "Members of vulnerable groups as witnesses in criminal proceedings", which discussed the application of communication techniques in the examination of witnesses - persons with reduced intellectual abilities, persons with autism spectrum disorder, reduced physical capabilities, persons from the LGBTIQ+ population and victims of violence. Other trainings are "Protection from domestic violence according to the criminal legislation of the Republika Srpska", "Criminal responsibility and sanctioning of perpetrators of domestic violence", "Psychological violence, forms, consequences and prosecution", "The rights of victims of domestic violence in the context of the standards prescribed by the Istanbul Convention", "Divorce and domestic violence", "The state's obligation to protect victims of violence", "Gender (in)equality: stereotypes and prejudices", "The concept of domestic violence and gender-based violence, forms and dynamics", "Violence in the family and violence against women", "Discrimination in judicial practice: Challenges of determining discrimination and the application of special procedures of rules", "Human rights of LGBTI persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina and legal mechanisms of their protection - experiences from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region", "Procedure in cases of femicide", Prevention of revictimization, the importance of the reaction of the

	<p>criminal justice system to all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention", training of trainers in the field of sexual violence, "Violence in the family and violence against women - multisectoral approach of protection entities", "Criminal responsibility and sanctioning perpetrators of domestic violence", "Improving the judicial approach in the prosecution of criminal acts of domestic violence and violence against women through different approaches to victim testimony", "Improving the actions of police inspectors and prosecutors in the investigation and prosecution of cases of sexual violence in the Republika Srpska", "Measuring sentences in cases of domestic violence and crimes against sexual integrity and violence against women as a cause and consequence of unequal power distribution between the sexes", "Recognition and prosecution of digital violence against women", "Implementation of the Istanbul Convention in practice", "Multisectoral approach to combating violence". Also, the subject "Specific aspects of access to justice from the point of view of members of vulnerable groups (children, persons with disabilities, Roma, LGBTI persons, marginalized categories of women)" was included in the mandatory training of newly appointed holders of judicial functions. Likewise, at the traditional consultations of judges and prosecutors, a special panel is dedicated to considering the judicial response in cases of violence against women and children in the practice of justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Centre for Equity and Equality of the Republika Srpska financially supported two projects of non-governmental organizations aimed at empowering multiple marginalized women, namely: "Prevention and suppression of gender-based violence against women with disabilities", the organization "UDAS" and "Roma woman - the right and chance for equality", the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights. The Law on Basic Education of the Republika Srpska defines that for pupils belonging to national minorities who do not use the official languages of the constituent nations, the school is obliged, with the prior consent of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republika Srpska, to hire a person with the necessary language competence to support the members of the national minority. The Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republika Srpska implemented projects for the purpose of sensitizing the public when it comes to sensitive categories of the population, specifically children, members of the Roma population: "Yes, that's me" - the project points out the importance of early learning and the inclusion of Roma children in preschool institutions and primary schools and the production of the guidebook "(I) stand and I", intended for educational workers in preschool institutions and primary schools, parents and children with the aim of introducing them to the traditions, culture and customs of the Roma. During the reporting period, professional training of educational workers was carried out on the topics of inclusion, social justice, cultural diversity, and violence prevention.</p>
2.2	<p>[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:</p> <p>By the Decision on the appointment of a working group for drafting the Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina number: 02-000006/25 of 9 January 2025, a working group was appointed for the drafting of the Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which will also cover the protection of marginalized categories (Roma women, women with disabilities and migrant women).</p>
3	<p>In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 4, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:</p> <p>The House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at its 13th session on November 20, 2023, adopted the Resolution on the prevention of all forms of violence against women and harassment of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina number 01-02-2-1831-2/23, which asks the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other competent bodies, in accordance with their competences, to approach the creation of documents related to the definition of a comprehensive framework of policies and measures for the protection and assistance of all victims of violence against women, harassment of women and domestic violence in such a way as to fully implement the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Also, the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina requests the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other competent authorities to launch a campaign to strengthen awareness of the prevention of violence against women and harassment of women, as well as the prevention of</p>

domestic violence, as well as the establishment of effective cooperation with appropriate non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations active in the fight against violence against women and harassment of women. At the same session and on the occasion of the report of the GREVIO committee for Bosnia and Herzegovina on the legislative and other measures taken to implement the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and the Recommendation of the Committee of Parties to the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe, the House of Representatives adopted conclusions in which it takes note of the aforementioned report, calls on the parliaments of the entities, the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the canton to consider the Report in question and, in accordance with the recommendations, take the required legislative measures, calls on the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and all other bodies of executive power in Bosnia and Herzegovina to, in accordance with their competences, initiate legislative initiatives and take other measures with the aim of fulfilling the recommendations of the GREVIO Report and the Committee of Parties to the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe, and that the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the relevant institutions at the entity, cantonal and Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina levels develop a plan of action for the implementation of the recommendations of the GREVIO Committee and the Committee of Parties of the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe, monitor implementation and regularly report Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Gender Equality Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees translated the GREVIO report into the official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina and distributed it to all executive and legislative bodies as well as the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In accordance with the conclusions of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the competences defined by the Law on Ministries and Other Administrative Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Law on Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees has initiated activities to develop a Plan of action for the implementation of GREVIO recommendations. Based on the GREVIO report, a proposal for the format of the Plan of actions for the implementation of GREVIO recommendations was made and submitted to all competent institutions for the purpose of coordination, information exchange, monitoring and reporting on the implemented measures. The Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees held a series of consultative meetings with relevant institutions, and technical and professional support was provided in the implementation of the Plan of activities.

The Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted an analysis of the regulations in the field of labour and social policy from the aspect of compliance with the Istanbul Convention and, following the recommendations from the aforementioned analysis, harmonized the regulations (Law on Social Services, etc.). A draft Law on Social Services has been prepared with the aim of harmonizing and developing social services with the aim of reducing social exclusion. Public consultations are currently being conducted. The Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy created the Strategy for the Development of the Social and Child Protection System in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2024-2030 with the aim of improving the social and child protection system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, reducing poverty and alleviating the consequences of poverty, improving the inclusion of marginalized groups and strengthening institutional mechanisms and capacities in the social protection system. In accordance with the provisions of the new Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy is currently carrying out activities on the drafting and adoption of by-laws under its jurisdiction, which will define: the implementation of the protective measure of mandatory psychosocial treatment of the perpetrator of violence; minimum standards for the operation of safe houses; register of safe houses; functioning and operation of the SOS telephone for victims of violence and records kept by safe houses. Adopting these acts will ensure the full application of the Law and improve the system of protection for victims of violence in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially in the area of social protection. The draft by-law regulations defined by the Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women were adopted. In this regard, the Draft Rulebook on risk assessment, among other things, assesses whether a victim of

	<p>violence is particularly at risk due to pregnancy, disability and old age. The Federal Ministry of the Interior issued a Rulebook on the procedure and method of conducting risk assessment for victims of domestic violence and violence against women, and in Article 2 and Article 10. contains measures that contribute to the implementation of the GREVIO recommendations, ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 86/25 of November 7, 2025). Strategy for improving the rights and position of persons with disabilities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2025-2030, accepted by the Government of the Federation of Bosnia at the 51st session, held on March 27, 2025) to the extent of 1.1.2. "Improve the knowledge and understanding of all actors in the system and community about the rights and accessibility of persons with disabilities" recognizes that persons with disabilities suffer multiple discrimination due to disability and other characteristics such as, among others, gender. In this regard, the need to improve the awareness of professionals, persons with disabilities and the public about the rights and equal opportunities of persons with disabilities, in order to recognize and respond adequately to discrimination, violence and abuse, which can be achieved by conducting educational and informative, gender-sensitive and inclusive campaigns, training and other content in formats that are accessible to persons with disabilities, has been recognized.</p> <p>In order to monitor the implementation of the Protocol for the Protection of Children from Violence, Neglect and Abuse, the Republican Pedagogical Institute of the Republika Srpska has, since the beginning of the 2024/2025 school year carried out monitoring in schools with the aim of insight into the application of the Protocol and Form. The goal was to gather facts to determine whether teachers and professional associates in schools are adequately familiar with the content of the Protocol, its significance and the obligations of the school (principals, teachers, professional associates) in cases of violence, neglect and abuse. In addition to the above, issues related to the application of the Form and possible remarks or suggestions for its improvement were emphasized. The team for monitoring the implementation of the Protocol for the Protection of Children from Violence, Neglect and Abuse had the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The layout of the two Form for reporting on violence by the competent ministries was agreed, namely: Form for reporting on peer violence and Form for reporting on violence by adults against children, and they were delivered to all members of the Team. • The proposal for initiative for the creation of a unique electronic application for recording cases of violence against children was agreed by the Team. <p>The members of the Team are also members of the Interdepartmental Team for strengthening security and preventing violence in primary and secondary schools and student dormitories in the Republika Srpska. During the reporting period, the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republika Srpska held workshops/lectures with parents in 154 elementary schools and 58 secondary schools with the aim of preventing violence. Also, during the reporting period, numerous campaigns were implemented in schools, such as the creation of educational panels for the recognition/identification of violence. The Law on the Protection of Victims of War Torture of the Republika Srpska is based on Articles 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Istanbul Convention. For the first time, the law regulated the conditions and procedure for recognizing the status and rights of victims of war torture, as well as the rights based on the established status, namely: the right to a monthly income, the right to health insurance, the right to be exempt from the costs of personal participation in the use of health care, the right to health resort rehabilitation, incentives for employment and self-employment and right to free legal aid for those who survived wartime torture as minors and suffered physical damage of at least 20%.</p>		
II. Comprehensive and co-ordinated policies implemented under the responsibility of an adequately mandated and resourced co-ordinating body (Articles 7 and 10)			
4	<p>Have your authorities developed a long-term plan/strategy to prevent and combat violence against women?</p> <p>The Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees coordinated the preparation of the Plan of measures for the implementation of GREVIO recommendations and monitored its</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>N/A (a plan/strategy)</p>

	<p>implementation by the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, entities and institutions of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also, the Gender Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2023-2027 was adopted, in which the first priority area in Strategic Goal 1 is the prevention of violence against women and domestic violence.</p> <p>At the end of October 2020, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Strategy for the Advancement of Gender Equality in the Judiciary of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The strategy sets four strategic goals aimed at improving gender equality in the judiciary of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Based on the Strategy, all judicial institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted their own action plans, which are applied from the end of 2022. Monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy is carried out by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p>Strategy for prevention and fight against domestic violence 2024-2027 in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 100/23) is directly linked to the Istanbul Convention in its priorities. At its 45th session held on December 30, 2024, the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted a Decision on the formation of a Coordination Body to monitor the implementation of the Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence 2024-2027, which ensured continuity of progress and implementation.</p> <p>In the Republika Srpska, the fourth Strategy for Suppression of Domestic Violence in the Republika Srpska for the period 2026-2032 is currently being developed. Also, the Action Plan for implementing the recommendations of the GREVIO Committee in the Republika Srpska for the period 2024-2025 is being implemented. Other strategic documents that contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Convention are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategy for improving sexual and reproductive health in the Republika Srpska (2019 - 2029) - Strategy for the prevention and suppression of domestic violence in the Republika Srpska (2020-2024) - Social protection strategy of the Republika Srpska (2023-2029) - Employment strategy in the Republika Srpska (2021 - 2027) - Strategy for improving the social position of persons with disabilities in the Republika Srpska (2017-2026) - Strategy for the development of mental health in the Republika Srpska (2020–2030) - Strategy for improving the position of the elderly in the Republika Srpska (2019-2028) - Strategy for the development of preschool, primary and secondary education in the Republika Srpska (2022-2030) - Strategy to fight against cybercrime in Republika Srpska (2025 to 2031) - Strategy for the development of women's entrepreneurship in the Republika Srpska (2025-2031) - Action plan for the actions of protection subjects in cases of gender-based violence in conditions of a pandemic/state of emergency in the Republika Srpska - Youth policy of the Republika Srpska (2023-2027) - Action plan of the Government of the Republika Srpska for combating human trafficking (2024–2027) - Annual operational plans for gender equality in the Republika Srpska. 		<p>was already developed at the time of GREVIO's baseline evaluation)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
4.1	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		

	Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina will, after adopting the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, through program measures, adopt a strategy/plan for the prevention and fight against violence against women		
5	<p>Which forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention are addressed by the plan/strategy? Please offer a brief description specifically indicating the forms of violence not previously addressed in plans or strategies at national level.</p> <p>Strategy for prevention and fight against domestic violence 2024-2027 in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 100/23) is directly linked to the Istanbul Convention. The new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 19/25), as well as the Amendments to the Criminal Code in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 58/25) made it possible for the new strategic documents to include forms of violence against women from the Istanbul Convention that are not recognized in the previous strategic documents. Also, the Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina criminalized parts that were not previously covered: Article 173a. (Female genital mutilation), Article 173b. (Forced sterilization), Article 179a. (Stalking), Article 181b. (Psychological violence), Article 203. (Rape), Article 203a. (Sexual harassment), Article 215a. (Forced marriage), 166. (Murder, paragraph 2, point f and g) and 166a. (aggravated murder of a female person). Article 76 of the new Law prescribes the formation of a Commission for monitoring the application of the Law.</p> <p>According to the legislation of the Republika Srpska, in addition to former and current spouses or common-law partners, and other family members, domestic violence also exists when it occurs between persons who have a child together or a child was conceived even though they never lived in the same household, and among persons who were or still are in an emotional or intimate relationship with each other, regardless of whether the perpetrator shared or shares a household with the victim. Further, considering the large spectrum of acts of domestic violence, which extends from physical, psychological, sexual to economic, where even threats to commit acts constitute an act of domestic violence, it can be said that the following forms from the Convention are covered by strategic documents in the Republika Srpska: domestic violence, sexual violence, forced abortion, forced sterilization, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, psychological violence, stalking, sexual harassment, human trafficking and violence through digital technologies. All criminal acts in Republika Srpska exist regardless of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator. Likewise, in the Republika Srpska there are no criminal acts that can be justified by customary law or the so-called honour.</p>		
6	Was specific attention given to place the rights of women victims at the centre of all measures planned?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
6.1	<p>If yes, please specify how:</p> <p>The Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 19/25) in articles 72 and 75 obliges all levels of government to adopt policies/programs of measures/strategies that focus on the prevention, protection and fight against domestic violence and violence against women. Articles 2, 3, 5, 10, 11 and 15 of the Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina focus on the protection of victims of violence in accordance with international agreements and conventions and European regulations. The concept of victim of violence is regulated by Article 11 with clear definitions of victim of violence against women and connection with Articles 8 and 9 in terms of acts of violence. Violence against women is a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women. It also represents all acts of gender-based violence that led to, or may lead to, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering for women, including threats of such acts, coercion or illegal deprivation of liberty either in public or in private life. Gender refers to the socially determined roles, behaviours, activities and attributes that a given society deems appropriate for women and men. Gender-based violence against women means violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman, that is, that which disproportionately affects women. Terms are aligned with the Istanbul Convention through the</p>		

	<p>Law. The law, in articles 15, 16, 17 and 18, also for the first time introduces the provision of the rights of victims of violence in accordance with international standards. Furthermore, the Law is entirely focused on ensuring the protection of the victim through protective measures, as well as a special chapter "victim care". The duties and tasks of the competent authorities are defined in such a way that the rights of victims are in focus. By Article 75 of the Law, the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopts the Framework Protocol on handling cases of violence, which defines the obligations of competent authorities in the process of preventive action, handling and protection in cases of violence and defines the work of protection entities, thereby ensuring a uniform approach to handling focused on victims of violence.</p> <p>Women's rights, protection, assistance and support of victims are at the centre of planned measures and activities proposed through strategic documents in Republika Srpska. All measures are taken based on collected data and analysis. In criminal proceedings related to violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and peer violence, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republika Srpska applies the provisions of the Law on the Protection and Treatment of Children and Minors in Criminal Proceedings when questioning child witnesses. In accordance with the provisions of the Law, the examination is carried out with audio and video recording in specially equipped premises of the Ministry, in order to prevent the re-examination of the child and thus additional victimization and trauma. During 2022, the Director of Police drafted an instructional dispatch with the aim of efficiency, timely and uniform handling of all organizational units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republika Srpska, which additionally specified handling of cases of domestic violence. The Rulebook on the procedure and manner of conducting risk assessment ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska" No. 126/20) and the Rulebook on the manner of implementing emergency and protective measures under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs" (Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska" No. 73/14) are in force. The focus of both Regulations is the protection of victims from new violence. In accordance with the amendments to the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence of the Republika Srpska from 2019, the protection of victims has been raised to a higher level, and every act of domestic violence is defined as a criminal offense.</p>		
6.2	<p>[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:</p> <p>Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, after the adoption of the draft Law on Protection from Domestic Violence and Violence against Women of Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, will adopt a strategy/plan for the prevention and fight against violence against women through program measures.</p>		
7	Do the plan/strategy and the measures contained therein involve all relevant actors, such as government agencies, the national, regional and local parliaments and authorities, national human rights institutions and civil society organisations?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
7.1	<p>Please specify the actors involved:</p> <p>The House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, by Resolution, request the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other competent authorities to establish effective cooperation with non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations active in the fight against violence against women and harassment of women.</p> <p>By applying the open method of coordination and respecting the principle of horizontal and vertical coordination, working bodies were formed in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate in the creation of the Strategy, which ensured the involvement of interested parties in all stages of the Strategy creation process. The Executive Team for the development of the Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence (GC of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Decision No. 01-04-1-181-12/21) was formed, composed of representatives of competent institutions, with the aim of operational coordination of the development of technical elements, ensuring the quality of the process and results in all</p>		

	<p>stages of the development of the Strategy (seven members). A Thematic Group for the preparation of the Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence (GC of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Decision No. 01-45-1-329-9/21) was formed, composed of experts who practically work on prevention, protection and action in cases of domestic violence (11 members). Also, a Partnership Group for consultations in the process of developing the Strategy was formed (GC of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Decision number: 01-45-1-330-23/21) composed of representatives of cantonal governments, competent institutions, relevant non-governmental organizations and other interested parties (25 members). Also, the Law on Development Planning and Development Management and the Regulation on the Rules of the Interested Public in the process of preparing federal regulations and other acts ensure the involvement of all interested actors in the process of adopting coordinated policies. In accordance with the aforementioned law, the Strategy is adopted by the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which also consider the annual reports on the implementation of the Strategy. This is also defined in Article 75 of the Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to which the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopts a decision on the creation of a Strategy for the prevention and fight against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which determines the responsible institution for the strategic document, participants in the process of creation and other elements in accordance with the current regulations on development planning and the creation of strategic documents in the Federation. In the same way, the adoption of strategic documents is legally defined, and is also carried out at lower levels of government organization (cantons and local self-government administrations). It is important to note that when adopting strategic documents, an evaluation report is submitted along with the strategy proposal, which, among other things, contains confirmation of the involvement of all the aforementioned actors.</p> <p>In accordance with the Law on strategic planning and management of development in the Republika Srpska, the approach to the creation of strategic and implementation documents is multisectoral and includes competent ministries, bodies and institutions of the Republika Srpska, as well as local self-government bodies, which ensures the inclusion of all interested parties. The policies are the result of broad consultations and various sectors participate in their implementation. The actors involved in the drafting and implementation of strategic documents related to the application of the Istanbul Convention in the Republika Srpska are all relevant ministries, the Centre for Equity and Equality, as well as other republican administration bodies and administrative organizations, local self-government units, local protection entities, judicial institutions, universities and safe houses managed by civil society organizations.</p>		
7.2	<p>[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:</p> <p>Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina will adopt a strategy/plan for the prevention and fight against violence against women after the adoption of the draft Law on Protection from Domestic Violence and Violence against Women of Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p>		
8	<p>Have the authorities assigned the role of co-ordinating body to one or more fully institutionalised entities?</p> <p>The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at its 176th session on August 5, 2019, adopted a Decision on the Establishment of the Committee for Monitoring the Implementation and Reporting on the Istanbul Convention and Femicide in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Committee is composed of representatives of seven institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, representatives of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Government of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Safe Network - Network of non-governmental organizations.</p> <p>The Law on Protection from Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Article 75, paragraph (2), stipulates that in order to ensure coordinated and multi-sectoral work,</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>N/A (a co-ordinating body was already established at the time of GREVIO's baseline)</p>

	<p>planning and reporting on the implementation of the strategic framework, the Government of the Federation at the level of the Federation, cantonal governments and local self-government units at the level of cantons, cities and municipalities, shall form coordination bodies in which they appoint a key coordinating institution and representatives of competent institutions in the fields of justice, police, health, social protection, education, employment, etc. at the level of government for which the coordination body is formed. The coordination bodies are formed in accordance with the constitutional organization of the authorities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina formed the Coordination Body for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence 2024-2027 (number 2079/2024 dated 30.12.2024 from the 45th session of the FBiH Government) which ensured the continuity of monitored progress and implementation. In addition to the above, the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted a Decision on the appointment of the Coordination Team for monitoring the implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Parties of the Istanbul Convention (No. 1719/2023 of 30.11.2023 from the 21st session of the Government of FBiH). Article 76 of the new Law prescribes the formation of a Commission for monitoring the application of the Law.</p> <p>In 2016, the Centre for Equity and Equality of the Republika Srpska was appointed by the Government of the Republika Srpska as a coordinating body in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Republika Srpska and reports on this to the Government of the Republika Srpska.</p> <p>A coordination team was appointed to monitor the implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Parties of the Istanbul Convention in the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina</p>		<p>evaluation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
8.1	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
9	<p>Please specify the mandate, powers, and competences, as well as the composition, of the co-ordinating body/bodies:</p> <p>The committee for monitoring the implementation and reporting on the Istanbul Convention and femicide in Bosnia and Herzegovina has the task of assessing the state of implementation of the Istanbul Convention and making recommendations for more efficient implementation of the same, analyzing data on cases of murder of women from a gender perspective (femicide) and making recommendations for further action in order to prevent femicide, and in accordance with the Recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and to cooperate with the bodies that have already been established to monitor the implementation of the Istanbul Convention with the aim of preparing a Report on legislative and other measures that Bosnia and Herzegovina will submit to the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO).</p> <p>In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to Article 75, paragraph (4), coordinating bodies have the task of drafting and monitoring the implementation of public policies, organization of periodic meetings, coordination, planning and implementation of activities, and annual reporting to the executive and legislative authorities at the level for which the coordinating body was formed, and reporting to the Gender Center of the Federation. The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina formed a Coordination Body to monitor the implementation of the Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence 2024-2027. (See Number: 2079/2024 dated 30.12.2024 from the 45th session of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina) which ensured the continuity of monitored progress and implementation. In addition to the above, the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted a Decision on the appointment of the Coordination Team for monitoring the</p>		

	<p>implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Signatories of the Istanbul Convention (see Number: 1719/2023 of 30.11.2023 from the 21st session of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina). With regard to the administrative arrangement, coordination bodies at the cantonal and municipal level are prescribed and formed by law (Article 75 of the Law). Article 76 of the new Law prescribes the formation of a Commission for monitoring the application of the Law.</p> <p>The basic mandate of the Center for Gender Equality of the Republika Srpska is: To monitor the compliance of laws and other acts, policies, strategies, plans and programs adopted at the entity level with domestic and international standards for gender equality; gives opinions on the compliance of laws and other acts, policies, strategies, plans and programs adopted at the entity level with the provisions of this law and other domestic and international standards for gender equality and initiates initiatives for harmonization; monitors and analyzes the state of gender equality; prepares and compiles regular and special reports on the state of gender equality in certain areas, prepares and compiles information, opinions and recommendations that it submits to Governments and other competent authorities and bodies; receives and processes petitions, appeals and petitions of persons and groups of persons in which violations of rights from the Law on Gender Equality are indicated; cooperates with institutional mechanisms for gender equality; represents and coordinates activities, within its jurisdiction, at the regional level; cooperates with non-governmental organizations that deal with the protection of human rights and freedoms; provides professional and advisory support and assistance to all system institutions and other partners</p> <p>The following institutions are included in the Coordination Team for Monitoring the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Signatories of the Istanbul Convention in Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Department for European Integration and International Cooperation, Police of the BD of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Department of Health and Other Services, Department of Professional and Administrative Affairs, Judicial Commission and Department of Education. The task of the coordination team is to monitor the implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Signatories of the Istanbul Convention with the aim of undertaking the measures specified in the report of the GREVIO Committee for Bosnia and Herzegovina on legislative and other measures taken to implement the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), as well as the coordination of activities during the preparation of the report on the measures taken to improve the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.</p>		
9.1	In particular, please indicate whether the co-ordinating body/bodies is/are responsible for:		
	<p>- Co-ordination of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women</p> <p>According to Article 75 of the new Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 19/25) it is prescribed that Coordination bodies at all levels of government in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina have the task of drafting and monitoring the implementation of public policies, organization of periodic meetings, coordination, planning and implementation of activities and annual reporting to the executive and legislative authorities at the level for which the coordinating body was formed and reporting to the Gender Center of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Coordinating body for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy for Prevention and Combating Domestic Violence 2024-2027. formed by the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, prepares plans and reports on implementation. When it comes to cantonal governments, coordinating bodies were formed in all ten cantons, and programs of measures for the prevention and fight against domestic violence were adopted in eight of the ten cantons, which represent strategic documents at the cantonal level and are based on the Strategy for the</p>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The co-ordination body responsible is:	No <input type="checkbox"/>

