

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 Iceland to the reporting form on the implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of the Parties adopted on 6 December 2022

Document received by the Committee of the Parties
on 12 December 2025

IC-CP/Inf(2025)16

Published on 12 December 2025

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 3 June 2025

IC-CP(2025)21

**Committee of the Parties
Council of Europe Convention
on Preventing and Combating
Violence against Women
and Domestic Violence
(Istanbul Convention)**

Reporting form on the implementation of the recommendations addressed to state parties

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, state parties 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 Iceland do not need to be reported on. **As a result, the Icelandic authorities are not required to answer questions 29 - 33 in the below form.**

The reporting deadline given to Iceland expires on 4 December 2025. Information related to the monitoring of Iceland is available on the dedicated [country monitoring webpage](#).

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>The Istanbul Convention is implemented through several different legislations and acts, including the General Penal Code, the Act on Criminal Procedure, Act on Civil Procedure, the Tort Act, the Child Protection Act, the Children's Act, the Act in Respect of Marriage, the Act on Restraining Orders and Eviction, the Act on Equal Status and Equal Rights Irrespective of Gender, the Act on Foreign Nationals and the Regulation on Conditions for Legal Aid and the working methods of the Legal Aid Committee.</p> <p>Icelandic equality legislation prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, ethnic origin, religion, belief, disability, reduced work capacity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics, or gender expression. The Acts on Equal Treatment in the Labour Market No. 85/2018 and Equal Treatment Outside the Labour Market No. 86/2018 provide for the right to equal treatment regardless of these characteristics.</p>	

	<p>Article 65(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Iceland No. 33/1944 stipulates that everyone shall be equal before the law and enjoy human rights without regard to sex, religion, opinion, national origin, race, colour, property, descent, or other status. Paragraph 2 of the same provision states that women and men shall enjoy equal rights in all respects. As the Constitution is the supreme source of law, it ensures that the aforementioned statutes cannot contain provisions that discriminate on the grounds listed in Article 4(3) of the Istanbul Convention.</p> <p>Information on gender-based violence is available on the Emergency Line website, 112.is, in Icelandic, English, Polish, Spanish, Ukrainian, Tagalog, and nine other languages. The site also provides information in easy-to-read language for women with disabilities and includes details on violence that women at risk of intersectional discrimination are more likely to experience, such as honour-related violence.</p> <p>Women requiring interpretation services are entitled to a free interpreter when giving statements to the police. Victims of gender-based violence may also seek assistance from victim advocacy organisations such as Stígamót, Bjarkarhlíð, Women's Counselling, and the Women's Shelter.</p> <p>Victims of sexual violence may receive free psychological treatment through the trauma team at the National University Hospital.</p> <p>The National University Hospital of Iceland in Fossvogur has operated an emergency reception for victims of sexual violence since 1993. The purpose of the emergency reception is to ensure the well-being and security of those who seek assistance due to sexual violence. It aims at reducing or preventing the psychological and physical trauma often resulting from sexual violence. The service is not contingent upon a decision on a complaint to the police, but at the emergency reception a forensic examination of the victim is carried out. All persons received are offered legal advice and assistance in filing a complaint in connection with the case; however, the decision on this is up to the victim. A group of specialised nurses work in the National University Hospital's emergency reception, together with physicians specialised in treating gynaecological disorders. Victims also have access to psychological services linked to the emergency reception, who work in the National University Hospital's psychiatric division. The emergency reception is financed under the hospital's budget, it is open 24 hours a day, accessible to everyone and the service is free of charge. There is close co-operation between the emergency reception, the police, child protection and the social services.</p>		
1.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
2	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to prevent and combat violence against women who are or might be exposed to intersectional discrimination?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>See the answer to question 1.1.</p> <p>In 2020, the Act on Equal Status and Equal Rights irrespective of Gender introduced the first ever article on multiple discrimination. The Acts on equal treatment in the labour market and outside the labour market now also include provisions on multiple discrimination. The concept of intersectionality has therefore been introduced into Icelandic legislation for the first time, marking a significant step forward in addressing discrimination. This change makes it easier to tackle cases where individuals face discrimination based on more than one grounds, such as gender, disability, or ethnicity, offering a more comprehensive approach to ensuring equality.</p>		

