



**Report submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina
pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 1
of the Council of Europe Convention
on preventing and combating violence
against women and domestic violence
(First thematic evaluation round)**

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

Questionnaire for the evaluation of the implementation of the Council of Europe
Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and
Domestic Violence by the Bosnia and Herzegovina

1st thematic evaluation round: Building trust by delivering
support, protection and justice

Adopted by GREVIO on 13 October 2022

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Introduction

Pursuant to Article 66, paragraph 1, the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) monitors the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (hereinafter: the Istanbul Convention).

For the first thematic evaluation round, GREVIO adopted a questionnaire, which was sent to Bosnia and Herzegovina on 17 March 2026. Bosnia and Herzegovina was asked to submit its replies to GREVIO within six months of the date on which the questionnaire was sent.

GREVIO decided to focus its first thematic evaluation round on the theme of “Building trust by delivering support, protection and justice.” Part I of the replies identifies the progress made since the completion of the baseline evaluation procedure in key areas such as comprehensive and co-ordinated policies, funding and data collection. Part II provides more detailed information on the implementation of selected provisions in the areas of prevention, protection and prosecution, in respect of which the baseline evaluation procedure and the Conclusions on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention identified significant challenges and the need for further sustained implementation. Part III identifies emerging trends in the area of violence against women and domestic violence, as reported by the competent institutions. Part IV contains annual statistics for the two full calendar years preceding receipt of the Questionnaire, covering specific administrative and judicial data.

The Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AGE BiH/MHRR) translated the questionnaire and distributed it to all competent institutions. AGE BiH/MHRR also organised a series of consultation meetings involving more than forty institutions from Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), the Republika Srpska (RS), the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BD BiH). The replies received from these institutions are set out below.

Part I: Changes in comprehensive and co-ordinated policies, funding and data collection in the area of violence against women and domestic violence

Article 7: Comprehensive and co-ordinated policies

1. Please provide information on any new policy development since the adoption of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report on your country to ensure comprehensive policies covering the areas of prevention, protection, and prosecution in relation to stalking, sexual harassment and domestic violence, including their digital dimension, rape and sexual violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, forced abortion and forced sterilisation, thereby demonstrating further implementation of the convention. Please specify the measures taken particularly in relation to those forms of violence against women that have not been addressed in past policies, programmes and services encompassing the four pillars of the Istanbul Convention.

At its 13th session, held on 20 November 2023, 11. the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Resolution on Preventing All Forms of Violence against Women and Harassment of Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, No. 01-02-2-1831-2/23 (hereinafter: the Resolution), whereby:

1. *The House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: the House of Representatives) strongly condemns all forms of violence against women and harassment of women and calls on the competent judicial authorities to take urgent action to prosecute offences related to violence against women (murder, bodily injury, physical and psychological abuse, and harassment).*
2. *The House of Representatives calls on the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other competent authorities, within their respective mandates, to initiate the development of documents defining a comprehensive policy and measures framework for the protection of and assistance to all victims of violence against women, harassment of women and domestic violence, with a view to fully implementing the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.*
3. *The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other competent authorities are called upon to launch a campaign to raise awareness on the prevention of violence against women and harassment of women, as well as on the prevention of domestic violence.*
4. *The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other competent authorities are called upon to establish effective co-operation with relevant non-governmental organisations and civil society organisations active in combating violence against women and harassment of women.*
5. *The House of Representatives calls on all bodies and institutions at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina to adopt codes of ethics, or to align existing codes of ethics with international conventions, the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina and applicable legislation, with a view to preventing and sanctioning unacceptable conduct in the form of violence, harassment or any form of discrimination on the grounds of sex, particularly against women.*

With regard to paragraph 5 of the Resolution, the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina within the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees (AGE BiH/MHRR), in accordance with the Law on Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which requires employers to take effective measures to prevent gender-based harassment and sexual harassment at work and/or in connection with work, had launched an initiative as early as 2019 to regulate protection against gender-based harassment and sexual harassment and to prevent such conduct within the

executive branch of government in the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. A total of 63 institutions have adopted decisions introducing zero tolerance for gender-based harassment and sexual harassment and have appointed prevention advisers, thereby creating the necessary conditions for preventing and combating this form of gender-based discrimination. At the session of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina at which the Resolution was adopted, and in connection with the GREVIO Committee's report on Bosnia and Herzegovina on 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, as well as the Recommendations of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention, the House of Representatives adopted the following conclusions:

1. The House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina took note, with concern, of the GREVIO Report on Bosnia and Herzegovina on legislative and other measures giving effect to the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), as well as the Recommendations of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention.
2. The House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH calls on the parliaments of the entities, the Brčko District of BiH and the cantons to consider the Report in question and, in line with its recommendations, take the necessary legislative measures.
3. The House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly calls on the Council of Ministers of BiH and all other executive authorities in BiH, within their respective mandates, to initiate legislative proposals and take other measures aimed at implementing the recommendations contained in the GREVIO Report and those of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention.
4. The House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH calls on the Council of Ministers of BiH, to develop in co-operation with the competent institutions at the entity, cantonal and Brčko District levels, a plan of measures for the implementation of the recommendations of the GREVIO Committee and the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention, to monitor its implementation and report regularly to the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH.

The House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina considered the aforementioned report at its session held on 21 January 2024 and adopted conclusions identical to those adopted by the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bearing in mind that the GREVIO Report on Bosnia and Herzegovina on legislative and other measures giving effect to the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence was prepared by the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) and constitutes a comprehensive analysis of Bosnia and Herzegovina's legislative and institutional framework for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, accompanied by specific recommendations, the implementation of these recommendations itself constitutes concrete action in relation to the Resolution on Preventing All Forms of Violence against Women and Harassment of Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina. AGE BiH/MHRR co-ordinated the work on the preparation of the GREVIO Report with the GREVIO Committee and the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In accordance with the obligations stipulated under the Istanbul Convention, the Report was submitted to the Council of Ministers for consideration and subsequently forwarded to the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The GREVIO Report was translated into the official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina and distributed to all executive and legislative authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In accordance with the conclusions of the Committee on Gender Equality of the Parliamentary

Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the aforementioned conclusions adopted by both Houses of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the competences defined under the Law on Ministries and Other Bodies of Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Law on Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina, AGE BiH/MHRR has taken steps to develop a plan of measures for the implementation of GREVIO recommendations. Based on the GREVIO Report, a draft format for the plan of measures for the implementation of the GREVIO recommendations was developed for the purpose of co-ordination, information exchange, monitoring and reporting on the measures implemented. AGE BiH/MHRR has provided support to other competent institutions in developing their plans for the implementation of the GREVIO recommendations.

A 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, No. 19/25) and the Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, No. 58/25) were adopted. These laws incorporate into the legislation of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina the principles of the Istanbul Convention and the relevant GREVIO recommendations, the Lanzarote Convention, and, in part, Directive (EU) 2024/1385 on combating violence against women and domestic violence of 24 May 2024. These legislative amendments strengthen the overall legal framework for protection against domestic violence and violence against women, while ensuring a more effective and stringent penal policy in the case of perpetrators who have committed offences against sexual freedom and morality, sexual abuse and exploitation of children, and offences against marriage, family and youth. Unlike the previous legislation, the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina now includes violence against women both in its title and its substantive provisions, in addition to domestic violence. Accordingly, all measures provided for under the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina apply both to domestic violence and to violence against women. The Law, among other measures, provides for emergency protective measures ordered by police, which take effect immediately and may remain in force for a maximum of 48 hours. The Law also provides for specialised support services, procedures for the protection of victims of domestic violence and violence against women, measures for protection against domestic violence and violence against women, assistance to victims, measures to prevent violence by persons who have committed acts of violence, the role of associations and foundations in the system providing protection to victims of domestic violence and violence against women, and co-operation among all entities involved in the protection against domestic violence and violence against women. The amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina cover all criminal offences provided for under the Istanbul Convention, together with the corresponding sanctions and aggravated forms of such offences where they are committed against a family member, a close person, a pregnant woman, a child, a person who is in a position of subordination or dependence in relation to the perpetrator, or a person who is particularly vulnerable due to age, illness, disability, pregnancy, or a serious physical or mental impairment. Definition of domestic violence in Article 222 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (CC FBiH) is aligned with the Istanbul Convention, whereby Article 2 of the CC FBiH defines violence as follows: "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 occurring in public or private life." Article 2 of the CC FBiH also defines gender-based violence against women as violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that disproportionately affects women. Such conduct shall be considered an aggravating circumstance unless this Law expressly provides for a more severe punishment. The terms family and close person are also defined. Family members are: spouses or former spouses and their children or the children of each of them, common-law partners or former common-law partners and their children or the children of each of them, blood relatives and relatives from a relationship of full adoption in the direct line without limitation, and