<p>Prevention and Fight against Domestic Violence 2024-2027. and the Istanbul Convention, which ensured a comprehensive approach to the realization of assumed obligations at all levels of government organization.</p> <p>In the Republika Srpska, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports supervises the implementation of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence of the Republika Srpska and is in charge of drafting the Strategy for Combating Domestic Violence, as well as annual action plans.</p>		
<p>- Implementation of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women</p> <p>The implementation of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women is the direct responsibility of the relevant institutions and is part of their work programs. Coordinating bodies are a multidisciplinary mechanism for monitoring and coordinating these policies, and implementation is not in their direct competence, but according to the Law on protection against domestic violence and against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, they are appointed for coordination. Funds for the implementation of the Strategy are provided through the process of creating three-year and annual plans of institutions that should implement and/or participate in the implementation of the strategy on the one hand, as well as the process of creating the Framework Budget Document and the Budget of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the other hand.</p> <p>In 2022, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of the Republika Srpska adopted a new General Protocol on handling cases of domestic violence. The protocol was signed by the Minister of Family, Youth and Sports, the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Health and Social Protection, the Minister of Administration and Local Self-Government and the Minister of Education and Culture.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The co-ordination body responsible is:</p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>- Monitoring and evaluation of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women</p> <p>In accordance with Article 75 of the new Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 19/25), coordinating bodies have the task of monitoring and evaluating policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women. Through the adoption of strategic documents at all levels of government organization, the process of planning, realization and reporting is ensured, and the principle of evaluation itself is additionally legally defined by the Regulation on the evaluation of strategic documents ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", no. 74/19 and 2/21). According to the Regulation on the evaluation of strategic documents in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for all strategic documents in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the following are mandatory: Ex-ante (prior evaluation) which is done in the phase of creating strategic documents (also done for the current strategy), before their adoption and Evaluation in progress which is done in the penultimate year of implementation of strategic documents. Coordinating body for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy for Prevention and Combating Domestic Violence 2024-2027. prepares annual reports that are considered by the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also, coordinating bodies at lower levels of government prepare annual reports to the executive and legislative authorities for the level at which they were formed.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The co-ordination body responsible is:</p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>The Government of the Republika Srpska has established the Coordinating Committee of the Republika Srpska to monitor the implementation of the Gender Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2023-2027, which is made up of representatives of all ministries in the Republika Srpska.</p> <p>- Co-ordination of the collection of data, analysis and dissemination of its results</p> <p>Coordinating bodies in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina collect and process data for the purposes of reporting at the level of government at which they are appointed. Please note that the legal mechanism of data collection, analysis and presentation must be distinguished from this type of data collection, which is regulated by Article 77 of the new Law on Protection from Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 19/25). This article of the law defines the keeping of records by competent institutions, the submission of annual reports to the Gender Center of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the establishment of a database by the FMUP, as well as the submission of data to the Federal Bureau of Statistics and the Commission for Monitoring the Application of the Law.</p> <p>The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of the Republika Srpska has the authority to collect, process and record data on domestic violence from protection entities and other bodies authorized to act under the Law, which are obliged to keep records of actions taken in accordance with the Law and data on the number of initiated and completed procedures and other measures taken, and submit reports on this to the Ministry.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The co-ordination body responsible is:</p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
10	<p>Please specify the human and financial resources allocated to the co-ordinating body/bodies:</p> <p>Representatives of competent institutions and organizations have been appointed to the coordination teams of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Funds for the work of the coordination bodies are provided through the budgets of the institutions from which the representatives are appointed (Article III. Decision on the appointment of the Coordination Body for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy for the prevention and fight against domestic violence 2024-2027. V. number: 2079/2024 of 30.12.2024) in accordance with the Regulation on the method of establishing and determining the amount of compensation for the work of working bodies established by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the heads of federal of civil service bodies ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, no. 48/14, 77/14, 97/14, 58/15, 57/23 and 28/24). Funds allocated through the budgets of competent institutions for the implementation of obligations defined by strategic documents and the Law should be distinguished from the work of the coordinating body. It is evident from the framework budget document that all competent ministries have planned funds for the implementation of obligations defined by the Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in to the family 2024-2027. Implementation of the Strategy for the prevention and fight against domestic violence 2024-2027. it is carried out through three-year and annual work plans of administrative bodies at all levels of government in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The method of creating three-year and annual work plans is prescribed by the Decree on three-year and annual work planning, monitoring and reporting in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. When creating a three-year work plan, the administrative bodies have the obligation to take relevant measures from the Strategy, the implementation of which they are responsible for with the corresponding indicators, as well as the starting and target values of the indicators for each year of the three-year period. In the annual work plan, the administrative bodies of all levels of government take over the selected programs/measures from the three-year work plan. The annual work plan is an implementation document with activities/projects that will be undertaken on an annual basis, in order to realize the programs from the three-year work plan, and achieve the measures, priorities and strategic goals from the strategic document.</p>		

	The Center for Equality and Gender Equality of the Republika Srpska has a total of 15 employees with a planned annual budget BAM of BAM 714,200 for 2025.		
11	<p>In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Articles 7 and 10, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:</p> <p>The main purpose of the General Protocol in the Republika Srpska is to ensure the coordinated, efficient and comprehensive work of the signatories of the Protocol with the aim of immediate assistance, support and protection of victims of domestic violence, by suppressing and preventing the recurrence of violence. Also, the Law stipulates that in the area of each local self-government unit in the Republika Srpska, a local protocol on handling is concluded and a group for coordination and cooperation is formed from representatives of all institutions, bodies and organizations that provide protection, assistance and support to victims of domestic violence. To date, 32 local self-government units have adopted these protocols, and their application in the daily work of competent authorities is of key importance in developing the system of protection against domestic violence. Its application ensures not only adequate measures in the case of domestic violence, but also prevention through the development of professional competences, a better understanding of the phenomenon of domestic violence, the breaking of stereotypes and prejudices and the building of "zero tolerance" to domestic violence, but consequently to all other types of violence. In accordance with the protocols of the local self-government units, the coordination group holds regular meetings with the aim of joint action in the field of violence prevention, education about violence, but also in the part of intervention aimed at suppressing and preventing domestic violence, protecting victims of domestic violence and affirming their rights, both in relation to the problem of individual cases of violence, and for the purpose of evaluating what has been achieved and planning subsequent activities in solving the problem of domestic violence in general. The Minister of Education and Culture, the Minister of Health and Social Protection, the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Minister of Family, Youth and Sports of Republika Srpska signed the Protocol for the Protection of Children from Violence, Neglect and Abuse. ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", number: 38/24 and 47/24). The primary purpose of the Protocol is to improve social care and protection of children in the Republika Srpska, and to provide adequate and timely assistance in all situations when a child is exposed to some form of violence, neglect or abuse. The aforementioned Protocol clearly defines the obligations of educational institutions, workers, guardianship authorities, health institutions, the police, and their actions when informing the media and the public about children who are victims of violence, neglect or abuse.</p>		
III. Financial resources (Article 8)			
12	Have your authorities allocated specific funds at the		
	- national	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- and/or regional	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- and/or local	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	levels of government for activities to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention?		
12.1	If yes, what is the annual amount of these funds? If possible, please specify the percentage of the total national state budget that the amount represents.		

Since 2019, the budget of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina has provided and implemented funds in the amount of BAM 100,000.00 (about EUR 50,000.00) for the operating costs of 8 safe houses in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the amount of funds for this purpose represents about 0.01% of the Budget of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and refers to funds planned for the implementation of the Strategy and does not include funds tied to the implementation of laws in this area, i.e. the work of the police, judiciary and other protection entities. In the Budget of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2024, financial resources in the amount of BAM 906,000.00 have been allocated for the implementation of the Strategy from the Budget of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2025 and 2026, funds in the amount of BAM 1,080,000.00 each are planned, and in 2027, BAM 1,081,000.00 , i.e. for the period of implementation of the Strategy for the prevention and fight against domestic violence 2024-2027. a total of about BAM 4,147,000.00 of budget funds. Funds for the implementation of the Strategy will be provided through the processes of creating three-year and annual institutional plans of the institutions (Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Education and Science, Federal Ministry of Justice, Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports and the Gender Center of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina) that should implement and/or participate in the implementation of the strategy, on the one hand, as well as the process of creating the Framework Budget Document and the Budget of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the other hand. Also, cantons and local self-government units have separate budgets that are adopted through the competent bodies of the executive and legislative authorities and that include planning for the implementation of measures for the implementation of strategic documents. It is important to note that the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy annually provides financial resources for the protection and care of victims of domestic violence in safe houses, through co-financing of accommodation costs for victims of domestic violence referred to safe houses. Funds are allocated through the Current Transfer to Non-Profit Organizations - Implementation of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence based on the Public Call for the distribution of funds for associations/foundations that provide temporary accommodation to victims of domestic violence, and in 2024 and 2025, the budget was allocated financial resources in the amount of BAM 1,000,000.00 . Significantly more funds were allocated both in 2024 and in 2025 compared to the projections defined by the Strategy. It is important to note that the sustainability of the operation and financing of safe houses is ensured by the new Law on protection against violence in the family and against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the special chapter "Victim Care". Also, through the Public call for funding of projects and programs from part of the revenues generated in the Budget of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, through a transfer based on games of chance, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy provides funding for programs and projects related to accommodation and shelter for victims of torture and violence (safe houses). In the course of 2024, the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs allocated BAM 100,000.00 for the implementation of a preventive campaign in the field of combating domestic violence and violence against women " Don't Turn Your Head, Call the Number! ", which was placed in the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and had notable results and 100% visibility that attracted the attention of many citizens. As part of the campaign, round tables were held in Sarajevo, Orašje and Tuzla, attended by representatives of institutions involved in the process of providing protection to victims of violence. In 2025, BAM 94,000.00 was allocated for the implementation of a promotional campaign in the field of combating domestic violence and violence against women, and the implementation of public procurement procedures that precede the implementation of the campaign is ongoing.

Given the fact that the field of violence against women and domestic violence is the exclusive competence of the entities, the Government of the Republika Srpska provides funds for the measures and activities of the ministries and other republican administrative bodies, which act through their mandate to implement the Istanbul Convention. In addition, local self-government units have a legal obligation to cover the costs of housing women and children victims of domestic violence in the amount of 30% of the total cost of staying in a safe house, so that these funds are regularly planned in their annual budget. With the rebalancing of the Republika Srpska budget for 2025, BAM 500,000 is allocated for the care of victims of violence, while the original annual amount of BAM 618,000 was increased to BAM 714,200 for the Center for Equality and Gender Equality. The budget of the

	<p>Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of the Republika Srpska, in addition to providing financial resources for the care of victims of domestic violence in the amount of BAM 500,000 , also provides expenditures for the implementation of the Strategy for Suppression of Domestic Violence in the Republika Srpska in the amount of BAM 6,000 and Projects and program activities of the Council for the Suppression of Violence in the Family and Extended Family Household in the amount of BAM 6,000 , on an annual basis.</p> <p>The budget of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the year 2025 provides funds for the placement of victims of violence in a safe house, based on Article 13 of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence.</p>		
12.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
13	<p>Have these funds increased since the publication of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report?</p> <p>According to the proposal of the Budget of the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2025, the amount for operational costs of safe houses has been increased to BAM 120,000 (increase of BAM 20,000). Funds are paid directly to safe houses through a grant agreement.</p> <p>The increase in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is visible if one compares the financial resources in the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for the prevention and fight against domestic violence for the period 2018-2020 ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 102/18) and the financial resources defined in the Strategy for the prevention and fight against domestic violence 2024-2027. ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 100/23). Financial resources were increased by seven times.</p> <p>The budget of the Republika Srpska, for the care of victims of violence, from 2022 until today allocated: 2022: BAM 343,900 ; 2023: BAM 345,000 ; 2024: BAM 523,000 ; 2025.. BAM 500,000 . The budget of the Republika Srpska, for the work of the Center for Equality and Gender Equality of the Republika Srpska, from 2022 until today, allocated: 2022: BAM 549,900 ;2023: BAM 610,500 ;2024: BAM 620,400 ;2025: BAM 714,200</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, by what amount: BAM 20.000</p> <p>7 times compared to the previous Strategy</p> <p>BAM 320.400</p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
14	<p>Have your authorities taken measures to foster long-term and sustainable financial support for non-governmental organisations working to support victims and prevent violence?</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
14.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>The new Law on protection against violence in the family and against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina specifically defines the role of non-governmental organizations, which ensures the sustainability of continuous cooperation and financial support. Support for non-governmental organizations is also provided at lower levels of government, through cantonal and municipal/city budgets. Furthermore, from the position of Capital transfers to non-profit organizations - Co-financing of projects in the field of social protection, as well as from the position of Current transfers to non-profit organizations - Transfers for co-financing of work, programs and social protection projects for 2024 and 2025, non-governmental organizations are enabled to apply for the relevant public calls for the allocation of financial resources. In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a new Law on Social Services is being prepared, which provides for the definition of a safe house as a provider of social services. This law seeks to ensure long-term and sustainable financing, that is, institutional support for non-governmental organizations that provide care, protection and support</p>		