	<p>The Directorate of Equality is a government agency responsible for the implementation of the equality legislation and provides advice and assistance in matters related to equality.</p> <p>The Act on Criminal Procedure, No. 88/2008, was amended in June 2022. The aim of the amendments was to improve the legal situation of victims and persons with disabilities. The main changes are that the victim's legal rights protector now have similar access to data during the investigation phase as the defence attorney; that the victim is allowed to attend a closed court proceeding after having given their testimony; that the legal rights protector is authorised to directly question witnesses in court; and that victims are to a greater extent appointed legal rights protectors in the handling of appealed cases. In certain cases, the judge can decide that the questioning of a disabled victim or witness be held in specially equipped premises, and that the judge can call upon expert assistance during the questioning of a disabled witness.</p> <p>In June 2022 an Action Plan on LGBTQ+ Issues for 2022-2025 was adopted. The plan is the first to deal exclusively with the issues of LGBTQ+ people. It includes an action focusing on LGBTQ+ people and domestic violence with the aim of creating knowledge about domestic violence among LGBTQ+ people and combating it. A new Action Plan in LGBTQ+ Issues for 2026-2029 will take effect next year. The Democracy and Human Rights Office for The City of Reykjavík employs a specialist on LGBTQ+ issues and offers education on intimate partner violence in LGBTQ+ relationships.</p> <p>The Multicultural Division of the Directorate of Labour offers counselling services and information on rights for immigrants and refugees in Iceland. Counsellors speak various languages such as English, Polish, Spanish, Arabic, and Ukrainian. Interpretation can be requested.</p> <p>The National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women is now under Public Consultation until the 5th of January 2026 and is intended to take effect next year. The plan is the first of its kind in Iceland and includes two specific actions addressing honour-related violence and negative social control against women and girls. One measure under consideration is whether performing sterilizations without informed consent should be explicitly prohibited under general criminal law. This measure aims to protect the legal rights of women, particularly women with disabilities, against forced sterilization. Additionally, the plan contains an action on sexual health for persons with disabilities, including targeted LGBTQ+ education as part of general sex education.</p> <p>On 12 November 2025, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was directly incorporated into Icelandic law. A new National Plan on the Implementation of the Convention was approved by Parliament in March 2024. This plan serves as the government's main instrument in promoting change for the rights of persons with disabilities in the period 2024 to 2027. One of the actions of the Plan are on the increased protection against violence, with particular focus on women and non-binary individuals. A working group will focus on the specific challenges faced by women and non-binary individuals with disabilities in relation to violence and plans to have consultations with disabled individuals and their advocacy organizations. The aim is to have standardized procedures developed to address violence involving disabled victims or perpetrators, emphasizing safety, support, and accessible information on prevention and responses.</p> <p>Special measures were implemented to address the mass influx of refugees from Ukraine to ensure the safety of women, and the police undertook to inform women applying for international protection (regardless of nationality) about their rights and protection against violence, as well as provide guidance on where to seek help if they experience violence, including domestic violence, in Iceland. Subsequently, a gender-sensitive approach and training were introduced in accommodation facilities.</p>
2.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:

3	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]:		
II. Comprehensive and co-ordinated policies implemented under the responsibility of an adequately mandated and resourced co-ordinating body (Articles 7 and 10)			
4	Have your authorities developed a long-term plan/strategy to prevent and combat violence against women?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A (a plan/strategy was already developed at the time of GREVIO's baseline evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/>
5	Does the plan/strategy cover all forms of violence against women covered by the scope of the Istanbul Convention?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
5.1	If not, please specify which form of violence the plan/strategy addresses:		
	- 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"/>
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	If yes, please specify how:		