in the collateral line up to the fourth degree, stepfather, stepmother, adopted child and adoptive parent from a relationship of incomplete adoption, relatives by law up to the second degree regardless of the fact that the marital union has ended, persons bound by a relationship of guardianship and foster care, persons who live or have lived in the same household regardless of kinship, persons who have a child together or a child was conceived even though they never lived in the same household, regardless of whether the perpetrator shares or has shared a household with the victim. Close persons are family members, as well as life partners, former life partners, current or former partners in an emotional or intimate relationship, regardless of whether the perpetrator shares or has shared a household with the victim. Article 203 defines the criminal offence of rape as follows: "Whoever engages in sexual intercourse or an equivalent sexual act with another person without her consent or induces another person to engage in sexual intercourse or an equivalent sexual act with a third person without her consent, or to engage in an equivalent sexual act on herself without her consent, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term between one and five years." The same Article provides for a more severe punishment if the offence is committed by the use of force or threat, against a family member or close person, or against a person who is particularly vulnerable due to illness, dependency, pregnancy, disability or a serious physical or mental impairment, or against a child over 15 years of age, or in an especially cruel or particularly degrading manner, or out of hatred, or jointly with one or more perpetrators, where multiple acts of sexual intercourse or equivalent sexual acts are committed against the same person, or through the use of a weapon or dangerous instrument, or where the raped person suffers serious bodily injury or becomes pregnant, or where the offence results in the death of the person. This provision further stipulates that consent exists if a person has voluntarily decided to engage in sexual intercourse or an equivalent sexual act and was capable of making and expressing such a decision. It is considered that such consent does not exist, especially if sexual intercourse or an equivalent sexual act was carried out using threats, fraud, abuse of position against a person who is in a dependent relationship with the perpetrator, exploitation of a person's condition due to which she was unable to express her refusal, or against a person who was unlawfully deprived of their freedom. Article 203a defines the criminal offence of sexual harassment, which constitutes any unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is intended to, or actually does, violate the dignity of a person and causes fear or creates a hostile, humiliating or offensive environment. A more severe prison sentence is prescribed where, inter alia, this criminal offence is committed against a person in a subordinate position, a person with a disability, a family member or close person, or through the use of information and communication technologies. Article 166 (Murder) of the CC FBiH has been amended to include the aggravating circumstances of "killing a family member or close person" and "killing a child or a pregnant woman". Article 166a defines the criminal offence of aggravated murder of a female where a person commits a gender-based murder of a female person. When determining this criminal offense, it shall be taken into account that the offense was committed against a close person, a person who has previously been abused by the perpetrator, a vulnerable person, a person in a relationship of subordination or dependence, or that the offense was committed in circumstances of sexual violence or due to a relationship that places women in an unequal position, or that there are other circumstances indicating that it is gender-based violence. Article 179a defines the criminal offence of stalking, whether committed directly, through a third person or by means of information and communication technologies, thereby also recognising the digital dimension of violence. Article 215a defines forced marriage as a criminal offence. Article 173a defines female genital mutilation as a criminal offence. A more severe prison sentence is prescribed where, inter alia, the offence is committed against a child, family member or close person. Article 173b defines forced sterilisation as a criminal offence. The criminal offence of psychological violence is defined under Article 181b and also covers acts committed through information and communication technologies. The Criminal Code further defines the criminal offences of abuse of sexually explicit footage under Article 189a and unauthorised use of personal data under Article 193. The 2025 amendments to the Criminal Code introduced new provisions stipulating that, for the criminal offenses of human trafficking and organized human trafficking, criminal offenses against sexual freedom and morality, criminal offenses of sexual abuse and exploitation of children, and criminal

offenses against marriage, family and youth committed to the detriment of a child, the statute of limitations for criminal prosecution begins to run from the time the victim becomes of age (Article 16, paragraph 7). Imprisonment imposed for a term of up to one year cannot be replaced by a fine for criminal offences against the constitutional order of the Federation, human trafficking and organized human trafficking, criminal offences against sexual freedom and morality, criminal offences of sexual abuse and exploitation of a child and criminal offences against marriage, family and youth (Article 43a, paragraph 4). When determining the sentence for offences against life and limb, human trafficking and organised human trafficking, sexual freedom and morality, sexual abuse and exploitation of children, and marriage, family and youth, the court may not treat culture, customs, religion, tradition or so-called honour as mitigating circumstances (Article 49, paragraph 2). Persons convicted of offences against marriage, family and youth are not eligible to serve their prison sentence under house arrest with electronic monitoring (Article 43c). Convictions resulting in a long-term prison sentence, as well as convictions for sexual abuse and exploitation of a child or for trafficking in human beings and organised trafficking in human beings committed against a child, may not be expunged (Article 125, paragraph 4). Article 78 of the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women foresees a statutory obligation to provide professional training. Accordingly, the Centre for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is required to provide regular training for judges and prosecutors on violence-related matters; the competent ministries and administrative bodies are required to provide regular training for civil servants and employees whose duties involve responding to violence; and the competent ministries of the interior are required to provide regular training for police officers on violence-related matters. The competent institutions have developed training programmes that are currently being implemented and cover topics including domestic violence, violence against women, discrimination and gender equality, as well as exposure to violence among groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination.

Since the baseline evaluation, a number of legislative amendments have been introduced in the Republika Srpska. The Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Republika Srpska adopted in 2023 introduced the following criminal offences:

- Unauthorised publication and display of another person's file, portrait or recording;
- Misuse of photographs and video recordings of sexually explicit content;
- Stalking
- Publicly exposing a person to ridicule on the grounds of their race, religion or nationality.

The 2023 amendments to the Criminal Code of the Republika Srpska also brought the criminal offence of sexual harassment into further alignment with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention. Specifically, the requirement that the victim be in a subordinate position vis-à-vis the perpetrator was removed from the definition of the offence. Sexual harassment is therefore prohibited regardless of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator. All criminal offences in the Republika Srpska apply regardless of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator. Likewise, no criminal offence in the Republika Srpska may be justified on the grounds of customary law or so-called honour. In April 2026, Republika Srpska adopted the Law on Temporary Child Maintenance known as the Maintenance Fund Law. The Law entered into force in July 2026. The purpose of the Law is to provide financial support to a child or children whose parent (the maintenance obligor) fails to pay, pays only part of, or pays irregularly the maintenance awarded under an enforceable legal instrument. The Public Institution Child Protection Fund of the Republika Srpska will decide at first instance on entitlement to temporary child maintenance, with the costs covered from the budget of the Republika Srpska. The Law on Support for an Unemployed Parent of Four or More Children in the Republika Srpska was also adopted. In the period following the baseline evaluation, a number of public policies were adopted in the Republika Srpska that contribute, both directly or indirectly, to the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. These include:

- Strategy for the Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health in the Republika Srpska (2019-2029);
- Strategy for Combating Domestic Violence in the Republika Srpska (2026-2032);
- Social Protection Strategy of the Republika Srpska (2023-2029);

- *Employment Strategy of the Republika Srpska (2021-2027);*
- *Strategy for the Development of Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education of the Republika Srpska (2022-2030);*
- *Strategy for Combating Cybercrime in the Republika Srpska (2025-2031);*
- *Strategy for the Development of Women's Entrepreneurship in the Republika Srpska (2025-2031);*
- *Action plan for the implementation of the Strategy for Combating Domestic Violence in the Republika Srpska 2026-2032, covering the period 2026-2028;*
- *Action plan for the response of protection providers to cases of gender-based violence in the context of a pandemic/state of emergency in the Republika Srpska;*
- *Youth Policy of the Republika Srpska (2023-2027)*
- *Action plan for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the GREVIO Committee's Report on BiH in the Republika Srpska (2024-2025);*
- *Action plan for the implementation of the Employment Strategy of the Republika Srpska for the period 2026-2028;*
- *Action plan of the Government of the Republika Srpska to combat trafficking in human beings (2024-2027);*
- *General Protocol for responding to cases of domestic violence;*
- *Protocol on the protection of children from violence, neglect and abuse;*
- *Annual operational plans for gender equality in the Republika Srpska;*
- *Programme of measures to strengthen safety and prevent violence in primary and secondary schools and student dormitories in the Republika Srpska.*

Since the adoption of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report, the Public Institution Social Welfare Institute of the Republika Srpska has also been established. One of its functions is to support the professional development of staff, including by developing training programmes for professionals working in the social protection system, thereby helping to ensure the quality of services provided. In 2022, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare developed the Guidelines for strengthening community nursing at the level of local self-government units in the Republika Srpska, based on a gender-sensitive approach. The Ministry of Labour, War Veterans and Disabled People's Protection and the Public Institution Employment Institute issued a public call to employers and unemployed persons for the use of funds under employment programmes in 2026. The public call was issued as a measure under the Action plan for the implementation of the Employment Strategy of the Republika Srpska for the period 2026-2028. Three of the four programmes are particularly relevant to the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, to wit:

- *Programme to Support the Economy through New Employment, with a total budget of 5,000,000 BAM, aimed at supporting the employment of unemployed persons at high risk of exclusion and young people under 30. The programme identifies victims of violence, persons with disabilities and single parents (predominantly mothers) as specific target groups.*
- *Programme for the Employment and Self-Employment of Target Groups in the Economy, with a total budget of BAM 5,000,000. Specific target groups include women who had been registered as unemployed for more than six months at the time the public call was published, persons with disabilities, former residents of residential institutions for children without parental care, victims of violence, single parents and parents of children with serious illnesses.*
- *Programme to Support the Employment of Roma in the Republika Srpska, with a total budget of BAM 15,670.*

The University of Banja Luka adopted the Guidelines on sexual harassment and gender-based violence which define what constitutes inappropriate conduct and provide for protection procedures and support mechanisms for the victims within the university. The Guidelines also set out in detail the internal procedure for reporting unwanted conduct. The Guidelines were adopted in 2022 and were subsequently promoted at several faculties. The University Clinical Centre of the Republika Srpska, the largest healthcare institution in the Republika Srpska, has developed a Gender Equality Plan for the period 2023-2027.