	<p>services to users, in accordance with the prescribed standards and needs of the social protection system. The Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports provides support to projects in the fields of sports, culture and youth that deal with the prevention and fight against domestic violence, especially emphasizing the specifics arising from these sectors, which ensures a transparent procedure for supporting non-governmental organizations in this area.</p> <p>When it comes to specialized support measures, in accordance with the Law on Protection from Violence in the Republika Srpska, the Ordinance on Standards for the Implementation of Safe Houses and the Ordinance on the Content and Method of Keeping the Register of Safe Houses in the Republika Srpska, three safe houses are registered and operating in Banja Luka, Modriča and Bijeljina. All safe houses in Republika Srpska are managed by non-governmental organizations. With the financial support of the Government of Republika Srpska, victims of domestic violence are provided with safe and secure accommodation in the event that it is necessary for the victim to leave their home. In three safe houses, it was possible to care for 55 victims of domestic violence at the same time. In accordance with the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence and the Rulebook on the Allocation of Funds, from the budget of the Republika Srpska, through the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, safe houses are financed in the amount of 70% of the total cost of care, while the amount of 30% of accommodation is financed by the local self-government units from which the victim comes. Based on the assessment of the expert team, the Center for Social Work of the local community where the victim resides makes a decision on the temporary care of the victim in a safe house. The cost of care is determined by the Decision of the Minister of Family, Youth and Sports separately for each year, and the basis for payment of accommodation costs is up to two average net earnings in the Republika Srpska for the previous year. In the budget of the Republika Srpska for 2025, BAM 500,000 is planned for these purposes.</p> <p>In addition to the increase in financial resources intended for the work of organizations dealing with the care of victims of violence and prevention and protection activities from the republican budget every year, the budget of the Republika Srpska allocates funds for the work of the Association of Women Victims of War. From 2022 until today, the following has been allocated for this purpose: 2022: BAM 60,000 ;2023: BAM 54,000 ;2024: BAM 50,000 ;2025: BAM 40,000 (until October 1, 2025) From the budget of the President of Republika Srpska in 2025, BAM 50,000 was allocated and paid for the work of this Association.</p>			
14.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:			
15	<p>In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 8, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:</p> <p>Here it is important to emphasize that the funds allocated by the Government of the Republika Srpska and other administrative bodies for the implementation of the Strategy for the Prevention and Suppression of Domestic Violence, as well as the implementation of the mandate of all protection entities, cover several types of violence against women, because domestic violence is considered to be any act of violence committed against a former or current emotional or intimate partner, regardless of whether the perpetrator and the victim once shared a household or not.</p>			
IV. Non-governmental organisations and civil society (Article 9)				
16	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%; padding: 5px;">Have your authorities taken measures contributing to further recognise, encourage and support the work of relevant non-governmental organisations and of civil society active in combating all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention, including in terms of funding and co-operation?</td> <td style="width: 15%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 15%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">No <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to further recognise, encourage and support the work of relevant non-governmental organisations and of civil society active in combating all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention, including in terms of funding and co-operation?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Have your authorities taken measures contributing to further recognise, encourage and support the work of relevant non-governmental organisations and of civil society active in combating all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention, including in terms of funding and co-operation?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		

16.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>Article 13, paragraph (2) of the Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina recognizes that protection, assistance and support to victims of violence are provided by other protection entities and specialized non-governmental organizations. Article 14 of this law prescribes specialized support services that include professional support and counseling services, as well as institutional social care and social support services aimed at protection and prevention from violence. Specialized support services can be provided by public institutions, associations, foundations, religious communities, and other legal entities that meet the minimum standards from Article 61 of this law. Article 65 stipulates that in accordance with the relevant regulations, safe houses provide funds for their work from the following sources: (a) own activities, b) the budget of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, c) the cantonal budget, d) the budget of local self-government units, e) the personal share of service users or their relatives, f) legacies, gifts, donations, bequests and g) from other sources). Funds from the budget of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina are used to finance the ongoing operating costs of the safe house, which include the provision of adequate accommodation capacity, overhead costs and compensation for the work of employees. Funds from the budget of the canton and local self-government units finance the costs related to the accommodation and stay of the victim of domestic violence in a safe house. Once a year, safe houses determine the price for social care and social support services according to the methodology adopted by the federal minister of labor and social policy, with the opinion of the competent cantonal ministries for social and child protection.</p> <p>Respecting the expertise and role of women's non-governmental organizations that provide specialized services, their experiences and opinions are regularly included in the process of planning and defining legal solutions and public policies in the field of violence against women in the Republika Srpska. In the same way, when preparing reports, according to the various assumed international obligations, information and experiences of non-governmental organizations are always sought, so that their content is as comprehensive as possible. Also, representatives of non-governmental organizations often participate as educators in training sessions for protection subjects. In the past period, the Center for Equity and Gender Equality of the Republika Srpska financially supported the following projects: "Education of police officers in the field of gender-based violence through social networks", Women's Network of the MUP of the Republika Srpska, "Resource Center for Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women", United Women Foundation, "Prevention and Suppression of Gender-Based Violence against Women with Disabilities", "UDAS", "Roma Woman - Right and Chance for Equality", International Center for the Promotion of Human Rights from Trebinje, "Strengthening the Capacities of Safe Houses in Mitigating the Consequences Caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic", safe houses managed by the non-governmental organizations Lara, Budućnost and Udružene žene. In accordance with the Law on protection against domestic violence, the Rulebook on the method of allocating funds to safe houses and budgetary positions in the Ministry, Republika Srpska has taken measures to finance non-governmental organizations active in the fight against all forms of violence against women and in the family. In this regard, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports provides financial resources for the financing of a special support measure, a safe house and for the smooth operation of the SOS - 1264 telephone line for victims of domestic violence, i.e. it finances the license fee for the use of individual non-geographic/short numbers, on an annual basis. Also, representatives of non-governmental organizations are members of the Council for Suppression of Domestic Violence in the Family and Extended family household of the Republika Srpska, as well as working groups during the preparation of the Strategy for Suppression of Domestic Violence in the Republika Srpska. In the Republika Srpska, the Association of Women Victims of the War of the Republika Srpska has been declared an association of public interest, and it is mainly about women who suffered sexual violence during the war. The Republic Center for Research on War, War Crimes and Search for Missing Persons, within the framework of legal competences, actively cooperates with the Association of Women War Victims of the Republika Srpska. This cooperation is first of all reflected in the realization of joint projects, so during 2024 and 2025, the publication "Our Confession 2 - Women Victims of War from Republika Srpska" was produced with joint efforts, which contains 13 testimonies of women from Republika Srpska who were killed during the war in the period 1992-1995. suffered various forms of torture. The aim of this publication is to present the truth about the suffering of women</p>
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	<p>from Republika Srpska during the war on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to encourage all other victims to speak publicly about their suffering. The Ministry of Labor and Veterans-Disabled Protection of the Republika Srpska finances the work and program activities of this Association. Also, within the framework of the aforementioned cooperation, the Republic Center is available to women victims of war who are members of the aforementioned Association, as well as to all other victims, in terms of providing legal assistance when exercising their legal rights. The cooperation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republika Srpska with the civil sector is visible through cooperation in the implementation of numerous projects and programs, trainings and meetings. The curriculum and program "Violence in the family and extended family household", which is studied at the Police Academy in the Republika Srpska, was created in cooperation with the "United Women" Foundation from Banjaluka. The target group is Police Academy cadets and police officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republika Srpska who are not assigned to jobs and tasks in cases of domestic and family violence. As a result of this cooperation, during the reporting period, the Guide for police officers "Proceeding in cases of domestic violence" was created and promoted, and seminars entitled "Violence in the family or extended family household" were held, attended by a total of 1,210 cadets of the XXIV, XXV, XXVI, XXVII and XVIII classes of the Police Academy. Cooperation is also achieved with numerous international organizations. In the past period, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republika Srpska cooperated with the "Lara" Foundation from Bijeljina through the following projects: "Together for better protection of women from violence", Improving the capacity of service providers to support victims of gender-based violence - phase III, Improving specialized support services for victims of sexual violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina", "Strengthening institutional support for stopping gender-based violence - phase II", "Support to the Safety Network", "Raising public awareness of human trafficking in migration flows", "Together for better protection of women from violence", Project "Improvement of specialized support services for victims of sexual violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina", "Proactive citizens". In cooperation with the Atlantic Initiative and the Center for the Education of Judges and Prosecutors of the Republika Srpska, 3 multi-sector trainings were implemented, which were attended by holders of judicial functions and police officers. A training of trainers in the field of sexual offenses (rape, lewd acts and sexual harassment) was also held. The Government of the Republika Srpska has issued a Decision instructing the Ministry of Education and Culture to allocate funds for the implementation of the project implemented by the center for creative work with children "Dobri Medo" from Banjaluka in the amount of BAM 80,000. Cooperation is also achieved with numerous international organizations. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republika Srpska, together with the Ministry of Justice and the Center for Equality and Gender Equality of the Republika Srpska participates in the implementation of the project "Fight against digital and sexual violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2023-2024)", which is implemented by the Council of Europe - office in Sarajevo. In cooperation with the Council of Europe, the Ministry of Internal Affairs participates in the realization of the project "Strengthening access to justice and effective legal remedies for victims of human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina". During the past period, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Srpska achieved exceptional cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina on the implementation of numerous activities.</p> <p>The Department of Health of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina is obliged to pay for accommodation and support services for women in safe houses, and funds are planned for support after leaving the safe house. Financing, or co-financing of programs and projects of non-governmental organizations is carried out in accordance with the Law on the Budget of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number: 34/19 and 22/23).</p>			
16.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:			
V. Data collection and research (Article 11)				
17	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%; padding: 5px;">In implementation of the recommendation addressed to your authorities, have new sectors of the administration started the collection of data in accordance with the requirements of Article 11, paragraph 1?</td> <td style="width: 10%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 20%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">No <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	In implementation of the recommendation addressed to your authorities, have new sectors of the administration started the collection of data in accordance with the requirements of Article 11, paragraph 1?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
In implementation of the recommendation addressed to your authorities, have new sectors of the administration started the collection of data in accordance with the requirements of Article 11, paragraph 1?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		

17.1	<p>If yes, please specify which sectors:</p> <p>As part of the CMS/TCMS of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, new options were added within the subject attribute "Victim-perpetrator relationship", and a new technical solution was implemented, which enables the collection of data on hate crimes, as well as the protected characteristics of the victims of these crimes.</p> <p>The Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as part of crime statistics, collects administrative data on juvenile and adult offenders according to the type of crime.</p> <p>Article 77 of the Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 19/25) prescribes the obligation to keep records and report for the competent institutions, which include: police authorities, prosecutor's office, court, guardianship authority, mental health center, addiction treatment center, safe house, Gender Center of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Bureau of Statistics and the Commission for Monitoring the Application of this law. Given that the new law entered into force in March 2025, and the deadline for drafting by-laws is six months from the date of entry into force, competent institutions are currently working on their drafting and adoption. The above-mentioned acts will, among other things, regulate the method of data collection by the above-mentioned institutions, and after the adoption of the by-laws in which the record forms are defined, the Federal Ministry of the Interior will proceed with the drafting of the Ordinance that will regulate the establishment of a single database (Article 77, paragraph (12) of the Act. The Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs is currently drafting a new Ordinance that will define more detailed statistical data processing and the Ordinance on the manner of implementing protective measures for perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women under the jurisdiction of police authorities. Articles 40 paragraphs 5, 41 and 43 define the collection and maintenance of statistical records, as well as reporting ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 86/25 of 7 November 2025).</p> <p>In accordance with the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence in the Republika Srpska, a system of collecting and recording data on domestic violence has been established. The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports twice a year collects and processes data on domestic violence from all protection entities (police, centers for social work, health institutions, educational institutions, courts and prosecutor's offices), which are required to keep records of actions taken and data on the number of initiated and completed procedures. The data that is collected fulfils the minimum obligations regarding the classification of data on victims and perpetrators, according to the standards established by Article 11, paragraph 1, item a) of the Istanbul Convention. Also, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports collects data on recorded calls to the SOS line for victims of domestic violence, which are run by non-governmental organizations, that is, legal entities that implement a special measure of support, safe houses. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republika Srpska has a Department for Analytics within the Minister's Service, and in each police department officers who collect and process data on all grounds. Also, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republika Srpska has developed its own database called "Analytical reports" in which collected and processed data are entered at all levels. On an annual basis, the Ministry of Internal Affairs submits a report on its work to the Government of the Republika Srpska, which is presented to the Government of the Republika Srpska and the National Assembly, which adopts it. This report provides an overview of the security situation in the Republika Srpska and includes information on all criminal acts, which are also defined as forms of violence by the Istanbul Convention. The latest publicly available Report on the State of Security is available on the website of the National Assembly of the Republika Srpska.</p>		
17.2	<p>[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:</p> <p>The comprehensive survey on violence against women was not conducted due to lack of funds.</p>		