	<p>A new National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women covers the years 2026–2030. The plan consists of 25 actions and addresses measures against gender-based violence in a comprehensive manner. It aligns with the objectives of the Istanbul Convention and recommendations from GREVIO’s 2022 report.</p> <p>The plan replaces and incorporates measures from the previous action plan on handling sexual offences from 2023-2025, ensuring that actions related to sexual offences are included within the broader framework against gender-based violence.</p> <p>By merging these plans, the government aims to improve oversight of measures, resources, and services, enhance coordination of data collection and statistics, streamline procedures across systems, strengthen follow-up, and optimise resource use. All actions in the plan aim to strengthen victims’ rights. Special attention was given to GREVIO’s recommendations, focusing on femicide, honour-related violence, female genital mutilation, and negative social control.</p> <p>See answer to question 2.1. on actions addressing honour-related violence and negative social control. The action plan also includes, among other things, a review of establishing a special committee to analyse root causes of femicides, identify systemic failures, and recommend improvements to prevent recurrence. It is envisaged that the committee will operate independently of government, law enforcement, and courts, with the goal of reducing murders and improving women’s safety by strengthening responses from police, social services, and healthcare.</p>		
6.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
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>Responsibility for implementing the actions lies with the Ministries of Justice, Social Affairs and Housing, Education and Children, and Health. Partners include public institutions, District and State Prosecutors, police, the Judicial Administration, the Prison and Probation Administration, 112 - Emergency Line, the Directorate of Equality, The Counselling and Diagnostic Centre, The National Agency for Children and Families, healthcare institutions, Statistics Iceland, The Icelandic Quality and Supervisory Agency of Welfare, the Directorate of Immigration, district commissioners, municipalities and their social services, the Icelandic Association of Local Authorities, and child protection services.</p> <p>Support from academia and NGOs, including victim advocacy groups and the Icelandic Bar Association, is also envisaged.</p>		
8	Have the authorities assigned the role of co-ordinating body to one or more fully institutionalised entities?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
9	<p>Please specify the mandate, powers, and competences, as well as the composition, of the co-ordinating body/bodies:</p> <p>The steering group for the implementation of The National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women will oversee the execution and implementation of the action plan and the Istanbul Convention. The steering group will be composed of representatives from all ministries responsible for implementing the national action plan.</p>		

	<p>Since the national action plan entails the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Iceland, the steering group will act as the coordinating body as provided for in Article 10 of the Convention. To fulfil this role the steering group is authorised to submit reasoned recommendations to the Minister of Justice regarding updates to the action plan.</p> <p>To ensure coordination, the group will have consultation with key public and private stakeholders in this field, including non-governmental organisations, at meetings held twice a year on average.</p>									
-	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 432 1659 491">In particular, please indicate whether the co-ordinating body/bodies is/are responsible for:</td> <td data-bbox="1659 432 1868 491"></td> <td data-bbox="1868 432 2051 491"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 491 1659 962">- Co-ordination of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women</td> <td data-bbox="1659 491 1868 962"> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The co-ordination body responsible is: The steering group for the implementation of the National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women. </td> <td data-bbox="1868 491 2051 962">No <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 962 1659 1396">- Implementation of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women</td> <td data-bbox="1659 962 1868 1396"> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The co-ordination body responsible is: The steering group for the implementation of The National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women. </td> <td data-bbox="1868 962 2051 1396">No <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	In particular, please indicate whether the co-ordinating body/bodies is/are responsible for:			- Co-ordination of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The co-ordination body responsible is: The steering group for the implementation of the National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women.	No <input type="checkbox"/>	- Implementation of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The co-ordination body responsible is: The steering group for the implementation of The National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women.	No <input type="checkbox"/>
In particular, please indicate whether the co-ordinating body/bodies is/are responsible for:										
- Co-ordination of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The co-ordination body responsible is: The steering group for the implementation of the National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women.	No <input type="checkbox"/>								
- Implementation of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The co-ordination body responsible is: The steering group for the implementation of The National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women.	No <input type="checkbox"/>								

	<p>- Monitoring and evaluation of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The co-ordination body responsible is: The steering group for the implementation of The National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women.</p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>- Co-ordination of the collection of data, analysis and dissemination of its results</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The co-ordination body responsible is: The steering group for the implementation of The National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women.</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>The steering group is composed of representatives from the ministries, and both human and financial resources are drawn from existing budget allocations. No special funding is provided for the steering group itself; however, the national action plan is accompanied by an implementation fund, as stated in the answer to question 12.1. Actors responsible for implementing actions will be able to apply for contributions from this fund to ensure the execution of measures under the national action plan.</p>		
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>		