The authorities of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina are in the process of preparing the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women, which will

place women's rights and empowerment at the heart of the legal framework. Specific rights and protective measures for women will be further regulated through relevant bylaws. Police of the Brčko District of BiH is represented in the working group established by the Government of the Brčko District of BiH. The new law, together with the accompanying Rulebook on the implementation of emergency and protective measures within the competence of the Police of the Brčko District of BiH, is expected to be adopted in the fourth quarter of 2026. Further amendments may follow once the new legal framework is in place. The Assembly of the Brčko District of BiH has adopted amendments to the Criminal Code of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of the Brčko District of BiH, No. 19/2020 – consolidated text and 3/2024), introducing new criminal offences and amending existing provisions to bring them into line with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. Among the key changes is the introduction of new criminal offences, including female genital mutilation, forced sterilisation, stalking, psychological violence, sexual harassment and forced marriage. The amendments are listed in the annex to this document.

At its session held on 5 November 2025, the Assembly of the Brčko District of BiH adopted the Law on the Special Register of Persons Finally Convicted of Criminal Offences of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (Official Gazette of the Brčko District of BiH, No. 39/2025). The Law, among other things, provides for the establishment and maintenance of a special register of persons finally convicted of criminal offences of sexual abuse and exploitation of children (hereinafter: the Register). It also specifies the personal data to be entered in the Register, the manner in which such data are stored and made available for use, the level of confidentiality applicable to the data, and the special measures to be applied to persons finally convicted of criminal offences of sexual abuse and exploitation of children. The purpose of the Law is to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation and to prevent persons convicted of such offences by a final verdict from reoffending or committing similar offences. The Register includes persons entered in the criminal records maintained by the Police of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: the Police) who have been convicted of the following offences under the Criminal Code of the Brčko District of BiH (Official Gazette of the Brčko District of BiH, No. 19/20 - consolidated text, 3/24 and 14/24) (hereinafter: the Criminal Code) where the offences were committed against children or minors, to wit: a) rape (Article 200 of the Criminal Code); b) sexual harassment (Article 200a of the Criminal Code); c) sexual intercourse with helpless person (Article 201 of the Criminal Code); d) sexual intercourse through abuse of office (Article 202 of the Criminal Code); e) forced sexual intercourse (Article 203 of the Criminal Code); f) debauchery (Article 205 of the Criminal Code); g) trafficking in children (Article 207b of the Criminal Code); h) sexual intercourse with a child under 15 years of age (Article 207d of the Criminal Code); i) sexual abuse of a child over 15 years of age (Article 207e of the Criminal Code); j) inducing children to satisfy sexual needs (Article 207f of the Criminal Code); k) satisfying sexual urges in the presence of a child (Article 207g of the Criminal Code); l) soliciting a child for prostitution (Article 207h of the Criminal Code); m) exploitation of a child for pornography (Article 207i of the Criminal Code); n) exploitation of a child for pornographic performances (Article 207j of the Criminal Code); and o) exposing a child to pornography (Article 207k of the Criminal Code). Paragraph (2) further stipulates that, in addition to the persons referred to in paragraph (1), the Register shall also include: a) persons whose convictions are recorded in the criminal records maintained by the police and who have been finally convicted of criminal offences against sexual integrity committed against children or minors; and b) persons who have been finally convicted of criminal offences against sexual integrity committed against children or minors, whose criminal records are not maintained by the police, but who have a registered permanent or temporary residence in the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. Where relevant, please provide information on any measures taken to ensure the alignment of any definitions of domestic violence and of violence against women in national legislation or

policy documents with those set out under Article 3 of the Istanbul Convention and provide the relevant applicable provisions in English or French.

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, No. 19/25), in Article 8, defines the terms used in the Law in accordance with the definitions set out in Article 3 of the Istanbul Convention:

"Article 8 (Meaning of terms used in this law)

(1) Domestic violence means any act of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence occurring within the family or household, or between former or current spouses or partners, irrespective of whether the perpetrator shares or has shared the same household with the victim.

(2) Violence against women is a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and encompasses all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.

(3) Gender means the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for women and men.

4) Gender-based violence against women means violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that disproportionately affects women. [...]"

The Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina aligns the definitions set out in Article 2 with those stipulated in the Istanbul Convention, as follows:

"Article 2

[...] (40) 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 occurring in public or private life.

(41) Gender-based violence against women means violence directed against a woman because she is a woman or violence that disproportionately affects women. Such conduct shall be considered an aggravating circumstance unless this Law expressly provides for a more severe punishment."

As regards the individual criminal offences covered by the Istanbul Convention, the definitions of these offences in the Criminal Code have been aligned with those set out in the Istanbul Convention. Article 222, paragraph (1) of the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina defines domestic violence in a manner aligned with Article 3 of the Convention, as follows:

"Article 222 (Domestic violence)

(1) Whoever by physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence, violates the peace, physical, sexual, psychological or economic integrity of a member of his family or household or a close person, regardless of whether the perpetrator shares or has shared a household with the victim, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years.[..]"

In addition to former and current spouses or common-law partners and other family members, under the Republika Srpska legislation, domestic violence is also deemed to occur between persons who have a child together or whose child has been conceived, even if they have never lived in the same household. Furthermore, domestic violence encompasses a broad range of acts, including physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence, as well as threats to commit such acts. Against this background, the strategic documents of the Republika Srpska address the following forms of violence covered by the Convention: domestic violence, sexual violence, forced abortion, forced sterilisation, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, psychological violence, stalking, sexual harassment, trafficking in human beings and technology-facilitated violence. The Social Protection Strategy of the Republika Srpska for the period 2023-

2029 aims to strengthen the social protection system as a whole. More specifically, Strategic Objective 1 provides for the development of new services and improvement of existing ones, with a stronger focus on meeting beneficiaries' needs. This objective is to be achieved through two measures, namely: the strategic project "Reform of the Child Assessment System in accordance with the International Classification of Functioning", and the strategic project "Development of the Republika Srpska Social Map". Strategic Objective 2 focuses on the continuous improvement of the child and family protection system through the development of support measures centered on prevention. This strategic objective is pursued through the development of prevention programmes based on multisectoral co-operation, improving access to and developing services within the social protection, family and child protection systems, expanding and strengthening support to families through multisectoral co-operation, aligning child protection rights and services with beneficiaries' needs, and improving the quality of life of families with children. Strategic Objective 3 aims to strengthen capacities within the social protection, child protection and family and legal protection systems, as well as mechanisms for intersectoral support and co-operation. This objective includes accreditation of training programmes and licensing of professionals, training and strengthening of professional competencies, introduction and development of supervision, intersectoral co-operation and continuous promotion of good practices. This strategic framework is intended not only to ensure that the needs of social protection beneficiaries, particularly persons with disabilities, as well as other beneficiary groups, are better identified and addressed, but also to improve the quality of services by strengthening professional capacities through supervision, training and education, introducing a professional licensing system, and establishing the Public Institution Social Welfare Institute of the Republika Srpska. In this context, it is also important to mention the Law on the Protection of Victims of Wartime Torture of the Republika Srpska (including women victims of conflict-related sexual violence), which is based on Articles 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Istanbul Convention: For the first time, the Law establishes the conditions and procedure for recognising the status and rights of victims of wartime torture, as well as the rights arising from such recognised status. These include the right to a monthly financial allowance, health insurance, exemption from co-payments for healthcare services, spa rehabilitation, employment and self-employment incentives, free legal aid, and other rights.

3. Please provide information on how your authorities ensure that policies on violence against women and domestic violence put women's rights and their empowerment at the centre and on any measure taken to enhance the intersectionality of such policies, in line with Articles 4 paragraph 3 of the convention.¹

The 2025 Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina defines, in Article 2, gender-based violence against women as violence directed against a woman because she is a woman or that disproportionately affects women. Such conduct is considered an aggravating circumstance unless the law expressly provides for a more severe punishment. Article 2 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina also defines hate crime as a criminal offence committed on the grounds of another person's race, skin colour, religious beliefs, national or ethnic origin, language, disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity. Such conduct shall be considered an aggravating circumstance unless this law expressly provides for a more severe punishment for an aggravated form of the criminal offence committed out of hate. The 2025 Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of

¹ The concept of intersectionality refers to the fact that "individuals (and groups) are affected by multiple inequalities based on various grounds of distinction rather than by discrimination based on one ground at a time. Therefore, discrimination, inequality and gender-based violence cannot be examined in relation to only one category of difference — for instance, gender — while precluding others — such as race, class, age, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity — because social categories intersect and interlock in multiple systems of discrimination that simultaneously affect an individual's life." See in this respect the study Ensuring the Non-discriminatory Implementation of Measures against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence: Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Istanbul Convention, A collection of papers on the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, p.12-13.

Bosnia and Herzegovina also defines aggravated forms of the criminal offences covered by the Convention where they are committed against a family member, an intimate partner or other close person, a pregnant woman, a child, a person who is in a relationship of subordination or dependence with the perpetrator, or a person who is particularly vulnerable due to age, illness, disability, pregnancy, or a severe physical or mental impairment. Article 3 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, No. 19/25) sets out the purpose of the Law, namely to protect victims of domestic violence and violence against women and to combat and prevent such violence, which violates the human rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, laws, the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, and accepted international treaties. Pursuant to Article 4 of the Law, protection from violence is a matter of public interest for the Federation, the cantons, cities and municipalities in the Federation. Protection from violence under this Law and other laws and regulations shall be provided in accordance with the international treaties and standards accepted by Bosnia and Herzegovina governing protection from violence. Such protection shall be applied in all cases with a view to ensuring the most effective protection of the rights of victims of violence, without discrimination on any ground, including sex, gender, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion or belief, 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 other status. Specific measures necessary to prevent and protect women from gender-based violence shall not be considered discriminatory within the meaning of this Law. The Law places the victim at the centre of a multisectoral approach. The Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides for a comprehensive range of rights for victims of violence, taking into account their specific needs. These include the right to be accompanied by a personal assistant and the right to receive information, in a language and manner they understand, about all rights and protective measures and services available to them under this Law and other regulations, as well as about the institutions, authorities and legal entities providing specialised support services. The Law requires protection providers to ensure prompt handling of cases of violence, while making sure that the interests and well-being of the victim are given priority in such proceedings, particularly where the victim is a child, a person over 65 years of age, a person with a disability or a person under guardianship (Article 19). With regard to vulnerable groups, the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina stipulates that the risk assessment must, among other things, take into account whether the victim is particularly vulnerable due to pregnancy, disability or age. A risk assessment must also be carried out with respect to children (Article 21).