18	In implementation of the recommendation addressed to your authorities, have sectors of the administration improved their data collection?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
18.1	<p>If yes, please specify which sectors and how, in particular whether new data categories were added:</p> <p>The education of users of the system for tracking cases (CMS/TCMS) in the judiciary of Bosnia and Herzegovina in terms of the use of the above data was carried out as part of the education for the new version of CMS/TCMS. In addition to this, user manuals were delivered to the users and they were informed on several occasions about the obligation to use the specified data, especially the "Relationship between the victim and the perpetrator". In this way, judicial institutions are familiar with the newspapers in CMS/TCMS and the importance of using them. It will take some time to get a complete picture of their entry into CMS/TCMS. We can expect that the first step for checking data entry is the next reporting period, when reports on the work of judicial institutions will be made for the previous year and on which occasion, in addition to other data, these new ones will be added subsequently. At that moment, it will be possible to get a more complete picture of how judicial institutions use newspapers in CMS/TCMS related to the entry "Victim-perpetrator relationship" and a technical solution for collecting data on hate cases, i.e. reports accompanying the same. In addition to this, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina monitors the new legal solutions that have meanwhile started to be implemented and supplements the corresponding CMS/TCMS codebooks.</p> <p>Article 77 of the Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina stipulates the obligation of the competent institutions to record data on reported cases of violence, protective measures and emergency protective measures, persons who are protected by protective measures and emergency protective measures and persons against whom protective measures have been issued, disaggregated by the gender, age and disability of the victim and the abuser, the type of violence and the relationship between the abuser and the victim. This expanded the categories of data that are collected, however, their collection according to the new law has not yet started because no by-laws have been adopted. Article 76 of the Federal Ministry of Justice establishes a Commission for monitoring the application of this law, which consists of members from the ranks of judges, prosecutors, ombudsmen, representatives of the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Ministry of Health, guardianship authorities, the Gender Center of the Federation and representatives of legal entities that provide specialized support services. The Federal Ministry of the Interior by the Ordinance on the method of implementing protective measures for perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women who are under the jurisdiction of police bodies in Articles 40, 41 and 45. It defined the collection and maintenance of statistical records, the content and format of forms, as well as the supervision of the implementation of this Ordinance ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 86/25).</p> <p>After the amendments to the Criminal Code of the Republika Srpska, the list of criminal offenses was supplemented in accordance with the Convention, and data collection and processing is carried out for all criminal offenses specified in the Criminal Code of the Republika Srpska. Public institution The Institute for Social Protection of the Republika Srpska is a new institution that has joined the process of collecting data from centers for social work/social protection services on the territory of the Republika Srpska. Data is collected on a monthly basis through specially created forms. The forms contain a wide range of questions, that is, data collected for children who are victims of violence, neglect and abuse. Data is collected according to gender, age (children aged 0-6 years, 7-14 years and 15-18 years) and form of violence (physical violence, psychological/emotional, social and economic abuse, sexual violence, physical and emotional neglect, violence in the digital environment), then for children with developmental disabilities according to the gender and age of the child, data on perpetrators of violence against children, as well as data on peer violence. The data collected by the Institute for Social Protection of the Republic of Serbia are submitted to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republika Srpska. In addition, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection collects data from social work centers/social protection services on the number of</p>		

	<p>adult and minor victims of violence reported to social work centers/social protection services for the purpose of producing the Bulletin on an annual basis. The Republican Pedagogical Institute of the Republika Srpska, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, created a Form for recording cases of violence, neglect and abuse in schools and students' homes and Instructions for its application and completion. The form is part of the documentation prescribed by the Protocol for the Protection of Children from Violence, Neglect and Abuse. Also, the Ministry of Education and Culture has created an electronic version of the aforementioned Form, which is an integral part of the electronic diary and contributes to a more efficient and high-quality collection of information on cases of violence in schools and students' homes. The Ministry of Education and Culture, after establishing the electronic Form system, informed the schools about it. The person in charge of recording forms of violence, neglect and abuse at school receives a code and thus accesses the Form and is solely responsible for entering the data. In order to continuously monitor the occurrence of violence in schools, persons from the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Republic Pedagogical Institute have been appointed to monitor the dynamics of reported cases of violence daily. All competent ministries in the Republika Srpska, which are signatories to the Protocol for the Protection of Children from Violence, Neglect and Abuse, regularly collect data on all recorded cases, which are classified by gender and other characteristics.</p>															
18.2	<p>[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:</p> <p>The Republic Institute of Statistics of the Republika Srpska is currently in the final phase of agreement on the Agreement on taking over electronic databases from the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina on reported, accused and convicted persons in the Republika Srpska. By automating work, we would gain time and free up part of human resources, all with the aim of expanding the scope of data and creating space for the introduction of new indicators and/or research.</p>															
19	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="282 746 1693 810">Does statistical data collection by law-enforcement agencies and the judiciary enable cases of violence against women to be tracked in order to indicate:</td> <td data-bbox="1693 746 1868 810"></td> <td data-bbox="1868 746 2040 810"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="282 810 1693 847">- Conviction rates</td> <td data-bbox="1693 810 1868 847">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1868 810 2040 847">No <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="282 847 1693 884">- Types of sentences</td> <td data-bbox="1693 847 1868 884">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1868 847 2040 884">No <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="282 884 1693 920">- Attrition rates</td> <td data-bbox="1693 884 1868 920">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1868 884 2040 920">No <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="282 920 1693 994">- Time-barred proceedings</td> <td data-bbox="1693 920 1868 994">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1868 920 2040 994">No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Does statistical data collection by law-enforcement agencies and the judiciary enable cases of violence against women to be tracked in order to indicate:			- Conviction rates	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	- Types of sentences	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	- Attrition rates	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	- Time-barred proceedings	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
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- Time-barred proceedings	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>														
20	<p>As regards population based surveys, please indicate any survey conducted since the publication of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report, while specifying the forms of violence covered:</p>															
21	<p>In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 11, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:</p> <p>The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina regularly supports the conduct of research on handling cases of gender-based violence, which are carried out by non-governmental and international organizations, universities, institutions, etc., by submitting data from the CMS/TCMS system at its disposal.</p> <p>The Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina collects the data provided for in the Plan and the four-year Program of statistical activities. For the purposes of the publication "Women and Men in Bosnia and Herzegovina", the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina collects data on cases of domestic violence and crimes against sexual freedom and morality. As part of crime statistics, data on murders are collected, classified by</p>															

	<p>the sex of the victim. These data are obtained from the Ministries of Internal Affairs of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p>Within the framework of the Strategy for the prevention and fight against domestic violence 2024-2027. in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is planned to carry out research, as well as to monitor the effectiveness of the measures taken and established indicators. An initial analysis of the content of curricula and the attitudes of teaching staff and students on the subject of violence against women and domestic violence was carried out. The Institute for Social Research of the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Sarajevo and the Gender Center of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as part of the Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence 2024-2027, conducted research that resulted in the study "Domestic violence and gender-based violence in higher education: between theory and practice". The research primarily analyzed the curricula and programs of social and humanities faculties at the University of Sarajevo on the representation and scope of teaching contents that deal with the issue of gender-based violence and domestic violence, as well as the attitudes of students and teaching staff on these issues. The analysis of the situation is the starting point for monitoring the impact of the implemented measures within the framework of the Strategy for the prevention and fight against domestic violence in this area.</p> <p>Also, the number of specific research related to violence against women and domestic violence related to violence against pregnant women, i.e. obstetric violence, has increased. The study "Study of the impact of light weapons on domestic violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina" was conducted, which provides insight into specific risk factors related to violence against women and domestic violence, research related to femicide, research "Possibility of prosecuting femicide in Bosnia and Herzegovina" and others.</p> <p>In the past period, the Center for Gender Equality and Equality has conducted several analyses that served as the basis for improving the legal and strategic framework of the Republika Srpska. The analyses conducted are: Analysis of the attitudes, values and competencies of direct service providers to victims of violence against women and domestic violence in six municipalities, Mapping of existing services for victims of sexual violence in the Republika Srpska, Assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the institutional response to gender-based violence in the Republika Srpska, Analysis of the situation and response to gender-based violence and domestic violence in the municipalities of eastern Herzegovina, Analysis of the capacities of educational institutions and formulation of recommendations for the prevention, detection and response to gender-based violence in the Republika Srpska, Analysis of media reporting on violence against women in accordance with the Istanbul Convention; Monitoring and analysis of the quality of the multi-sector response to gender-based violence in Trebinje, Ljubinje, Bileća, Berkovići, Nevesinje and Ljubinje. The Center for Gender Equality of the Republika Srpska has also developed a methodology with indicators for monitoring the quality of the multisectoral response to violence against women and domestic violence, based on which monitoring is carried out in local communities.</p> <p>The Police of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina keeps statistical data on cases of violence against women. The Rulebook on the type, content and method of keeping records is in force.</p>		
VI. Custody, visitation rights and safety (Article 31)			
22	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure that incidents of violence covered by the scope of the Istanbul Convention are taken into account in the determination of custody and visitation rights of children, notably by judicial authorities?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
22.1	If yes, please specify how this has been done (by legislative amendments or other means)		

	<p>Article 55 of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina stipulates that the right to contact with the child of the perpetrator of violence against whom a protective measure has been imposed shall be exercised through and under the supervision of the guardianship authority, if, in the opinion of the guardianship authority, the exercise of such contact is in the best interest of the child. The guardianship authority shall decide on the exercise of the right to contact by means of a special decision. In addition, in accordance with Article 21 of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, information is collected during the risk assessment on whether there is a conflict over custody of the child or over the manner of maintaining personal contact between the child and the parent who is the perpetrator of violence, and the risk assessment is also carried out for children, taking into account any threat addressed directly to them or the threat relating to their separation from the victim of violence. In accordance with Article 34, the competent police authority is obliged to go to the scene of each reported case of violence, immediately conduct a risk assessment for victims and children and, whenever necessary for the protection of the victim and when the conditions prescribed by this Law are met, submit a request for the imposition of a protective measure to the competent court immediately, or at the latest within 12 hours of learning about the acts of violence. Article 66 of this Law stipulates that the competent guardianship authority, when necessary, in cases of violence may establish a special expert team composed of representatives of the guardianship authority, the police authority and the legal entity providing specialized support services referred to in Article 14 of this Law, which will develop a special plan for protection, assistance and support for the victim. The expert team is obliged to coordinate all activities aimed at providing assistance and support to the victim in order to ensure her protection. The victim assistance plan specifically contains measures that need to be taken in accordance with the law governing social, health and child protection. If the victim is a child, the victim assistance plan also contains measures for the protection of the child in accordance with the law governing family relations and the regulations governing the protection of children's rights</p> <p>In the Republika Srpska, this issue is regulated by the Family Law, Article 62 ("Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska", number: 17/23, 27/24, 59/24, Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republika Srpska, 20/25 and Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republika Srpska 61/25). The education of judges, prosecutors and professional workers in the social protection system aims to raise the awareness of the professional public about the importance of taking violence into account when deciding on custody, visitation rights and security.</p>
22.2	<p>If yes, please specify how the above obligation is implemented in practice, including by providing data indicating to what extent judicial authorities consider all issues related to violence against women in their decisions on custody and visitation rights:</p> <p>With regard to the submission of findings and expert opinions in disputes for regulating the exercise of parental rights and/or in disputes for regulating the maintenance of personal relationships between parents and children in accordance with the Family Law, in the preparation and drafting of said findings and opinions, centers for social work in the Republika Srpska act in such a way that when preparing said findings and opinions for the purposes of the aforementioned court proceedings, they perform a psychological assessment of parental capacities, the environment in which parents will spend time with the child, consider whether there are risks for the child, analyze the current situation and all the circumstances of the given case, health and educational institutions are contacted, the risk assessment provided by the competent police station is reviewed. In addition to assessing the best interests of the child, when forming an opinion on trust (guardianship), identified incidents of domestic violence are taken into account and considered together with all collected information about the perpetrator of violence and family members. Data for the purposes of compiling findings and opinions are collected through field visits to the parents' addresses, individual interviews with parents and children (separately), monitoring contact between parents and children, using psychological measuring instruments, and reviewing documentation.</p>
22.3	<p>[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:</p>