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	<p>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.</p> <p>At the end of 2024, a new government was formed, prioritising the fight against gender-based violence. This is reflected in increased funding for law enforcement, institutions, and organisations combating gender-based violence. Additional resources have been allocated to crime prevention, police staffing has increased, and a draft of the first National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women has been introduced for public consultation. A specialist on gender-based violence now works at the Ministry of Justice, and two crime prevention specialists have been appointed at the National Commissioner of Police.</p> <p>40,4 billion ISK were spent on law and order and public safety in 2024, this amount was raised to 44,5 billion ISK in 2025. Although not all of the increased funds are dedicated to combatting violence against women. In 2025 277 million ISK will be spent on supporting NGO's, see also the answer to question 14.1.</p> <p>Approximately ISK 500 million has been allocated to projects promoting child welfare. Project managers have been hired in all regions to establish regional welfare councils that will develop plans for prioritising child welfare measures.</p> <p>Several action plans, including those on gender equality and LGBTQ+ issues, have dedicated special implementation funds of ISK 10 million annually. The National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women also includes such a fund. These funds are intended to make it easier for stakeholders to implement measures. It is noted that, in addition to these funds, actions are financed by the implementing parties within the framework of each ministry.</p>		
12.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
13	Have these funds increased since the publication of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, by what amount: In 2022 the annual amount for support to	No <input type="checkbox"/>

		<p>NGO's was ISK 216 million, in 2025 this amount has increased to ISK 277 million. The ISK 10 million that are a part of the implementation fund for the National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women are also a recent expenditure. This means funding has increased by at least ISK 71 million, as well as the ISK 4,1 billion increase in law and order and public safety.</p>	
14	Have your authorities taken measures to foster long-term and sustainable financial support for non-governmental organisations working to support victims and prevent violence?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
14.1	If yes, please specify:		

	<p>The Government provides various types of support for the activities of non-governmental organisations and public bodies working in the fight against violence towards women and domestic violence. There are examples of NGOs receiving budget appropriations, ministries making service agreements or providing grants for activities or for specific projects, cf. the following.</p> <p>Several NGOs dedicated to combating gender-based violence and supporting victims receive fixed annual appropriations in the state budget. These include the Women’s Shelter Association, Stígamót, Bjarkarhlíð, Aflið, Bjarmahlíð, and Sigurhæðir. In 2023, their combined funding amounted to ISK 233.3 million, compared to ISK 216.1 million in 2022. According to the 2025 budget, ISK 319 million was allocated in 2024 to these organisations.</p> <p>The government has also concluded agreements with various organisations for specific projects. In 2024, a two-year agreement was signed with Bjarkarhlíð to expand services for victims of trafficking in human beings. In 2025, a long-term agreement was signed with Stígamót to continue the “Sjúktspjall” project, an online chat service for young people to discuss relationships, communication and violence, securing its operation for the next three years with 12 million ISK in funding each year.</p> <p>In early 2023, the Ministry of Health granted ISK 4.2 million to Rótin, an association focused on women, trauma, and substance abuse, for a project on healthcare services for marginalised women. Konukot, a shelter for homeless women, consequently offers low-threshold healthcare services in the local community. Rótin also received a special grant from the Prime Minister’s Office at the end of 2022 to support activities assisting victims of violence and women in vulnerable situations. For the same occasion, other organizations that support victims of gender-based violence also received support before Christmas.</p> <p>Foreign women can receive counselling on their rights and available remedies in Iceland from WOMEN. The organisation assists women who experience violence and also provides advice on divorce, isolation, intimate partner violence, administration in Iceland, education, and more. The counselling is free of charge. WOMEN’s counsellors speak Icelandic, English, Spanish, Russian, and other languages. WOMEN regularly receive grants from authorities for specific projects, most recently in November of 2025 for a seminar on gender-based violence, for further information see also the answer to question 16.1.</p>		
14.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
15	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]:		
IV. Non-governmental organisations and civil society (Article 9)			
16	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>See answers to questions 12.1 and 14.1.</p>		