Women's rights and the protection, assistance and support of victims are central to all measures and activities set out in the strategic documents of the Republika Srpska, which draw on data collected and analysed for this purpose. In criminal proceedings relating to violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and peer violence, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska applies the provisions of the Law on the Protection and Treatment of Children and Juveniles in Criminal Proceedings when interviewing child witnesses. In accordance with the provisions of this Law, interviews are audio- and video-recorded in specially equipped premises of the Ministry in order to avoid repeated questioning of the child and, consequently, further victimisation and trauma. In 2022, Director of the Republika Srpska Police issued an instruction aimed at ensuring efficient, timely and consistent handling of cases by all organisational units of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska, which further specified and clarified the procedures to be followed in cases involving reports of domestic violence. The Rulebook on the procedure and method for conducting risk assessments and the Rulebook on the procedure for implementing emergency and protective measures, both of which fall within the competence of the Ministry of the Interior, are currently in force. Both Rulebooks place the protection of victims from further violence at the centre of their provisions. The Rulebook on the procedure for implementing the protective measure of mandatory psychosocial treatment and the Rulebook on

the procedure for implementing the protective measure of mandatory treatment for addiction are also frequently used when working with perpetrators of violence, with the aim of preventing further violence and ensuring continued protection of victims. These two Rulebooks fall within the competence of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the Republika Srpska. As part of the “Yes, That’s Me” programme, which sought to promote awareness of the importance of early learning and the inclusion of Roma children in preschool and primary education, the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republika Srpska developed a manual for working with children from vulnerable groups. The manual is intended for teachers and other education professionals working in schools. The Republika Srpska district courts have dedicated witness protection departments. Psychologists and other professionals in these departments provide specialised support to victims of criminal offences throughout court proceedings.

Article 8: Funding

4. Please provide information on any new development since the adoption of GREVIO’s baseline evaluation report on your country concerning the allocation of appropriate and sustainable financial and human resources for the implementation of integrated policies, measures and programmes to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention.

Article 65 of the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides for funding of shelters. Article 69 establishes victims’ right to financial support, while Article 70 provides for temporary assistance to victims of violence. Article 71 provides for the funding for the SOS helpline, while Article 73 provides for the funding for programmes and projects implemented by institutions. Article 74 provides for the funding for specific programmes implemented by non-governmental organisations, while Articles 72 and 75 set out provisions on programmes of measures, the multisectoral approach, co-ordination, and the mechanisms for developing and monitoring the implementation of strategic documents and policies in this area. Accordingly, the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina may put forward for adoption only those regulations, strategies and other acts for which the necessary funding has been secured. For example, the Strategy for Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence 2024-2027 was accompanied by a Fiscal Impact Statement Form, prepared in accordance with the Rulebook on the procedure for preparing fiscal impact statements for laws, other regulations and planning acts affecting the budget (Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nos. 34/16 and 15/18). Funding for the implementation of the Strategy is provided through three-year and annual plans prepared by the institutions responsible for implementing the Strategy or contributing to its implementation, as well as through the Budget Framework Paper and the Budget of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The funds earmarked specifically for the Strategy account for approximately 0.01% of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s budget. This figure covers only the funds planned for the implementation of the Strategy in relation to the overall budget and does not include funding for the implementation of legislation in this area, including funding for the police, judiciary and other actors involved in victim protection. The necessary funds are therefore allocated by the relevant institutions through their respective programmes. Cantons and local self-government units have separate budgets, adopted by the competent executive and legislative authorities, which also provide funding for measures aimed at implementing the relevant strategic documents.

Under the Budget of the Republika Srpska, the following amounts were allocated between 2022 and 2025 for the Center for Gender Equity and Equality of the Republika Srpska, the co-ordinating body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Republika Srpska:

2022: BAM 503,500, subsequently increased through budget revisions to BAM 539,800 and BAM 549,900;

2023: BAM 609,400, subsequently increased through a budget revision to BAM 610,500;

2024: BAM 503,500, subsequently increased through a budget revision to BAM 620,400;
2025: BAM 618,000, subsequently increased through a budget revision to BAM 714,200.

The Department of Health and Other Services of the Government of the Brčko District of BiH provides BAM 15,000 annually under its Programme for the allocation of current grant funds to support women survivors of violence after they leave a shelter. The following activities were carried out in 2024 within the remit of the Department for Professional and Administrative Affairs:

1. under the first public call for funding and co-funding proposals for programmes and projects of public interest submitted by associations, foundations and other legal and natural persons, case No. 13-000006/21, act number 02-1533ST-0013/24 of 14 February 2024, funding was awarded to the Citizens' Association "DEMOS" Brčko District for the implementation of the programme "Human rights are the foundation of a healthy society";

2. under the second public call for funding and co-funding proposals for programmes and projects of public interest submitted by associations, foundations and other legal and natural persons, case No. 13-000006/21, act number: 02-1533ST-0059/24 of 27 May 2024, funding was awarded to the Association of Active Women "GENDER", Brčko District of BiH, for the implementation of the programme "Empowering communities to raise awareness and take action against violence against women and girls";

3. under the second public call for funding and co-funding proposals for programmes and projects of public interest submitted by associations, foundations and other legal and natural persons, case No. 13-000006/21, act number: 02-1533ST-0059/24 of 27 May 2024, funding was awarded to the Women's Association "Biser" Brka, Brčko District of BiH, for the implementation of the project "Woman as an asset to the community". Information sessions were organised in both rural and urban areas of Brčko, alongside educational workshops, visual identity design, and production of promotional materials, including digital and other visual content. Meetings were also held with representatives of the District's executive and legislative authorities. Participation in the training activities was voluntary. The approved projects were implemented over a period of up to six months. The following activities were carried out in 2025 within the remit of the Department for Professional and Administrative Affairs:

1. under the first public call for funding and co-funding proposals for programmes and projects of public interest submitted by associations, foundations and other legal and natural persons, case No. 13-000559/25, act number: 02-1624MS-0024/25 of 15 May 2025, funding was awarded to the Association of Active Women "GENDER" Brčko district of BiH for the implementation of the project "Drafting and promoting the new Law on protection against domestic violence in the Brčko District of BiH to enhance protection of victims".

2. under the fourth public call for funding and co-funding proposals for programmes and projects of public interest submitted by associations, foundations and other legal and natural persons, case No. 13-000559/25, act number: 02-1624MS-0157/25 of 13 October 2025, funding was awarded to the Association for assistance to victims and survivors of wartime sexual violence "SUZE", Brčko District of BiH, for the implementation of the project "Strength in Women's Solidarity".

3. under the fourth public call for funding and co-funding proposals for programmes and projects of public interest submitted by associations, foundations and other legal and natural persons, case No. 13-000559/25, act number: 02-1624MS-0157/25 of 13 October 2025, funding was awarded to the Women's Association "Biser" Brka, Brčko district of BiH, for the implementation of the project: "Stronger together".

Information sessions were organised in both rural and urban areas of Brčko, alongside educational workshops, visual identity design, and production of promotional materials, including digital and other visual content. Meetings were also held with representatives of the District's executive and legislative authorities. Participation in the training activities was voluntary. The approved projects were implemented over a period of up to six months.

As of the preparation of this report, no public call had been issued in 2026.

5. Please provide information on any development concerning the provision of appropriate and sustainable financial and human resources for women's rights organisations that provide specialist support services to victims, including those supporting migrant women and girls.

Article 65 of the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina regulates the funding of shelters. Accordingly, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy allocates funds each year to support the protection and accommodation of victims of domestic violence in shelters, including by covering part of the cost of accommodation for victims referred to these facilities. The funding is provided through the Current Transfer to Non-Profit Organisations – Implementation of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence, following a public call for applications from associations and foundations providing temporary accommodation to victims of domestic violence. In both 2024 and 2025, BAM 1,000,000 was allocated from the budget for this purpose. In addition, through public calls for projects and programmes financed from a share of revenues generated through games of chance and allocated through the Budget of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy provides funding for programmes and projects aimed at providing accommodation and shelter to victims of torture and violence (safe houses).

The Republika Srpska also allocates funds from its budget for the accommodation and support of victims of domestic violence, in accordance with the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence in the Republika Srpska. The amounts allocated since 2022 are as follows:

2022: BAM 300,000, increased to BAM 340,000 following a budget revision; final budget expenditure amounted to BAM 343,900.

2023: BAM 300,000, subsequently increased through budget revision to BAM 345,000;

2024: BAM 300,000, increased to BAM 480,000 following a budget revision; final budget expenditure amounted to BAM 523,000.

2025: BAM 400,000, subsequently increased through budget revision to BAM 500,000.