	By the decision of the mayor of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a working group was appointed to draft the text of amendments to the Family Law of the Brčko District, which will stipulate that incidents of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention are taken into account when determining the rights to custody and visitation of children, especially by judicial authorities.		
23	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure that visitation rights do not jeopardise the rights and safety of the victim or children?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
23.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>Article 55 of the Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina stipulates that the right to contact the perpetrator of violence against whom a protective measure has been imposed with the child is exercised through the mediation and under the supervision of the guardianship body, if, according to the guardianship body's assessment, the realization of such contact is in the best interest of the child. The guardianship body decides on exercising the right of contact by means of a special decision. This topic is an integral part of the training of professionals of both the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the Center for the Education of Judges and Prosecutors of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p>The practice of centers for social work in Republika Srpska takes place depending on the given situation of each specific case, the overall context, the connection of the child with the parent who committed the violence and his desire for contact (although this is additionally assessed professionally for each case and situation), as well as other factors such as whether the violence was committed only against the other partner, whether the child was also present and what was the form of violence (psychological, physical, sexual, economic or several forms combined) and with the assessment of other risks. In relation to the above, different variants are possible in practice - from banning contact, contact in controlled conditions - in the premises of the center, under the supervision of one or more professional workers, with special care not to jeopardize safety and to protect children. The way of maintaining personal relationships is decided by the court, in accordance with the Family Law, while the centers/services submit a finding and expert opinion with a proposal.</p>		
23.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
24	<p>In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 31, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:</p> <p>After the amendments to the Family Law of the Republika Srpska, the Center for the Education of Judges and Public Prosecutors in the Republika Srpska conducted several trainings for judges in 2024 and 2025, in which the novelties of the family law were presented, including the novelties related to the determination of the right to custody and visitation of children, factors that influence the decision on the exercise of parental rights in cases of domestic violence, etc. In the Republika Srpska, in the process of reconciling spouses, a hearing before the guardianship authority is not scheduled, between among other cases, when a court decision has determined that one of the spouses has committed domestic violence against the other spouse or a minor joint or adopted child, when the court has ordered an emergency measure of protection or a protective measure in one of the aforementioned situations, or when the competent prosecutor has issued an order to conduct an investigation into domestic violence. In this case, the centers for social work/services make an official note about the impossibility of conducting the conciliation procedure. The Family Law, Article 124, prescribes the cases when the court can deprive a parent of parental rights, i.e. when the parent grossly neglects parental duties, among other things, and when he does not fulfil the obligation to support the child for more than three months in the last year. In addition to the regular measures in the enforcement procedure, the authorities in Republika Srpska recognized the need to provide another type of protection for children,</p>		

	<p>that is, parents who support children independently, without the participation of the other parent. In connection with the above, the Government of the Republika Srpska adopted Conclusion number: 04/1-012-2-4346/25 dated October 2, 2025. in which it was informed of the need to pass the Law on Temporary Child Support, and tasked the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, with the support of other relevant institutions, to prepare the Proposal for the Law on Temporary Child Support. In addition to the above, the Government of the Republika Srpska passed a decision on the appointment of an interdepartmental working group for the drafting of the Draft Law on Temporary Child Support, number: 04/1-012-2-4345/25 dated October 2, 2025. year. The new family legislation stipulates that the court can return the parental right to the parent if the reason for which the right was taken away ceases, except in the case when the parental right was taken away due to the commission of a criminal offense against the child's sexual integrity by a final court decision.</p>		
<p>VII. Immediate response, prevention, and protection (Article 50)</p>			
25	<p>Have your authorities taken measures contributing to improve the prompt and appropriate response of law enforcement agencies, in particular by:</p>		
	- Enhancing training of law enforcement officials on the gendered nature of violence against women and its consequences	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Ensuring a sufficient number of female police officers	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Setting up premises designed to establish a relationship of trust between the victim and the law enforcement personnel	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Ensuring the efficient collection of evidence so that the reliance on the victim's testimony is lessened	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
25.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>The Agency for the Civil Service of Bosnia and Herzegovina conducts training once a year on the topic "Recognition of violence against women and domestic violence and the obligation to report violence", which over the past five years has been attended by over 100 officials from administrative bodies and administrative organizations at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The aforementioned training is conducted by the staff of the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also, the Agency for the Civil Service of Bosnia and Herzegovina included the module "Inclusion of the principle of gender equality in the civil service" in the mandatory Training for newly employed civil servants in the institutions of BiH, prescribed by the Decision of the Council of Ministers of BiH. In this way, all newly employed civil servants become familiar with all important segments of this area (domestic and international regulations governing this area and obligations of institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina; gender institutional mechanisms; GAP BiH; gender and gender; discrimination; violence; gender equality goals; gender equality policies).</p> <p>The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina monitors the work on war crimes cases and the implementation of the Plans for solving war crimes cases, whereby cases with elements of sexual violence have priority in solving them. Through the reports of courts and prosecutor's offices, which refer to resolved and unresolved cases of war crimes, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina also collects information on the number of resolved cases with elements of sexual violence. The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina regularly initiates the inclusion of appropriate content training on the topic of domestic violence and gender-based violence for different target groups in the annual programs of entity centers for the education of judges and prosecutors. The Centers for the Education of</p>		

Judges and Prosecutors (CEST) regularly conduct trainings of this type, primarily for judges and prosecutors, including topics such as: the role of the police in cases of violence against women and domestic violence - investigative actions and protective measures, the role of the judiciary - criminal proceedings, emergency protective measures, the role of centers for social work - monitoring the implementation of protective measures, new legal solutions, understanding gender-based violence in accordance with the Istanbul Convention and the like. More detailed information about this type of training is given below. In the mandatory initial training of newly appointed holders of judicial office in 2025, the topic "Current practice from the executive procedure for newly appointed judges" is included, within the framework of which the topic of protection from domestic violence is dealt with. As part of the initial training, the topic "Specific aspects of access to justice from the point of view of members of vulnerable groups (children, persons with disabilities, Roma, LGBTI persons, marginalized categories) is covered for newly appointed judges and prosecutors whose goal, among other things, is to eliminate prejudices as a prerequisite for achieving equal access to justice and gaining public trust in the judiciary. A three-year training program on human rights has also been developed for holders of judicial functions, which also deals with issues of "procedural protection in criminal proceedings and the rights of victims" which includes the issue of access to justice for women and gender-based violence as a form of systemic discrimination. As part of continuous training, there is a large number of trainings available that holders of judicial functions can choose to attend (training is not mandatory) and which are the focus of GREVIO recommendations, including: Improving the actions of police inspectors and prosecutors in the investigation and processing of cases of sexual violence, Sentencing in cases of domestic violence and criminal consequences against sexual integrity and violence against women as a cause and unequal power relations between the sexes, Recognition and processing of digital violence against women, Implementation of the Istanbul Convention in practice: Challenges and obligations, The role of judges and prosecutors in local coordination bodies: Multisectoral approach to combating violence, Education of educators in dealing with cases of sexual violence, Guidelines for judging cases of femicide, Use of AI and new technologies in processing cases of gender-based violence and femicide, and others. With regard to the target group, certain trainings conducted by entity centers for the education of judges and prosecutors show a multidisciplinary approach, as they are conducted for judges, prosecutors, members of law enforcement agencies, and other relevant actors. After the entry into force of the new Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina on protection against domestic violence, education was intensified in relation to the provisions of this law. In order to properly understand the cases of domestic violence and gender-based violence, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council (HJPC) of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the courts, has increased the degree of publication of legally binding court decisions in these cases, with the appropriate degree of protection of personal data contained in them. In addition, analyzes conducted by the HJPC of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as other organizations and institutions, indicated that courts do not devote sufficient attention to the reasoning of judgments in the part of the decision on punishment, as well as significant irregularities in determining mitigating and aggravating circumstances. Therefore, and at the suggestion of the HJPC of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the training programs of entity CESTs for 2024 and 2025 included a seminar on the topic of sentencing perpetrators of criminal acts, with special reference to the evaluation of mitigating and aggravating circumstances.

When it comes to training, Article 78 of the Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina stipulates the obligation of regular professional training, according to which the Center for the Education of Judges and Prosecutors of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ensures regular professional training of judges and prosecutors in the field of violence, competent ministries and administrative bodies ensure regular professional training of civil servants and employees who directly deal with the field of violence, competent ministries of the interior are obliged to ensure regular professional training of police officers in the field of violence. The development of the education program is also defined by the Strategy for the prevention and fight against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In this regard, the subject "Domestic violence, juvenile delinquency and gender-based violence" was introduced at the Police Academy of the Federal Ministry of the Interior by amending the curriculum, which is attended by participants of basic police training for the rank of "policeman" and participants

of basic police training for the rank of "junior inspector" of the cantonal ministries of the interior from all 10 cantons in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the period 2024/2025, 1,734 participants attended classes on the subjects of domestic violence, juvenile delinquency and gender-based violence for participants of basic police training for the rank of "policeman", of which 1,475 were male and 259 were female. In the period 2024/2025. In 2018, classes on the subject Domestic violence, juvenile delinquency and gender-based violence for participants of the basic police training for the rank of "junior inspector" were attended by 108 participants, of which 90 were (M) participants and 18 were female participants. In addition to the basic police training at the Police Academy of the Federal MUP, specialist trainings are organized for police officers from all police agencies in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the BD of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which aim to improve and perfect existing knowledge. Thus, in the period 2024/2025, 640 participants attended the specialist training on "Criminal acts committed out of hatred and freedom of assembly", of which 529 (M) and 111 (F). Specialist training on the topic "Training on the fight against domestic violence and violence against women" was attended by 4 participants, 1 (M) and 3 (F). The Law on Internal Affairs of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Article 3, paragraph 2, defines internal affairs under the joint jurisdiction of the Federation and the cantons, which include, among other things, the implementation of certain measures and actions related to the area of domestic violence. In addition to the above, the Cantonal Ministries of Internal Affairs continuously implement measures aimed at increasing the number of female police officers and ensuring continuous education of police officers on handling cases of violence against women. The Cantonal Ministries of Internal Affairs report that, in accordance with Article 236 of the Law on Criminal Procedure of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, police officers conduct investigative activities in order to establish and document facts and circumstances related to criminal acts of violence against women. Photographs of the injuries are taken, the victim is sent to a medical institution for a medical examination to examine and document the injuries and, in the further process, for an expert examination. Police officers, depending on the event in question, undertake other investigative actions in order to secure evidence, and in accordance with valid legal regulations. In two cantons, rooms were adapted in order to establish trust between the victim and law enforcement personnel. The Center for the Education of Judges and Prosecutors of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina implements three education programs that cover the topic of domestic violence, violence against women, discrimination and gender equality, as well as the topic of exposure to violence from groups of people who are exposed to intersectional discrimination for different target groups and levels, as well as one online training module. According to these training programs for holders of judicial functions, a total of 18 trainings were conducted during 2024, attended by 900 people (36% women and 64% men). When it comes to the education of civil servants who apply regulations in the field of domestic violence and violence against women in their work, a professional training system has been established within the Civil Service Agency of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ADS), and three topics were planned in the Professional Training Program for 2024: Corruption and gender-based violence, Gender equality and discrimination based on gender, and Application of regulations in the field of domestic violence and violence against women - support for the implementation of domestic and international documents. Three one-day programs were conducted for a total of 75 participants. The training topic "Application of regulations in the field of domestic violence and violence against women - support for the implementation of domestic and international documents" has been prepared and is an integral part of the Plan and program for the ADS training program in 2024, as well as in the program for 2025. In this regard, in 2024, training for civil servants at the federal level of government organization was carried out, while in 2025, training for civil servants was planned in all ten cantons, and by the time the answers to the questionnaire were prepared, training had been carried out in seven cantons with a total of 190 participants. The Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy created an official Training Program for professional workers in the social and child protection system in the field of protection against domestic violence and gender-based violence, which was published on the ministry's website. The aforementioned program is the basis for trainings conducted by cantonal ministries responsible for the field of social protection, institutions and other organizations specialized in this field. So far, two cycles of education have been realized according to this program, which included professional workers in the social and child protection system in the field of protection against domestic violence and gender-based violence in four cantons. When it comes to education in the field of health, the Federal Ministry of Health implements three programs of education for workers in the health system, which cover the topics of domestic violence, violence against women, discrimination and gender equality, and a total of 130 people were included. Through the