	<p>NGOs play an important role in the fight against gender-based violence in Iceland. The public administration works closely with the organisations and utilises their knowledge and experience in introducing changes to legislation and in measures to fight gender-based violence. When preparing legislation, action plans and policies, an emphasis is placed on consultation with civil society, through the government's consultation portal, equality forums, open meetings, and other platforms.</p> <p>The Icelandic authorities have granted a special Equality Award at regular intervals since 1992. The award is granted to those considered to have excelled or made a significant impact in the field of gender equality, in recognition of outstanding work in promoting gender equality and as an encouragement for further efforts in this area. The award has been presented to various individuals, NGOs, as well as private companies for initiatives deemed to embody the spirit of equality and contribute to its advancement. The 2025 recipient of the award was the Women's Shelter Association.</p> <p>The Icelandic authorities have maintained successful cooperation with victim advocacy organisations at international events, such as the annual session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.</p> <p>The Minister for Gender Equality provides annual grants for projects and events in the field of gender equality. In 2025, special emphasis was placed on projects and events addressing the fight against gender-based violence against women.</p> <p>Among the projects supported, the following can be highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Chat Service: The Women's Shelter Association is developing an online chat box on its website, enabling users to communicate with counsellors in multiple languages. • Youth Assemblies: Nationwide youth assemblies for individuals aged 15 to 18 provide a platform to discuss violence in intimate relationships, with a particular focus on sexual violence. • Digital Safety Education: A project aimed at updating and enhancing education on internet safety, digital behaviour, and online responsibility for children and young people. The initiative seeks to strengthen awareness, knowledge, and skills for safe and responsible use of digital technology. • Full-Day Conference on Strangulation: Reykjavík University received funding to organise a full-day conference addressing strangulation, one of the most severe manifestations of domestic violence and coercive control. • Support for Women of Foreign Origin: W.O.M.E.N. in Iceland received funding to empower and strengthen women of foreign origin by providing education, raising awareness, and offering access to resources that enable them to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.
16.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:
<p>V. Data collection and research (Article 11)</p>	

17	Does statistical data collection by all relevant sectors of the administration ¹ clearly identify the following categories:		
	- Type of violence	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Sex	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Age	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Type of relationship between the victim and the perpetrator	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Other factors deemed relevant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, please specify: Sexual orientation.	No <input type="checkbox"/>
17.1	If not, please specify which sectors of the administration collects data on which categories:		
17.2	<p>In implementation of the recommendation addressed to your authorities, please specify which sectors have started to collect data/improved their data collection and how:</p> <p>The Service Division of the National Commissioner of Police keeps track of police statistics. At the beginning of 2023, the Office of the National Commissioner of Police began publishing statistics on domestic violence, and at the beginning of 2024, it started publishing statistics on sexual offences. Data, broken down by type of offence, gender, age, and the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. Statistics can also be requested from each individual police district, as well as from courts, the Attorney General and District Commissioners.</p> <p>The National Agency for Children and Families collect monthly data on the number of incident reports to child protection committees, among other things in connection with violence. These are classified as: a) emotional violence, b) if a child witnesses domestic violence, it is recorded separately and is then recorded as domestic violence, c) physical violence, d) sexual violence and, since 2022, e) digital sexual violence.</p> <p>The City of Reykjavík and the Reykjavík Metropolitan Police collaborate on the project <i>Together Against Violence</i> and publish statistical information from both the police and the city's welfare department on incidents and reports of domestic violence in Reykjavík. The project was first launched in 2015, and in 2025, data collection and publication began on the sexual orientation of victims and perpetrators in domestic violence cases.</p>		
18	Is statistical data collection by all relevant sectors of the administration conducted at regular intervals?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>The Office of the National Commissioner of Police publishes statistical information on intimate partner violence and sexual offences every three months.</p> <p>The National Agency for Children and Families publishes statistics on reports to child protection services every three months.</p>	If yes, please specify at what interval:	

¹ According to the Explanatory Report to the Convention, relevant statistical data may include administrative data collected from statistics compiled by health care services and social welfare services, law enforcement agencies, as well as judicial data recorded by judicial authorities, including public prosecutors.

	The City of Reykjavík and the Reykjavík Metropolitan Police publish data on domestic violence every month.		
19	Does statistical data by all sectors of the administration cover the following forms of violence against women? ²		
	- 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 type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Female genital mutilation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Forced abortion	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
- Forced sterilisation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
20	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"/>
21	<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> <p>Numerous studies concerning gender-based violence have been carried out over the years in Iceland. Various institutions and NGOs have also conducted research on violence against women in Iceland.</p> <p>The police victim survey is conducted annually. It includes questions on physical violence, sexual violence, digital sexual violence, domestic violence, and intimate partner violence.</p> <p>A report by the Social Science Research Institute at the University of Iceland for the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing on a study of violence in close relationships and families of LGBTQ+ people in Iceland was presented in December 2024. The study aimed to map the prevalence and manifestations of violence in intimate relationships and households of LGBTQ+ people. Data was collected through a survey sent to members of Samtökin '78, a questionnaire conducted among a discussion group on the "Hinseginspallið" (Queer Chat) platform, and individual interviews with LGBTQ+ people. In addition, responses from upper secondary school students in the Icelandic Youth Survey were analysed.</p>		

² No response has been given to certain questions, as the publication of some data is not considered possible due to the small population of Iceland. Such data is collected where applicable, but the number of cases is so low that the statistics provide little insight into the situation and publishing them could conflict with privacy considerations.