In the Republika Srpska, women survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and other forms of torture are entitled, under the Law on the Protection of Victims of Wartime Torture, to a range of rights, including a regular monthly allowance paid from the Republika Srpska budget through the Ministry of Labour, War Veterans and Disabled Persons' Protection. In addition to the annual increases in budgetary allocations for organisations that provide support to victims of violence and work on prevention and protection, the Republika Srpska budget also provides funding for the Association of Women Victims of War, which has been granted public-interest status.

Article 11: Data collection and research

6. Please provide information on any new development since the adoption of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report on your country on the introduction of data collection categories such as type of violence, sex and age of the victim and the perpetrator, the relationship between the two and where it took place, for administrative data of relevance to the field of violence against women and domestic violence emanating from law enforcement agencies, the justice sector, social services and the public health care sector.

Following the adoption of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HJPC BiH) updated the Case Management System (CMS) and Prosecutor's Case Management System (TCMS). In line with the Law, both systems now include a new "Type of violence" field, with options for physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence. They also include fields for "Victim's disability" and "Perpetrator's disability". In mid-2025, all courts and prosecutor's offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina were notified of the new fields and the requirement to record this information. The CMS/TCMS systems had previously been updated to include the fields "Relationship between the victim and the perpetrator" and "Was the criminal offence committed out of hate?". Judicial and prosecutorial staff using the CMS/TCMS are required to record this information in electronic case files. These updates now make it possible to generate

reports from the CMS/TCMS containing administrative data relevant to violence against women and domestic violence.

Article 77 of the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina establishes mandatory record-keeping and reporting requirements. The records maintained by the relevant institutions, including the police, courts, prosecutor's offices, guardianship authorities, mental health centres, addiction treatment centres and shelters, contain data on reported cases of violence, protective and emergency protective measures, as well as on persons protected by such measures and persons against whom such measures have been imposed. The data are disaggregated by sex, age and disability status of victims and perpetrators, the type of violence, and the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. The data presented in the annex, including an extract from the statistical data of the Gender Centre of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, data from the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HJPC BiH), and data collected by the cantonal ministries of the interior for the first three months of 2026, were collected in accordance with Articles 40 and 43 of the Rulebook on the implementation of protective measures for perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women within the competence of the police (Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, No. 86/25). The Law requires this data to be collected and published annually. The data provide a basis for monitoring developments in the response to violence. They show a steady increase in the number of protective measures imposed in relation to the number of reported cases. In other words, more than one protective measure is now imposed, on average, for each reported case. In 2025, 2,736 protective measures were imposed in response to 2,391 reports, equivalent to 114% of the number of reports. This compares with 101% in 2024, 77% in 2023 and 51% in 2022. Data on sanctions also point to a shift towards custodial sentences, alongside a decline in the use of suspended sentences and fines. In preparation for the adoption of the rulebook governing the establishment and maintenance of the information database referred to in Article 77(12) of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, consultations were held with all relevant institutions to establish a mechanism for the electronic collection and exchange of data. The HJPC BiH was also consulted on improving data quality and ensuring that the necessary indicators are available to monitor progress. Following these consultations, the Case Management System (CMS) and Prosecutor's Case Management System (TCMS) were updated to include a new "Type of violence" field, with the categories physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence. The fields "Victim's disability" and "Perpetrator's disability" were also added in accordance with the Law.

The Republika Srpska has established a system for collecting and recording data on domestic violence in accordance with the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence in the Republika Srpska. The data collected include, among other things, the proportion of perpetrators who have been sanctioned and information on the number and types of protective measures imposed and implemented. Reports on domestic violence are published every six months and are available on the website of the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports. The data collected meet the minimum requirements under Article 11(1)(a) of the Istanbul Convention for disaggregating information on victims and perpetrators. The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports also collects data on calls received through the SOS helpline for victims of domestic violence, in accordance with the requirements of Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention. Since GREVIO's baseline evaluation, further progress has been made in this area. Local self-government units are now required to submit annual reports to the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports on the work of local co-ordination bodies for combating domestic violence. The work of these bodies is guided by the General Protocol for responding to cases of domestic violence. Within the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska, the Analytics Department in the Office of the Minister, together with designated officers in each police administration, is responsible for collecting and analysing data. These officers collect and process data across the relevant areas. The Ministry of the Interior has also developed its own "Analytical Reports" database, which consolidates data on criminal offences collected and processed at all levels. The data recorded in the database comply with the requirements of Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention. In December 2025, with the support of the TRAG Foundation, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska published a report entitled "Punishment or Compromise – Custodial Sentences for Domestic Violence in the Republika Srpska". It identifies a significant gap between the sanctions imposed by the courts and those actually enforced. The report also highlights the need to strengthen the effectiveness of the justice system and ensure more consistent application of the law in cases of domestic violence. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the Republika Srpska regularly collects data from social work centres and social

welfare services on adult and child victims of violence. The data are disaggregated by sex and age and include information on Roma victims. The Public Institution Social Welfare Institute of the Republika Srpska, established more recently, also collects data from social work centres and social protection services across the Republika Srpska. The data are collected monthly using dedicated reporting forms covering a wide range of information and types of cases, including cases involving child victims of violence, neglect and abuse. The forms record data by sex, age (children aged 0–6, 7–14 and 15–18) and type of violence, including physical, psychological/emotional, social and economic abuse, sexual violence, physical and emotional neglect, and violence in the digital environment. They also capture information on children with developmental disabilities, disaggregated by sex and age. The same forms are used to collect data on perpetrators of violence against children and cases of peer violence. Data collection is carried out in accordance with the Protocol on the protection of children from violence, neglect and abuse in the Republika Srpska. The Public Institution Social Welfare Institute submits the data it collects to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the Republika Srpska. Regular collection and analysis of data on the prevalence, types and specific characteristics of violence against children support the development of prevention, protection and support programmes for children and families affected by violence. The Republika Srpska Pedagogical Institute, in co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republika Srpska, has developed a form for recording cases of violence, neglect and abuse in schools and student dormitories, together with instructions for its use and completion. The form is part of the documentation required under the Protocol on the protection of children from violence, neglect and abuse. The Ministry of Education and Culture has also developed an electronic version of the form, integrated into the electronic school register, to facilitate more efficient and systematic collection of information on cases of violence in schools and student dormitories. Following its introduction, the Ministry notified all schools of the new system. Each school designates a staff member responsible for recording cases of violence, neglect and abuse. This person is given a unique access code and is solely responsible for entering the relevant data. To monitor the incidence of violence in schools on an ongoing basis, designated officials from the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Republika Srpska Pedagogical Institute review reported cases on a daily basis. Since the beginning of the 2024/2025 school year, the Republic Pedagogical Institute of the Republika has also monitored the implementation of the Protocol in schools, including the use of the relevant reporting form. The monitoring assesses whether teachers and professional staff understand the Protocol, recognise its importance, and are aware of the responsibilities of schools, including those of school principals, teachers and professional staff, when responding to cases of violence, neglect and abuse. Particular attention is paid to how the form is used and to any comments or suggestions for improving it. The team responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Protocol on the protection of children from violence, neglect and abuse has developed two reporting forms on violence: one for reporting cases of peer violence and another for reporting cases of violence against children perpetrated by adults. Both forms were distributed to all team members. The team has also agreed on a proposal to initiate the development of a single electronic application for recording cases of violence against children. Members of the team also serve on the Intersectoral Team for strengthening safety and preventing violence in primary and secondary schools and student dormitories in the Republika Srpska. The Ministry of Labour, War Veterans and Disabled Persons' Protection of the Republika Srpska maintains records on the number and sex of persons who have been granted rights under the Law on the Protection of Victims of Wartime Torture in the Republika Srpska. A total of 300 persons have been recognised as victims of wartime torture. Of these, 201 receive a monthly financial allowance, either as victims of conflict-related sexual violence or because they acquired a disability while detained in a camp as minors. The recipients of this allowance are predominantly women who survived conflict-related sexual violence. The most recent analysis, conducted in 2022, confirmed this, showing that 116 of the persons receiving the allowance on the basis of having experienced conflict-related sexual violence were women. Following GREVIO's recommendations, the Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics introduced an additional indicator into the forms used to collect data on persons charged with and convicted of criminal offences, as part of the crime statistics for 2026. The new indicator concerns information on injured parties/victims of criminal offences. Among the information collected on injured parties/victims, an additional question was introduced: "Is the injured party/victim a person with disability?" The Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics is currently finalising an agreement with the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the transfer of electronic databases containing data on reported, charged and convicted persons in the Republika Srpska. Automating the transfer and processing of these data will reduce the time required and free up human resources, while also enabling broader

data coverage and creating scope for the introduction of new indicators and/or research. The University of Banja Luka (UNIBL) has adopted an internal procedure for reporting and handling cases of sexual harassment. It has also established a secure internal database to monitor reported cases and the measures imposed in response to complaints submitted under the Guidelines for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Violence at UNIBL. To monitor the implementation of the Guidelines, UNIBL has appointed a focal point and an assistant, who are also responsible for maintaining and managing the database. Although not directly related to violence against women, these measures contribute indirectly to women's empowerment and reduce their risk of exposure to violence. The UNIBL Advisory Board for Gender Equality has also established a system for monitoring sex-disaggregated data on student enrolment across all levels and fields of study, university staff, the gender pay gap, the caregiving responsibilities of academic staff, work-life balance policies, and academic and research staff. With support from the relevant Rectorate services, the Advisory Board reviews the state of gender equality at the University each year. The review involves collecting and analysing quantitative data, with support from the UNIBL University Computing Centre.