	<p>program "Strengthening the response of the healthcare system to gender-based violence", three trainings were implemented for 27 health centers, and through the program "Clinical treatment in cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence", two trainings were implemented in Sarajevo for 12 hospitals and three university clinical centers.</p> <p>In the Republika Srpska, in the case of domestic violence, in order to eliminate immediate danger to physical and psychological integrity, to prevent the recurrence of violence and to guarantee the safety of the victim, emergency protection measures may be imposed on the perpetrator of domestic violence before the initiation of the procedure or during the procedure. Urgent protection measures are: a) removal of the perpetrator of violence from the apartment, house or other residential area and/or b) prohibition of approaching and contacting the perpetrator of violence with the victim. In order to ensure physical protection, support and assistance in exercising the rights and interests of a victim of domestic violence, the law foresees the possibility that the center for social work, i.e. the social protection service, with the prior consent of the victim or at her request, issues a decision on the temporary care of the victim in a safe house. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republika Srpska continuously conducts training for police officers who work on cases of domestic violence and gender-based violence. Also, one of the Ministry's policies is the employment of a sufficient number of female police officers. "Policewomen Network - WPON RS", in addition to the Directorate for Police Education, represents an important link in the work and training of police officers. It is registered as a non-governmental organization, and its members are police officers of the Ministry. As stated above, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republika Srpska in criminal proceedings related to violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and peer violence, applies the provisions of the Law on the Protection and Treatment of Children and Minors in Criminal Proceedings when questioning child witnesses. In accordance with the provisions of the aforementioned law, the examination is carried out with audio and video recording in specially equipped premises of the ministry, in order to prevent the re-examination of the child and thereby additional victimization and trauma.</p> <p>The Police of Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina conducts continuous training for cases of violence against women. In the Police of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is a department for forensics that ensures efficiency in the collection of evidence during the investigation. The police of BD Bosnia and Herzegovina signed various protocols when it comes to providing support to victims of criminal acts.</p>		
25.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
26	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to enable the identification and careful analysis of any failure of protection?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
26.1	<p>If yes, please specify what kind of measures, and if further preventive measures were adopted to remedy this situation:</p> <p>Article 76 of the Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina stipulates that a Commission for monitoring the application of this law is formed at the Federal Ministry of Justice, which consists of members from the ranks of judges, prosecutors, ombudsmen, representatives of the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Ministry of Health, guardianship authorities, the Gender Center of the Federation and representatives of legal entities that provide specialized support services from Article 14 of this law. The Federal Minister of Justice will adopt a by-law that will regulate the number of members, work and organization of this Commission in more detail. Article 79 of the Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina prescribes supervision over the application of this law, which is carried out by the Federal Administration for Inspection Affairs through competent federal inspectors and cantonal bodies for inspection affairs through competent cantonal inspectors. These bodies, in addition to the tasks established by the regulation on inspections, also monitor and study the performance of</p>		

	<p>the registered activities of providers of social care services and support for victims of domestic violence and violence against women, i.e. safe houses and undertake measures for its quality performance, supervise the legality of the work of providers of social care services and support for victims of domestic violence and violence against women, i.e. safe houses and their employees in the performance of the activity for which they are registered, consider submissions by legal and natural persons related to supervision from the established jurisdiction of taken actions and inform the applicant in writing, undertake preventive activities in order to prevent the occurrence of harmful consequences due to the lack of and irregularities in the implementation of this law and the regulations adopted on the basis of this law. The Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs adopted the Rulebook on the method of implementing protective measures for perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women under the jurisdiction of police authorities. Article 39 defines the formation of an expert team within police administrations or stations composed of representatives of the police, guardianship authorities, health institutions, non-governmental organizations and other competent institutions, which has the task of assessing and assisting in the proper implementation of protective measures, proposing other measures and actions to ensure and prevent further violence against the victim, as well as better accommodation for the victim of violence. Also, Article 44 of this Ordinance provides for the responsibility of a police officer in the event of a violation of the obligations established in this Ordinance, and Article 45 defines the body that supervises the implementation of this Ordinance ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", No. 86/25). The Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs adopted the Rulebook on the procedure and method of conducting risk assessment for victims of domestic violence and violence against women, which in Article 9 defines the subjects of protection to whom the risk assessment of domestic violence and violence against women is submitted, which is crucial in the process of protection and support and is of great importance for the work of the subjects of protection. ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 86/25).</p> <p>In the Republika Srpska, all laws and by-laws regulating the mandate of institutions, which are responsible for dealing with cases of domestic violence and violence against women, also contain provisions prescribing the supervision of the work of officials and/or institutions, as well as procedures in case of violation of work duties. Within the Professional Standards Unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republika Srpska, there is a Department for Internal Control that acts in accordance with legal regulations and the Instruction on conducting internal procedures in this Ministry. The procedure is carried out based on a report by fellow police officers, a citizen's petition, regardless of whether it is a victim of a criminal offense or any other natural person, and at the request of a direct manager who submits a report for his employee. The disciplinary procedure is preceded by an internal procedure, which collects evidence and notifications, and after its completion, if there is a violation of duty, the immediate manager will proceed if it is a minor violation of duty, and if it is a more serious violation of work duty, the disciplinary procedure is carried out by the Professional Standards Unit. As part of the Service of the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Bureau for Citizen Petitions operates, communicates with citizens who submit petitions, and if it determines that they are founded, forwards them to the Unit for Professional Standards for further processing.</p> <p>In addition to the emergency protection measures imposed by the Basic Court of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the proposal of the police, and in cases where emergency protection measures have not been imposed, a visit to the victim is carried out as needed. In accordance with the Protocol on cooperation in the field of providing support to witnesses, between the police of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Prosecutor's Office of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, since 2013, in pre-investigation and investigation proceedings, support to witnesses injured by serious crimes has been provided by a psychologist of the criminal police unit, employed since 2012 in accordance with his job description. From the moment of application, and even after the trial, witnesses/victims are informed about all necessary and further types of support (free legal aid, health, psychosocial and psychological, etc.). The Protocol "Institutional Network for Providing Support to Victims/Witnesses in the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina" was also signed with the NGO "Gender" - Brčko; "Viva žene" - Tuzla, "Udružene žene" - Banja Luka, "Lara" Bijeljina and enabled a multisectoral approach to support victims injured by criminal acts.</p>
26.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:

27	<p>In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 50, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:</p> <p>In the Republika Srpska, in accordance with the aforementioned legal and by-laws, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection is responsible for conducting supervision over the professional work of social protection institutions, which includes a review of the state of organizational arrangements, the work of professional staff, employees performing other social protection jobs, associates, use of professional work methods, compliance with prescribed procedures, quality and scope of services provided. Professional supervision is performed by a commission appointed by the minister. In connection with the aforementioned, in the regular performance of the ministry's activities, when receiving cases, and if, based on an inspection of the submitted files, serious shortcomings are observed in terms of professional work in social protection institutions, including centers for social work, the appointed commission carries out expert supervision, a record is drawn up and the minister's decision orders the elimination of the identified deficiencies as well as the deadlines. The above also applies to cases of domestic violence.</p> <p>The Assembly of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted amendments to the Criminal Code of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina", No. 19/2020 - revised text and 3/2024) which introduced new criminal offenses and amended the existing ones in accordance with the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Criminal offenses include female genital mutilation, forced sterilization, persecution, psychological violence, sexual harassment and forced marriage.</p>			
VIII. Emergency barring, restraining or protection orders (Articles 52 and 53)				
28	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%; padding: 5px;">Regarding emergency barring orders, have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure that the competent authorities are granted the power to order, in situations of immediate danger, a perpetrator of domestic violence to vacate the residence of the victim or person at risk, and to prohibit the perpetrator from entering the residence or contacting the victim or person at risk.</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">No <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Regarding emergency barring orders, have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure that the competent authorities are granted the power to order, in situations of immediate danger, a perpetrator of domestic violence to vacate the residence of the victim or person at risk, and to prohibit the perpetrator from entering the residence or contacting the victim or person at risk.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Regarding emergency barring orders, have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure that the competent authorities are granted the power to order, in situations of immediate danger, a perpetrator of domestic violence to vacate the residence of the victim or person at risk, and to prohibit the perpetrator from entering the residence or contacting the victim or person at risk.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		
28.1	<p>If yes, please indicate which authorities have the power to issue emergency barring orders:</p> <p>Urgent protective measures in accordance with Article 24 of the Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina are issued by the competent police authority. The Law on Protection from Domestic Violence and Violence against Women of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Section VI, Articles 22 to 24 prescribes emergency protection measures. Article 22 of this law prescribes the purpose of emergency protection measures, which is to eliminate the immediate danger to the physical and psychological integrity of the victims of violence and their children and to prevent the recurrence of violence. Article 23 prescribes the types of emergency protection measures that can be imposed on the perpetrator of violence, namely: a) removal from the apartment, house or other residential space and prohibition of returning to the apartment, house or other residential space; b) prohibition of approaching the victim, and if necessary, the victim's children and persons in relation to whom there is a danger of violence; c) prohibition of communication, harassment and stalking of victims of violence. Article 24 prescribes the procedure for determining and the duration of emergency protective measures, according to which when there are grounds for suspecting that violence has been committed, the competent police authority, when the conditions prescribed by this law are met, will immediately order one or more emergency protective measures in writing, of which it is obliged to inform the competent prosecutor. A request for the determination of urgent protective measures can be submitted to the competent police authority by the competent prosecutor, the victim or the guardianship</p>			

	<p>authority. Emergency protection measures based on the order of the police authority come into force immediately and can last no longer than 48 hours. The competent police authority informs the victim of violence and the guardianship authority without delay about the order by which emergency protection measures were determined.</p> <p>In these situations, all competent authorities in the Republika Srpska act in accordance with the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, the Criminal Code of the Republika Srpska and the Ordinance on the Imposition of Emergency and Protection Measures. In the Republika Srpska, in accordance with the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, emergency protection measures are imposed by the competent court. The proposal for the imposition of emergency protection measures is submitted by the competent police officer, center for social work or a victim of violence in the family or extended family household. Emergency protection measures are proposed and imposed in acute cases of domestic violence. Their goal is to immediately remove the danger to the physical and psychological integrity of the victim, stop the violence and remove the perpetrator, which results in timely and efficient protection of the victims at the time of the violence. Urgent protective measures are imposed by the competent court, on the proposal of the competent police officer, social work center or victim of domestic violence, and these measures are the following: Removal of the perpetrator of violence from the apartment, house or other residential space and prohibition of approaching and contacting the perpetrator of violence with the victim of domestic violence. In contrast to emergency protection measures, which can be imposed both before the initiation of the proceedings and during the proceedings against the perpetrator of domestic violence and which as such are aimed at the protection of the victim and not at the perpetrator in the sense of a sanction for the committed violence, protective measures are imposed following a misdemeanor proceeding and represent a sanction for the committed domestic violence. Protective measures are also imposed by the competent court in misdemeanor proceedings, upon the proposal of the competent police officer, social work center or victim of domestic violence. Protective measures are: Removal from the apartment, house or other residential area, prohibition of approaching the victim of domestic violence in the family or extended family household, prohibition of harassment or stalking of the victim of domestic violence in the family or extended family household, mandatory psychosocial treatment and mandatory addiction treatment. The court is obliged to impose protective measures within 30 days from the date of submission of the Proposal for the imposition of a protective measure.</p> <p>At the suggestion of the police, the Basic Court of Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina imposes emergency protection measures. The police, in accordance with its powers under the Criminal Procedure Act, may detain the perpetrator of violence if there are grounds for suspecting that he has committed a criminal offense.</p>									
28.2	<p>If yes, please indicate the length of time for which emergency barring orders may remain in force:</p> <p>Article 24, paragraph (7) of the Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina stipulates that emergency protection measures based on the order of a police authority shall take effect immediately and may last no longer than 48 hours. In the Republika Srpska, emergency protection measures are imposed for a duration that cannot exceed 30 days, and in the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the time period is 30 days.</p>									
28.3	<p>[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:</p>									
29	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 1241 1691 1305">Have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure the availability of restraining or protection orders to victims of the following forms of violence against women?</td> <td data-bbox="1691 1241 1870 1305"></td> <td data-bbox="1870 1241 2040 1305"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 1305 1691 1345">- Domestic violence</td> <td data-bbox="1691 1305 1870 1345">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1870 1305 2040 1345">No <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 1345 1691 1375">- Stalking</td> <td data-bbox="1691 1345 1870 1375">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1870 1345 2040 1375">No <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure the availability of restraining or protection orders to victims of the following forms of violence against women?			- Domestic violence	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	- Stalking	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure the availability of restraining or protection orders to victims of the following forms of violence against women?										
- Domestic violence	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>								
- Stalking	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>								