	The Icelandic Youth Survey is conducted every year and includes questions on physical violence, sexual violence, digital sexual violence, domestic violence, and intimate partner violence.		
22	<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 National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women includes an action on data collection, registration, and publication. This measure requires law enforcement, prosecution authorities, courts, healthcare services, social services, and child protection services to regularly collect, record, and publish disaggregated statistical data on all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention, in line with GREVIO's recommendations.</p> <p>The aim is to ensure that policymaking in the fight against gender-based and domestic violence is informed, responsible, and based on reliable statistical information. Therefore, it is necessary to obtain data from all entities providing services to victims, including healthcare and police.</p> <p>The action involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonising data collection and registration between police, prosecution, and courts for all forms of violence under the Convention. Data should be broken down by gender, age of victim and perpetrator, type of violence, and relationship between victim and perpetrator. • Collecting data on the number of cases reported to the police, complaints, indictments, convictions, and other sanctions for all forms of violence against women. • Gathering data on breaches of restraining orders and cases where women were subjected to further violence or killed due to such breaches. • Collecting statistics across municipal social services and healthcare services, including the number of individuals seeking assistance for all forms of violence, disaggregated by gender, age, origin, and relationship between victim and perpetrator, as well as the type of services provided. • Publishing statistics on all forms of violence under the Convention, including data analysis and trends. • Collecting data on custody and visitation cases involving violence. 		
VI. Custody, visitation rights and safety (Article 31)			
23	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 courts?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
23.1	<p>If yes, please specify how this has been done (by legislative amendments or other means)</p> <p>According to the second paragraph of Art. 34 of the Children's Act, No. 76/2003, a judge determines how custody of a child or legal domicile will be arranged according to the best interests of the child. The judge considers, among other things, the risk that the child, parent or others in the child's home have been or may be subjected to violence.</p>		

	<p>If a perpetrator has the rights to visitation with a child, this right does not take precedence over a judge's ruling on a restraining order and/or eviction, prohibiting the perpetrator from approaching the child. If there is a restraining order in force, which prohibits the perpetrator from approaching the child's mother and not the child, a third party is engaged to handle communication between the victim and perpetrator concerning the child, including concerning visitation. Under Art 47 of the Children's Act, the District Commissioner rules on visitation. In determining visitation, the District Commissioner is to assess the risk that the child, parent or others in the household have been or may be subjected to violence. The District Commissioner can also change or revoke a ruling or an agreement on visitation if it is considered in the best interests of the child.</p> <p>Following GREVIO's first evaluation report for Iceland, the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour appointed a working group to review the legal and regulatory framework for services related to violence. The group delivered a report in March 2023 recommending amendments to the Children's Act to ensure compliance with Iceland's obligations under the Istanbul Convention, aiming to better safeguard victims and children during divorce and separation proceedings and decisions on visitation.</p> <p>Subsequently, the Minister of Justice appointed a committee to review the Children's Act and the Marriage Act. The committee has submitted draft amendments of the Children's Act to the Minister, including provisions to strengthen the assessment of violence in custody, domicile, and visitation cases. The bill is under review in the Ministry and is expected to be presented to Parliament in autumn 2026 or spring 2027. Furthermore, the committee has been given time until 1. February 2026 to submit to the Minister a draft bill of new Marriage Act.</p> <p>On 1 July 2023, amendments to Article 42 of the Marriage Act entered into force, removing the obligation for reconciliation attempts between spouses with minor children if one spouse has been convicted of violence against the other or the child, or has confessed to such an offence. The law also allows separate reconciliation meetings upon request when neither a conviction nor confession exists.</p> <p>These initiatives are also reflected in the previously mentioned National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women, which includes a measure to ensure the safety of victims in custody and visitation cases.</p>		
23.2	<p>If yes, please specify how the above obligation is implemented in practice, including by providing data indicating to what extent courts consider all issues related to violence against women in their decisions on custody and visitation rights:</p> <p>The aforementioned obligations are being implemented, and therefore no data is currently available.</p>		
23.3	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
24	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
24.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>See the answer above to question 23.1.</p>		
24.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		