The Brčko District Police continuously collects statistical data through its Investigations Database. The database records information on the type of violence, the sex and age of both victims and perpetrators, as well as certain information on their relationship, the location and manner in which the offence was committed, and other relevant details, in accordance with criminal investigation standards and other applicable regulations. Database is regularly updated and upgraded. Since the adoption of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report, there have been no significant changes to the records maintained by the police. The police continue to refine the data system, particularly in response to amendments to the Criminal Code. Further significant changes are expected following adoption of the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Department of Health and Other Services does not maintain a database containing records of gender-based violence or the age of victims and perpetrators.

7. Where relevant, please provide information on any new development since the adoption of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report on your country to enable disaggregated data collection:
 - a. on the number of emergency barring and protection orders and the number of breaches and the resulting sanctions;

Protective measures and emergency protective measures provided for under the relevant legislation have been incorporated into the CMS classification codes. The CMS also includes two specific case-stage codes for recording such proceedings: Misdemeanour cases (Pr) - Ordering of a protective measure (Pr-Zm) and Misdemeanour cases (Pr) – Appeals against the order imposing a protective measure (Pr-ZmŽ). Following the adoption of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the lists of protective measures in the CMS classification codes used by the courts in the Federation were updated accordingly. The names of the measures in the classification codes were aligned with those introduced by the new Law.

The new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has also introduced emergency protective measures. Under Article 77(1), the competent police authority is required to maintain both written and electronic records of reported cases of violence, proposed protective measures and emergency protective measures, and updates on the implementation of the emergency protective measures and protective measures referred to in Articles 23 and 26 of the Law. The relevant data are provided in the annex to this document (extracts from the statistical data of the Gender Centre of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and data from the HJPC BiH).

In the Republika Srpska, records are maintained on the number of emergency protective orders and protective measures imposed, breaches of such measures and the resulting sanctions, as well as court decisions restricting or withdrawing parental rights as a result of violence perpetrated by one parent against the other. Thus, in 2024 and 2025, the Republika Srpska courts ordered 384 emergency protective measures and 258 protective measures under the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence, as well as 99 security measures under the Criminal Code of the Republika

Srpska, all in cases involving violence against women. During the same period, 31 criminal sanctions were imposed for breaches of protective measures and emergency protective measures.

- b. on the number of times custody decisions have resulted in the restriction and withdrawal of parental rights because of violence perpetrated by one parent against the other.

At present, however, courts in the Republika Srpska have no legal basis for withdrawing parental rights solely because one parent has been violent towards the other. Consequently, no records are maintained on such cases. Pursuant to Article 154 of the Family Law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, parental rights may be withdrawn where a parent abuses their rights, seriously neglects their duties, abandons the child or fails to care for the child, endangers the child's health or moral development, or fails to protect the child from such conduct by the other parent or another person. A new Family Law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently being drafted. In this context, the Gender Centre of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted an initiative to the Federal Ministry of Justice, as the body responsible for drafting the law, calling for the new legislation to be aligned with the recommendations of GREVIO, the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention and the CEDAW Committee, including recommendations concerning Article 31 of the Istanbul Convention.

In the Republika Srpska, one case involving the withdrawal of parental rights on the grounds of violence perpetrated by one parent against the other was recorded in the period 2024-2025. Proceedings for the withdrawal of parental rights are otherwise conducted under the rules governing non-contentious proceedings.

In the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is likewise no legal basis for the Social Work Center to submit a request for withdrawal of parental rights on the grounds of violence perpetrated by one parent against the other.

8. Please provide information on measures taken to allow cases of violence against women and domestic violence to be tracked from reporting to conviction, at all stages of the law-enforcement and judicial proceedings.

When opening cases in courts and prosecutor's offices, it is now possible to record the relevant legal bases under the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which have been added to the CMS/TCMS classification codes for legal bases for misdemeanour and criminal cases. The CMS/TCMS classification codes for incoming and outgoing documents have also been updated to reflect the requirements of the Law, including the documents used to open such cases. As noted in our response to Question 6, the HJPC BiH has also updated the CMS/TCMS classification codes of case attributes. All courts and prosecutor's offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been informed of these updates to the CMS/TCMS system and reminded of their obligation to record the relevant data in accordance with the instructions provided.

Under Article 77 of the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Ministry of the Interior is required to establish a centralised information database. This database, however, is intended for statistical purposes and does not constitute an information system that would enable cases to be tracked continuously from the time violence is reported. The Rulebook on the implementation of protective measures for perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women within the competence of the police (Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, No. 86/25) provides for the appointment of a protective measure officer responsible primarily for monitoring compliance with the measure. The officer is required to take the necessary steps to ensure that the measure is implemented and is authorised to take action in response to any breach of the measure. Under the Rulebook, each police administration or police station may also form an interdisciplinary team of professionals drawn from the relevant protection providers. The team assesses the situation and helps to ensure proper implementation of protective measure. This ensures continuous monitoring of cases throughout the duration of the protective measure. In line with the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the HJPC BiH has expanded the CMS and TCMS classification codes for criminal

offences recorded by courts and prosecutor's offices, as well as for misdemeanours involving breaches of protective measures. This makes it easier to monitor and report on such cases.

In the Republika Srpska, each competent institution and protection provider maintains records of individual cases of violence against women and domestic violence within its respective statutory mandate. These records enable each institution to follow up on individual cases within its area of responsibility. Institutions exchange data and information on cases to ensure their effective handling. There is, however, no centralised case-tracking system.

Part II: Information on the implementation of selected provisions in priority areas in the field of prevention, protection and prosecution

Article 12: General obligations

9. Please provide information on any primary prevention measures aiming to change mentalities and attitudes in relation to violence against women and to reduce women's exposure to gender-based violence by:

The Strategy for Improving Gender Equality in the Judiciary of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides a systemic framework through which the judiciary contributes to changing attitudes and perceptions of violence against women. The judiciary also contributes to raising awareness of these issues through its longstanding and active participation in the international "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" campaign. Activities include public statements by the President of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina and dedicated training for judicial staff. For many years, judicial office holders have regularly participated in the pioneering seminar "Members of vulnerable groups as witnesses in proceedings". The seminar focuses on approaches to interviewing witnesses from vulnerable groups, including women victims of violence, during investigations and court proceedings, as well as on ways of encouraging them to testify while preventing secondary victimisation. Furthermore, at the initiative of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the entity Centres for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training have included in their training programmes a seminar on sentencing perpetrators of criminal offences, with particular focus on the proper assessment of mitigating and aggravating circumstances.

Measures relating to prevention are defined under the first priority of the Strategy for Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2024-2027. Accordingly, the competent institutions have allocated budgetary resources and regularly run awareness-raising campaigns on these issues. For example, in 2024, the Federal Ministry of the Interior allocated BAM 100,000 for the prevention campaign "Don't Turn Away, Make the Call", addressing domestic violence and violence against women. In 2025, it allocated a further BAM 94,000 for the "Your Expertise, Their Safety" campaign, which also addresses domestic violence and violence against women. Article 72 of the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina foresees the adoption of programmes of measures for the prevention of, protection against and combating of violence.

As part of its prevention efforts, the Police of the Brčko District actively participates in meetings and workshops organised by non-governmental organisations working in this field, both in the Brčko District and elsewhere, as part of various awareness-raising campaigns. In the Brčko District, primary prevention also includes community policing, which aims to prevent crime and strengthen engagement with local communities. Other activities include educational workshops in schools conducted by school police officers together with other police officers, participation in radio and television programmes, and joint awareness-raising campaigns with non-governmental organisations. These activities have had a positive impact, as reflected in the statistical data. In 2024 and 2025, the number of reports of violence made by citizens increased compared with previous years. This increase may indicate that the activities described above have helped

strengthen public confidence in the police and raise awareness of the importance of protecting women and girls from domestic and gender-based violence.

- a. addressing harmful gender stereotypes and prejudices, customs and traditions based on the idea of the inferiority of women;

The Strategy for Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence 2024-2027 provides for the development of prevention programmes under its priorities and measures. The new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina also provides for such programmes. Relevant training covers topics such as gender stereotypes and prejudices and violence as a learned pattern of behaviour. Training is delivered through the Centre for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training (CEST), the Civil Service Agency of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, and other institutional programmes. These issues are also addressed in other sectoral strategies, including the Development Strategy of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Strategy for Improving the Rights and Status of Persons with Disabilities 2025-2030, and cantonal action plans to advance gender equality in the judiciary, which are linked to the Strategy for Improving Gender Equality in the Judiciary of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since 2024, institutions have allocated budgetary resources to fund prevention campaigns and activities promoting equality and non-violent behaviour. Prevention programmes also cover issues relating to equality, domestic violence and violence against women, both within the education system and through programmes run by religious communities, including the Marriage and Family Counselling Centre of the Majlis of the Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Gender Centre of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has landed support to the Social Research Institute in their analysis of the curricula and the attitudes of students and teaching staff towards violence and gender equality. Universities are implementing specific measures through their action plans. Media representatives are involved in the work of co-ordination bodies and bodies responsible for developing strategic documents at the federal, cantonal and local levels. Efforts are under way to improve media practices and promote gender-sensitive reporting. The Federal Ministry of the Interior has taken concrete steps to address the digital dimension of violence. Under the Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, culture, customs, religion, tradition and so-called honour may not be considered mitigating circumstances when metting out sentences for offences against life and limb, trafficking in human beings and organised trafficking in human beings, offences against sexual freedom and morality, sexual abuse and exploitation of children, or offences against marriage, family and youth (Article 49(2)).