	- Sexual violence	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Sexual harassment	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Forced marriage	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Female genital mutilation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Forced abortion	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Forced sterilisation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
29.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>In relation to the criminal acts listed above, the measures of restraining orders prescribed in Articles 23 and 26 of the Act on protection against domestic violence and violence against women are applied. The new Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, unlike the previous law, now includes in its name and content also violence against women, as defined in Article 8 of the Law. In this regard, the above-mentioned measures are now determined through the new Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Article 71 define as a security measure the prohibition of approaching and communicating with the victim, as well as the security measure of removal from the household that can be imposed on the perpetrator of the criminal act. These security measures are elaborated in detail in articles 78a. and 78b. of the Law. When it comes to the enumerated crimes (domestic violence, stalking, sexual violence, sexual harassment, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, forced abortion, forced sterilization), they are defined in the Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number: 58/25), as follows:</p> <p>With the amendments, Article 166 (Murder) was supplemented with the qualification "who kills a family member or close person" and the qualification "who kills a child or a pregnant woman".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new article 166a was added. (Aggravated murder of a female person) for a person who commits gender-based murder of a female person. When establishing this criminal offense, it is taken into account that the offense was committed against a close person, a person previously subjected to abuse, a vulnerable person, a person who is in a relationship of subordination or dependence, or the offense was committed in circumstances of sexual violence or a relationship that puts women in an unequal position, or if there are other circumstances that indicate that it is gender-based violence. - In accordance with the definition of domestic violence from the Istanbul Convention, domestic violence as a criminal offense is defined in Article 222 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. - In Article 179a. the criminal offense of stalking directly or through a third person or through information and communication technologies is defined, which also recognizes the digital dimension of violence. - Sexual violence is defined in the framework of several criminal acts, within the framework of Article 210g. Enticing a child into prostitution, Article 210h. Exploitation of a child for pornography, Article 210i. Exploitation of a child for pornographic performances, Article 210j. Introducing a child to pornography, Article 222 Domestic violence, and within the definition of violence itself, which reads: "Violence is a violation of human rights and means all acts of violence that result in or are likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering, including threats of such acts, coercion or intentional deprivation of liberty, whether they occur in public or private life." - In Article 203a. the criminal offense "Sexual Harassment" is defined as any verbal, non-verbal or physical unwanted behavior of a sexual nature that aims or actually represents a violation of a person's dignity, that causes fear, a hostile, humiliating or offensive environment. A higher prison sentence 		

	<p>is prescribed, if this criminal act, among other things, is committed against a person in a subordinate position, a disabled person, a family member, a close person, and if it is committed through information and communication technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article 203 defines the criminal offence of rape, which, among other things, stipulates that a person who commits this criminal offence against a family member or close person or against a person particularly vulnerable due to illness, addiction, pregnancy, disability, serious physical or mental disability or against a child over 15 years of age or in a particularly cruel or particularly humiliating manner or out of hatred or together with one or more perpetrators, where multiple sexual acts or acts equivalent to sexual acts were committed against the same person or with the use of a weapon or dangerous instrument or if the raped person was seriously injured or became pregnant, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of three to 12 years. Also, according to paragraph 7 of this Article of the Law, consent exists if the person has voluntarily decided to engage in sexual intercourse or an act equivalent to sexual acts and was capable of making and expressing such a decision. It is considered that there is no such consent, especially if the sexual relationship or a sexual act equated with it was carried out with the use of threats, fraud, abuse of position towards a person who is in a relationship of dependency towards the perpetrator, taking advantage of the person's condition due to which he was not able to express his refusal or against a person who was unlawfully deprived of his freedom. - Forced marriage is defined as a criminal offense in Article 215a. - Article 173a defines female genital mutilation as a criminal offense. A higher prison sentence is prescribed if this crime, among other things, was committed against a child or a family member or a close person. - Article 171 defines illegal termination of pregnancy as a criminal offense. - Forced sterilization is defined as a criminal offense in Article 173b. <p>The Criminal Code of the Republika Srpska establishes the criminal law regulation of gender-based violence based on the principles and standards based on the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention and Suppression of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. The scope of criminal protection has been expanded because the new criminal offenses "Female genital mutilation", "Persecution", "Forced sterilization", "Forced marriage" and "Unauthorized publication and display of other people's files, portraits and recordings" have been introduced.</p> <p>The Assembly of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted amendments to the Criminal Code of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina", No. 19/2020 - revised text and 3/2024) which introduced new criminal offenses and amended the existing ones in accordance with the Istanbul Convention. Significant changes are represented by the introduction of new criminal offences, such as genital mutilation of female sexual organs, forced sterilization, persecution, psychological violence, sexual harassment and forced marriage.</p>			
29.2	<p>[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:</p> <p>In accordance with the currently valid law on protection against domestic violence of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is currently being amended, emergency protection measures can only be imposed in the case of the criminal offense of domestic violence. The Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina has initiated the procedure of drafting a new Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women.</p>			
30	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%; padding: 5px;">Have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure the effective enforcement of barring, restraining or protection orders?</td> <td style="width: 15%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 15%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">No <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure the effective enforcement of barring, restraining or protection orders?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure the effective enforcement of barring, restraining or protection orders?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		
30.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>As part of the case monitoring system (CMS) of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the recording of protective measures, which can be imposed on perpetrators of domestic violence as well as other abusers, is ensured. The lists contain protective measures</p>			

	<p>that are defined by all significant laws in Bosnia and Herzegovina that regulate this area. As part of the previously mentioned trainings, judges and prosecutors are also trained in the segment of imposing emergency protective measures, with the intention that this topic will be treated as an independent seminar in the future, due to the scope and importance of the matter.</p> <p>Article 80 of the Law on protection against domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina prescribes misdemeanor sanctions, while Article 81 of this law prescribes the criminal offense of violating protective measures. The Federal Ministry of the Interior has adopted the Rulebook on the manner of implementing protective measures for perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women who are under the jurisdiction of police authorities. Article 33 of the Rulebook defines the method of implementing emergency protection measures and protective measures prohibiting approaching a victim of violence, and Article 34 defines the method of implementing emergency protection measures and protective measures prohibiting communication, harassment or stalking of a person exposed to violence ("Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina", number 86/25). Article 37 of the rulebook defines the conditions for the application of temporary deprivation of liberty and detention.</p> <p>Laws and by-laws in the Republika Srpska clearly define the protection entities responsible for monitoring the implementation of protective measures and emergency protective measures. The authority responsible for the implementation of protective measures is obliged to submit to the court a report on the execution of protective measures.</p> <p>The police of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina keep data on the number of protective measures imposed and their violation.</p>
30.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:
31	In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Articles 52 and 53, which were not covered by the questions above, in particular in relation to the collection of data on the number of orders issued and their violations, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:

Specific recommendations	
32	<p>Please report on measures taken by your authorities contributing to the implementation of the recommendation to amend the sexual offences provided under the national, entity-level and Brčko District criminal codes to fully incorporate the notion of lack of freely given consent and to specify the type of non-consensual sexual acts that are criminalised, while ensuring that any offence of sexual violence applies between former or current spouses or partners; provide and apply proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for all sexual acts without the consent of the victim, irrespective of personal characteristics (Recommendation A.13, IC-CP/Inf(2022)7).</p> <p>The Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with the Council of Europe team in Bosnia and Herzegovina, coordinates the implementation of the project "Digital and Sexual Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina", which has been implemented since 2024. 39 police officers and 23 police officers have received training on sexual violence in 2025.</p> <p>The Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Article 203, fully aligns the criminal offense of rape with Article 36 of the Istanbul Convention. Paragraph (1) stipulates that whoever engages in sexual intercourse or a sexual act equivalent to sexual</p>

intercourse with another person without their consent, or induces another person to engage in sexual intercourse or a sexual act equivalent to sexual intercourse with a third person without their consent, or to engage in a sexual act equivalent to sexual intercourse with themselves without their consent, shall be punished by imprisonment for one to five years. Paragraph (2) also prescribes punishment if the perpetrator was in a remediable error regarding the existence of consent, for a period of up to three years. Paragraph (3) stipulates that whoever, by using force or the threat of a direct attack on their life or body or the life or body of a person close to them, forces another person to engage in sexual intercourse or a sexual act equivalent to it, to engage in sexual intercourse or a sexual act equivalent to it with a third person, or to engage in sexual intercourse or a sexual act equivalent to it on themselves, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of one to ten years. Paragraph (4) stipulates that if the act referred to in paragraph (1) is committed against a family member or close person or against a person who is particularly vulnerable due to illness, addiction, pregnancy, disability, serious physical or mental disability or against a child over 15 years of age or in a particularly cruel or humiliating manner or out of hatred or together with one or more perpetrators, where multiple sexual acts or acts equivalent to sexual acts were committed against the same person or with the use of a weapon or dangerous instrument or if the raped person was seriously injured or became pregnant, he or she shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of three to 12 years. Paragraph (5) stipulates that whoever commits the act referred to in paragraph (3) under the circumstances referred to in paragraph (4) shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of five to 15 years. Paragraph (6) stipulates that the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of at least five years if the criminal offence referred to in paragraphs (1) and (3) resulted in the death of a person. Paragraph (7) stipulates that consent exists if a person voluntarily decided to engage in sexual intercourse or a sexual act equivalent to it and was capable of making and expressing such a decision. It is considered that there is no such consent, especially if the same was carried out with the use of threats, fraud, abuse of position towards a person who is in a relationship of dependency towards the perpetrator, taking advantage of the person's condition due to which they were not able to express refusal or against a person who was unlawfully deprived of their freedom. In the period 2023-2025, this issue was the subject of various seminars, working meetings, trainings and discussions organized by various institutions and organizations of civil society. With the publication of amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the middle of 2025, this issue becomes part of a clearly defined legal norm, and as such it now becomes the basis for official training programs, especially for holders of judicial functions conducted by the CEST of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also for other multi-sectoral trainings.

The Brčko District Assembly adopted amendments to the Criminal Code of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina", No. 19/2020 - consolidated text and 3/2024) which, among other things, align the concept of lack of freely given consent and the definition of family with the Istanbul Convention. The new Article 200 reads:

"Rape"

(1) Whoever engages in sexual intercourse or an equivalent sexual act with another person without their consent or induces another person to engage in sexual intercourse or an equivalent sexual act with a third person without their consent shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of one to eight years.

(2) Whoever, by using force or threatening to directly attack the life or body of a person or the life or body of a person close to them, forces another person to engage in sexual intercourse or an equivalent sexual act shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of three to ten years.

(3) Whoever commits the criminal offense referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article against a family member or against a child over the age of 15, in a particularly cruel or particularly humiliating manner, or out of hatred, or the raped person is seriously physically injured, or his health is seriously damaged, or the raped woman becomes pregnant, or if on the same occasion more than one sexual relationship or similar sexual acts are committed with the same victim by more than one perpetrator, shall be sentenced to imprisonment from five to 15 years.

(4) If the criminal offense referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article causes the death of the person against whom the offense was committed, the perpetrator shall be sentenced to imprisonment for at least ten years.

	<p>(5) The consent referred to in paragraph 1 of this article exists if the person voluntarily decided to engage in sexual intercourse or a sexual act equivalent to it and was capable of making and expressing such a decision." It is fully harmonized with Article 36 of the Istanbul Convention, so the absence of consent is explicitly prescribed, and paragraph 5 of the same article defines the concept of consent. It is also criminalized to induce another person to engage in sexual intercourse or a sexual act equivalent thereto with a third person without their consent.</p>
33	<p>Please report on measures taken by your authorities contributing to the implementation of the recommendation to undertake a formal review of the Law on Aliens so as to afford migrant women an autonomous residence permit in the event of particularly difficult circumstances, including being a victim of the forms of violence covered by the scope of the Istanbul Convention; ensure that migrant women victims of gender-based violence have the right to be granted an autonomous residence permit in the event of expulsion of the abusive spouse or partner; ensure that women and girls who lose their residence status as a result of being forced into marriage abroad may regain their residence status (Recommendation A.19, IC-CP/Inf(2022)7).</p> <p>The Law on Aliens ("Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina" No. 88/15,34/21) was amended in 2023 by the Law on Amendments to the Law on Aliens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was published in the "Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina" No. 63 on September 15, 2023. Amendments to the Law on Aliens of Bosnia and Herzegovina were aimed at additional harmonization of the legislation of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the regulations and directives of the European Union in this area. In Article 58, paragraph (2) item d) of the Law on Aliens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is prescribed that temporary residence on the basis of humanitarian reasons can be granted to a foreigner who does not meet the conditions for the approval of temporary residence from Article 49 (general conditions for the approval of residence) of this Law, among other things, on the basis of other justified humanitarian reasons, which are determined by a by-law by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the proposal of the Ministry, depending on the situation. In order for the category of foreign women from the Istanbul Convention (Chapter VII migration) to be considered in the sense of the aforementioned legal provision, it is primarily necessary to define the previous issues related to the determination of institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina that will define the level of rights and ensure the care of the aforementioned categories.</p> <p>On February 23, 2023, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and the Ministry of Security signed the Protocol on the Temporary Reception and Accommodation of Foreigners who have expressed their intention to apply for asylum and asylum seekers, as well as women on the move - victims of violence and unaccompanied minors who are in the category of vulnerable beneficiaries in Bosnia and Herzegovina during temporary accommodation in the refugee reception center "Salakovac" and the Readmission Center in Mostar. With this protocol, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina undertake to provide accommodation, food and other necessities, freedom of movement and work-occupational therapy for the aforementioned categories of people on the move - asylum seekers.</p>