25	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]:		
VII. Immediate response, prevention, and protection (Article 50)			
26	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to improve the prompt and appropriate response of law enforcement agencies, in particular by:		
	- 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"/>
26.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>In the police diploma programme, mandatory courses cover violence and power relations, diversity and policing, and communication and community policing. These courses examine research on how unequal power dynamics can lead to gender-based violence, the #MeToo movement, and women's experiences with the justice system. They also address marginalised groups and aim to increase understanding of how power structures operate, focusing on gender roles, poverty, sexual orientation, race, class, and the interplay of these factors, which often lead to social problems.</p> <p>In recent years, the Reykjavík Metropolitan Police has made efforts to increase the number of women among police officers. Women form the majority of civilian staff, but among police officers they account for about 30% compared to 70% men. The proportion of women in the police force is growing, thanks in part to the police's equality policy and emphasis on creating a family-friendly workplace. In the oldest age group of officers (56–65 years), women make up only 14%, while in the youngest group (35 years and younger) they represent 40%.</p> <p>The sexual offences unit of the Reykjavík Metropolitan Police has changed its procedures to improve efficiency. Cases are processed more quickly, which helps increase victims' trust in the police. A project manager position for domestic violence and abuse cases has been established within the department, which has been held by an assistant chief of police for over a year. This has improved oversight of case handling, shortened processing times, and ensured compliance with all required protocols. Work is also underway to update guidelines and procedures related to gender-based violence to ensure the quality of investigations.</p> <p>The Reykjavík Metropolitan Police has launched a development project on cybercrime and digital investigations. The department has accumulated significant expertise in its cybercrime unit, prosecution division, and central investigation units through domestic and international cooperation. The goal is to consolidate this knowledge and activity into a single unit, improving efficiency and success in obtaining data from social media and other sources to support victim testimony. A staff member specialising in obtaining digital evidence from other countries and foreign authorities has</p>		

	<p>established cooperation with Snapchat and Google and is working to secure access from Microsoft and Facebook. This speeds up processes and increases the likelihood of obtaining evidence from these companies, which can be crucial for proving cases of gender-based violence.</p> <p>A liaison prosecutor has also taken up a position at Eurojust. This has greatly helped expedite requests sent to foreign authorities, obtain faster responses, and clarify what information can be obtained and by what means. This has accelerated the collection of evidence from abroad and improved case progress.</p> <p>The National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women includes a measure focused on training within the justice system on gender-based violence against women. This measure ensures that education on digital evidence collection is provided to investigators, prosecutors, and judges, particularly in sexual offence cases.</p>		
26.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
27	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"/>
27.1	<p>If yes, please specify what kind of measures, and if further preventive measures were adopted to remedy this situation:</p> <p>Specialists in risk assessment at the National Commissioner of Police and the Reykjavik Metropolitan Police have developed an on-site prioritisation tool linked to the implementation of the B-Safer risk assessment system in domestic violence cases. The tool is designed to assess the risk to victims and enable appropriate interventions. Plans are underway to integrate the risk assessment into a smart solution for easier use by police officers on site.</p> <p>As previously mentioned in the answer to question 6.1, the National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women also includes establishing a femicide review committee to respond to cases of femicide by uncovering causal factors and identifying potential failures in official responses.</p>		
27.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
28	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]:		
VIII. — Emergency barring, restraining or protection orders (Articles 52 and 53)			
29	<p>As regards 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 of or contacting the victim or person at risk.</p>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

29.1	If yes, please indicate which authorities have the power to issue emergency barring orders:		
29.2	If yes, please indicate the length of time for which emergency barring orders may remain in force:		
29.3	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
30	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 type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	— Stalking	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	— Sexual violence	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	— Sexual harassment	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	— Forced marriage	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	— Female genital mutilation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	— Forced abortion	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	— Forced sterilisation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
30.1	If yes, please specify:		
30.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
31	Is data collected on the percentage of orders issued and their violation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
32	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure the effective enforcement of barring, restraining or protection orders?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
32.1	If yes, please specify:		
32.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
33	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, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:		