- b. addressing the heightened exposure to gender-based violence by women and girls at risk of intersectional discrimination;

The Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina foresees aggravated forms of the criminal offences covered by the Convention where they are committed against a family member, an intimate partner or other close person, a pregnant woman, a child, a person who is in a relationship of subordination or dependence with the perpetrator, or a person who is particularly vulnerable due to age, illness, disability, pregnancy, or a severe physical or mental impairment. The Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina foresees, among its general principles, that protection must be provided without discrimination on any ground. Article 16 requires protection providers, upon first contact with a victim of violence, to inform the victim, in a language and manner they can understand, of all rights, protective measures and services available under this Law and other regulations, as well as of the institutions, authorities and legal entities that provide specialised support services referred to in Article 14. The Strategy for Improving the Rights and Status of Persons with Disabilities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2025-2030 recognises the importance of raising awareness among professionals, persons with disabilities and the general public of the rights and equal opportunities of persons with disabilities so that they can better recognise and respond to discrimination, violence and abuse. This includes educational and awareness-raising campaigns, gender-sensitive and inclusive training, and other forms of content provided in formats accessible to persons with disabilities.

- c. encouraging all members of society, including men and boys, to contribute actively to preventing all forms of violence against women covered by the scope of the Istanbul Convention, and promoting the empowerment of women and girls in all areas of life, notably their participation in politics at all levels and in the labour market.

Civil society organisations implement activities promoting healthy lifestyles among different age groups, while encouraging boys and men to actively engage in the prevention of all forms of violence. At its 39th session held on 1 August 2024, the Government of the Federation of BiH, acting upon the proposal of the Federal Ministry of Education and Science, adopted the Framework Plan for the prevention of violence in educational institutions in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Framework Plan provides a comprehensive, cross-sectoral framework for preventing and addressing violence in educational institutions. It gives cantonal ministries of education basis for developing their own action plans, tailored to the needs and circumstances of each canton and taking into account available funding and applicable legislation. The Framework Plan has guided a range of activities and programmes carried out by the Federal Ministry of Education and Science to prevent and address violence in educational institutions across the Federation of BiH. It covers prevention of gender-based violence, including support for extracurricular and specialised programmes that help students build resilience to risks, such as "Be a man" clubs, run by the Institute for Population and Development. These clubs promote healthy lifestyles and non-violent resolution of conflicts among young people through peer education and other targeted activities. "Be a Man" clubs focus on gender inequality and challenging gender stereotypes. Ideas about what it means to be a "real man" or a "real woman", as well as prejudices and stereotypes about peers who are perceived as different, can lead to violent behaviour and influence who becomes a victim of peer violence. One of the criteria for funding under the public call "Support for public awareness campaigns to prevent and address violence and promote media literacy in educational institutions and society", is that a project promotes tolerance, non-violence and gender equality in the family, school and community.

Since 2008, as part of the annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, the Centre for Gender Equity and Equality of the Republika Srpska has collaborated with relevant ministries to run two campaigns: "Life without Violence" and "White Ribbon - Men Say NO to Violence against Women". Both campaigns are included in the Centre's annual work programme, adopted by the Government of the Republika Srpska, and are carried out throughout the Republika Srpska. In recent years, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska has run several public awareness campaigns, including "Misuse of Weapons in Cases of Gender-Based Violence", "Weapons Do Not Protect, Weapons Kill", "Celebrate Responsibly" and "Register Your Weapon without Penalties". In addition to rendering support to promotional activities and campaigns, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the Republika Srpska has issued "Guidelines for organising activities to promote sexual and reproductive health and prevent and respond to gender-based violence in emergencies in local communities in the Republika Srpska". This was followed by the development of action plans on sexual and reproductive health and on preventing and responding to gender-based violence in emergency situations. At the beginning of the 2025/2026 school year, the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republika Srpska launched a campaign titled "A School That Listens", as part of the long-term "School Without Violence" project. The campaign aims to create a safe, supportive and healthy environment for every child in the Republika Srpska, with a sustained focus on preventing and addressing peer violence. Campaign's slogan "Listen to What Your Children Don't Tell You" carries a strong message and highlights the fact that children often avoid talking about violence and that attention, empathy and shared responsibility are essential to timely recognising and preventing violence. The Ministry has also ran a campaign titled "Yes, That's Me" to raise public awareness of the needs of vulnerable groups, particularly children from Roma communities. The campaign highlights the importance of early learning and of including Roma children in preschool and primary education. The Ministry has carried out several other projects to raise awareness of the needs and rights of vulnerable groups, particularly Roma children. Representatives of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska and its Women's Network had taken part in 11 expert initiatives, public consultations and other activities aimed at strengthening the legal and institutional framework for preventing and combating gender-based violence, domestic violence and digital violence against women and girls. Through publications, expert discussions, training and consultations, the Women's Network of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska has promoted the standards of the Istanbul Convention and GREVIO recommendations, with a particular focus on strengthening the institutional response, protecting

victims, ensuring gender-sensitive practices, addressing the digital dimension of violence and improving the implementation of the law in practice. In December 2025, with the support of the TRAG Foundation, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska published a report titled "Punishment or Compromise – Custodial Sentences for Domestic Violence in the Republika Srpska". The report examines the legislative framework, penal policy, judicial and prosecutorial practice, and the application of protective and emergency protective measures in the Republika Srpska. The publication highlights a significant gap between the sanctions imposed by the courts and those actually enforced. It also highlights the need for a more effective justice system and a more consistent application of the law in cases of domestic violence. Two hundred copies of the publication were distributed as part of the project implemented by the Women's Network of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska. During the reporting period, the Women's Network carried out a range of preventive and educational activities to raise awareness of gender-based violence, domestic violence and digital violence against women and girls. Particular attention was given to preventing digital violence and examining how the online environment affects the safety of women and children and family relationships. The Network organised an expert roundtable on "The Impact of Social Media on Family Cohesion", bringing together representatives of public institutions, academia and civil society. Participants included senior officials from the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of the Republika Srpska, advisers from the Ministry of Justice of the Republika Srpska, the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Psychology, senior officials from the Administration for Serious and Organised Crime, officials from the Service for the Protection of Integrity and Legality at Work, and members of the Women's Network. The discussion focused on the impact of social media on family relationships, digital risks and online violence, protecting women and children in the digital environment, and the importance of preventive and cross-sectoral action. Representatives of the Administration for Police Education of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska provided expert and technical support to the Ministry's Women's Network in delivering training and awareness-raising activities for young people and cadets at the Secondary School of Internal Affairs, as well as in distributing educational materials to police administrations and the Police Academy. As part of its activities focusing on prevention, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska tasked the police administrations in Doboj, Bijeljina and Prijedor with running three street campaigns from 27 February to 3 March 2026. The campaigns provided information to the public on preventing and combating digital violence against women and girls. Together with the Women's Network, the police distributed around 1,500 promotional leaflets. A total of 2,000 informational and educational materials were printed out to be used in prevention activities, police presentations and outreach to citizens, young people and students. The campaigns covered various forms of digital violence, risks associated with online platforms, ways of protecting women and children in the digital environment, preservation of digital evidence, and available reporting and institutional protection mechanisms. A member of the Women's Network from the Bijeljina Police Administration made sure that an additional 500 leaflets were distributed to secondary school students during lectures delivered by police officers as part of prevention efforts. The campaigns attracted considerable public interest and received media coverage through television reports, news portals, websites and the social media channels of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska and the Women's Network. Throughout the campaigns, the organisers have promoted a human rights-based approach, gender equality, protection of victims and prevention against all forms of violence targeting women and girls. The Centre for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training of the Republika Srpska (CEST RS) has provided continuous training for judges and prosecutors on the application of the Istanbul Convention. Key topics covered during the reporting period included: "Members of Vulnerable Groups as Witnesses in Criminal Proceedings", "Gender (In)equality: Stereotypes and Prejudices", "The Concept of Domestic and Gender-Based Violence: Forms and Dynamics", "Domestic Violence and Violence against Women", "Discrimination in Judicial Practice: Challenges in Establishing Discrimination and Applying Special Procedures and Rules", "Human Rights of LGBTI Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Legal Mechanisms for Their Protection - Experiences from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Region", "Sentencing in Cases of Domestic Violence and Offences against Sexual Integrity", "Violence against Women as a Cause and Consequence of Unequal Power Relations between Women and Men". The mandatory induction training for newly appointed judicial office holders now includes "Specific Aspects of Access to Justice from the Perspective of Members of Vulnerable Groups (Children, Persons with Disabilities, Roma, LGBTI Persons and Marginalised Groups of Women)". Each year, CEST RS offers the e-learning course "Basic Training on Gender Equality". The course is open to judges, prosecutors, expert associates and advisers in judicial institutions, as well as other staff working in the justice sector. The online course on gender equality consists of three modules:

Module 1: Why Gender Equality Matters

The aim of this module is to foster:

- *an understanding of the concept of gender equality;*
- *an understanding of the concepts of sex and gender and the difference between them;*
- *an understanding of gender roles, gender identities and sexual orientation and differences between these concepts.*

Module 2: Gender Stereotypes and Prejudices as Causes of Discrimination

The aim of this module is to foster:

- *an understanding of stereotypes and prejudices, including gender stereotypes and prejudices;*
- *recognition of gender stereotypes and prejudices as causes of discrimination;*
- *an understanding of the concept and forms of discrimination and their specific features, with a particular focus on discrimination against women.*