Specific recommendations	
34	<p>Please report on measures taken by your authorities contributing to the implementation of the recommendation to set up a state-wide, free-of-charge, round-the-clock helpline dedicated to all forms of violence against women that is capable of providing crisis support and counselling to victims, with due respect for the confidentiality and anonymity of all callers and operated by trained staff [Recommendation A.9, IC-CP/Inf(2022)12].</p> <p>The Red Cross helpline and online chat are open 24 hours a day, all year round. Every year nearly 20 thousand cases are received. Confidentiality and anonymity are ensured, and the service is free. Trained and experienced volunteers of all ages answer the calls received in 1717. Callers can contact the service about anything they are concerned about and receive psychological support, advice and information about the resources available in Icelandic society.</p> <p>Every volunteer signs a confidentiality agreement, and strict attention is paid to privacy and anonymity. The helpline collaborates with various institutions and organisations both domestically and internationally, including the Directorate of Health, the Emergency Line, Mental Health Alliance, Save the Children Iceland, and the Home and School Association, among others. The helpline is also a member of the international organisation Child Helpline International (CHI) and participates in Saft, an awareness campaign promoting safe and positive use of digital media among children and youth in Iceland. The Red Cross Helpline 1717 is supported by the Icelandic government, and in May 2025, three ministries signed an agreement to provide funding for its operation.</p> <p>The Women's Shelter hotline is open 24/7. Victims of gender-based violence and their relatives can contact the hotline at any time for support and/or counselling, free of charge. A counsellor is always on duty at the shelter, day and night, throughout the year. Counsellors providing support and advice at the Women's Shelter have extensive experience and diverse educational backgrounds, including psychology, gender studies, sociology, criminology, anthropology, and family counselling. They work in shifts to keep the shelter open around the clock, year-round. The Icelandic government supports the operation of the Women's Shelter and its hotline through financial contributions and other forms of assistance, as detailed in responses to questions 14.1. and 16.1.</p>
35	<p>Please report on measures taken by your authorities contributing to the implementation of recommendation to ensure that in cases of all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention, systematic and gender-sensitive risk assessment and safety management become standard procedure for all agencies involved, and ensure that an effective multi-agency approach is taken to such a risk assessment in order to ensure the human rights and safety of the individual victim, and to ensure that women's organisations, shelters and the healthcare sector are formally included in the process [Recommendation A.14, IC-CP/Inf(2022)12].</p> <p>A risk assessment (B-SAFER) is carried out by the police in cases of domestic violence. The risk assessment is made to assess the imminent danger and risk of serious violence and to prepare an action plan to ensure the safety of victims in accordance with the assessment. Cases are reviewed regularly to ensure the action plan is followed up on. This is done to try to ensure perpetrators cannot reach the victims, if reason is seen to do so. There is also close co-operation between the police and social services, child protection and healthcare services. If the conditions of the Act on Restraining Orders and Eviction are satisfied, the police may, on their own initiative, decide to subject the perpetrator to a restraining order.</p>

The National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women includes a measure focused on risk assessment and risk management. This measure aims to establish systematic and coordinated risk assessment and, subsequently, appropriate risk management for all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention, across all institutions involved in responding to such violence. The goal is to promote harm reduction, minimise damage, and prevent femicide. The measure also seeks to foster a shared understanding among different institutions regarding violence and risk, as well as ensure adequate channels for information exchange. The measure and the implementation of risk assessment and risk management in line with the Istanbul Convention are scheduled for completion by the end of 2028. Systematic risk management will include the use of safety alarms, eviction from the home, and restraining orders. Both risk assessment and risk management will take into account the diverse needs of different women and their children, including women of foreign origin and others exposed to intersectional discrimination.

A special femicide review committee will be established under the National Action Plan Combatting Gender-Based Violence Against Women, as previously covered in the answers to questions 6.1. and 27.1. Its purpose is to analyse the main causal factors leading to the killing of women and identify potential systemic failures. The committee will investigate the circumstances of femicides to prevent similar incidents from recurring and determine what improvements are needed so that gender-based violence does not escalate to femicide.

The committee is intended to operate independently and autonomously, separate from government authorities, law enforcement, prosecutors, and the courts. It's ultimate goal is to reduce the number of murders and enhance women's safety by strengthening and improving the response of police, social services, and the healthcare system.