Module 3: Violence against Women

The aim of this module is to foster:

- *an understanding of violence against women as a form of gender-based violence;*
- *recognition of the different forms and manifestations of violence against women;*
- *an understanding of the prevalence of violence against women in the Western Balkans.*

The University of Banja Luka (UNIBL) has a Gender Equality Advisory Board, which was set up in 2021 as part of the UNIGEM project. After the project ended in 2025, the Advisory Board continued its work, building on the good practice developed through the project. The Board's main role is to raise awareness about gender equality within the academic community and society more broadly, and to help prevent and address sexual and gender-based violence. It develops relevant policies and documents, such as the Guidelines on Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Violence and the Gender Equality Action Plan. These provide an institutional and legal framework for preventing violence and promoting gender equality through training and discussion. The Gender Equality Action Plan provides for educational activities that encourage students and staff to critically examine gender stereotypes and gender bias in education, research and society. It also includes activities that explore violence against women from different perspectives. Many of these activities take place through projects such as UNIGEM and Horizon, while members of the Gender Equality Advisory Board carry out some activities on a pro bono basis. Since 2022, UNIBL has participated in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence annual campaign, with roundtables, panel discussions, workshops and film screenings. The campaign covers a range of important issues, including femicide, digital violence and the role of the media in reporting responsibly on domestic and gender-based violence. Recent activities have included the "Mosaic of Femicide" roundtable in 2023, "The Psychology of Gender-Based Violence" in 2024, and "Digital Violence: Virtual Acts, Real Consequences" in 2025, among others. The Advisory Board also runs separate workshops for students and teaching and administrative staff on the importance of gender equality. Topics covered in these workshops and panel discussions have included the gender dimension and critical examination of stereotypes in teaching materials, gender-based violence and sexual harassment, gender perspectives in research, and gender-sensitive language. It is particularly important that these activities reach students who will work directly with victims of violence in their future careers, including students of the Faculty of Security Studies and psychology students at the Faculty of Philosophy.

Article 14: Education

10. Please provide a few examples of promising teaching or prevention programmes, materials, or initiatives for use in formal education (from pre-school to higher education) that:

- a. educate children and youth about equality between women and men, the right to personal integrity, mutual respect and non-violent conflict resolution in interpersonal relationships, including the notion of freely given consent; address some or all the forms of gender-based violence against women and girls covered by the Istanbul Convention;

With financial and technical support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Ministry of Education and Science coordinated the development of two manuals for teachers and other professionals entitled "Healthy Lifestyles: Knowledge and Skills

for a Healthy and Safe Life", for grades I-V and VI-IX of primary school. The manuals were presented in 2025 and are intended for class community sessions.

In pre-school, primary and secondary education in the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, these topics are covered primarily through educational activities, class community sessions, workshops led by expert associates, extracurricular activities, prevention programmes and projects. However, these topics are not defined as separate teaching units or systematically incorporated into the current curricula. Instead, they are covered through different forms of educational activities based on an interdisciplinary approach.

(<https://ob.bdcentral.net/Content/Read/nastavni-planovi-i-programi>)

- b. promote the inclusion of digital literacy and online safety in formal curricula as foreseen under GREVIO General Recommendation No. 1 on the digital dimension of violence against women;

The Federal Ministry of Education and Science implements, through a public call for proposals, the programme "Support for public awareness campaigns to prevent and combat violence and promote media literacy in educational institutions and society." The Ministry has also participated in the preparation of the Strategic Programme for the Safety of Children in the Digital Environment 2025-2030 and the Action Plan for Combating Violence against Children in the Digital Environment 2025-2030, which the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted by Conclusion No. 321/2026 on 4 March 2026. Under these documents, the Ministry is designated as both a reporting entity and one of the institutions responsible for implementing several activities. These include Activity O2-10 "Develop and implement child protection policies and codes of conduct in educational and social protection institutions and at the Centre for Safe Internet in Bosnia and Herzegovina for reporting and monitoring online violence against children,""; Activity O3-1 "Continuously promote the development of functional knowledge and skills among children and young people, particularly digital competence and critical thinking, through programmes launched by the ministries of education and activities of educational institutions", among others.

Educational institutions in the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina are working on the prevention of all forms of violence, including peer and gender-based violence. The Rulebook on the recognition, prevention of and protection against discrimination in primary and secondary schools is particularly relevant in this regard. However, gender-based violence is not covered at the moment as a separate subject area in school curricula. Instead, these topics are addressed through prevention programmes, projects and other school activities.

(<https://ob.bdcentral.net/Content/Read/pravilnici>).

- c. ensure that teaching material used in school does not convey negative gender stereotypes of women and men of all ages;

In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, textbook policy is governed by the Decision on the procedure for the preparation and approval of textbooks, workbooks and other teaching materials for primary and secondary schools in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, adopted by the Coordination of Ministers of Education and Science of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Decision sets out the procedure for approving textbooks and other teaching materials for primary and secondary schools. As part of this procedure, textbook manuscripts and other teaching materials undergo expert review based on the Guidelines for the expert review of textbook and workbook manuscripts and other teaching materials for primary schools. The Guidelines require reviewers to consider, among other things, whether a manuscript reflects the diversity of Bosnian and Herzegovinian society, enables students to learn about equality among individuals and social groups, and promotes respect for diversity. They also require authors to reflect gender equality appropriately, among other things, by using both masculine and feminine forms, especially when referring to titles and occupations.

In the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, digital literacy, online safety and responsible behaviour in the digital environment are covered through class community sessions, workshops,

educational lectures, prevention programmes and projects carried out by schools independently or in cooperation with other institutions. However, the current curricula do not define these topics as separate teaching units or provide for them in a systematic way. Schools instead address them through various curricular and extracurricular activities.

- d. offer tailored interventions aimed at preventing gender-based violence and empowering all girls, including those at risk of intersectional discrimination.

Schools in the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina promote equality, respect for human rights, equal treatment and respect for diversity through regular teaching, prevention and educational activities. The Rulebook on the recognition, prevention of and protection against discrimination provides a framework for ensuring an inclusive and non-discriminatory environment for all students. However, the current curricula do not include specific teaching units dedicated to addressing gender stereotypes. These issues are instead incorporated into different subject areas and school activities.

In 2025, the Center for Gender Equity and Equality of the Republika Srpska signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Gender Equality Advisory Board of the University of Banja Luka. The Memorandum defines mutual cooperation and action to ensure engagement of academic community in gender mainstreaming at the University. The Administration for Police Education of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska regularly provides specialised training for police officers dealing with domestic violence cases, tailored to the needs identified in practice. Police officers who complete the training are certified to assess risks associated with the perpetrators of domestic violence. During the reporting period, four specialised training sessions were held for police officers from all police administrations, with 72 officers receiving certification in October, November and December 2025. One of these sessions, held in Trebinje in October 2025 for 12 police officers from the Trebinje and Foča Police Administrations, was delivered in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. In cooperation with the Foundation Udružene žene from Banja Luka, the Ministry delivered a one-day seminar "Police Procedures in the Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Violence in the Republika Srpska" in February and March 2026 for 181 cadets of the 28th class of the Police Academy. Police Academy also offers a seminar entitled "Domestic Violence or Violence within the Family Community" as part of its regular curriculum. The seminar covers the topics of gender equality, the right to personal integrity, mutual respect and non-violent communication, as well as gender-based violence against women and girls covered by the Istanbul Convention. The Secondary School of Internal Affairs of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska offers the subject "Domestic Violence, Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Peer Violence." It covers the topics related to gender equality, different forms of gender-based violence, and ways to prevent and respond to all forms of domestic violence. The curriculum also includes the subject "Digital Environment and Police", which promotes digital literacy and online safety. During the reporting period, 188 students took this subject. Aforementioned topics are reinforced through extracurricular activities, particularly the Proactive Legal Club and the Minors and the Police Club. Both clubs organise educational workshops and lectures on violence. A total of 26 students attend these clubs.

The Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republika Srpska, in cooperation with the Republic Pedagogical Institute of the Republika Srpska, takes a systematic approach to strengthening human rights education through the development of policies and regulatory frameworks, professional development programmes, and efforts to strengthen the educational role of schools. Promoting inclusive education, preventing violence, fostering respect for diversity and supporting vulnerable groups, particularly children from marginalised communities, are among the Ministry's key priorities. Teaching methods encourage active participation, experiential learning, peer education and respect for diversity. They are aligned with the curricula, which cover topics such as inclusive and differentiated teaching, critical thinking and communication skills, cultural diversity, and history of national minorities, among others. In the 2023/2024 school year, the Republika Srpska piloted an optional programme for Humanity and Security subject. Following the pilot phase, the Ministry of Education and Culture decided to introduce the programme in all primary and secondary schools as of 2024/2025 school year. To ensure the programme is delivered to a high standard, the Republic Pedagogical Institute provides schools with continuous professional guidance and support in its implementation and oversees activities carried out by schools. This includes model and demonstration lessons, implementation of projects, humanitarian initiatives and

other activities. With the support of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republika Srpska, the Republic Pedagogical Institute of the Republika Srpska has developed programmes that include:

- workshops on communication skills and non-violent communication;
- training on the use of individual education plans in pre-school institutions and primary schools;
- preparation of guides and manuals, such as the Healthy Lifestyles manual, which covers violence prevention and the development of social and emotional skills;
- training programme for the "Humanity and Security" subject.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Republic Pedagogical Institute implements the "Skills for Adolescence" programme. The programme, among other things, aims to prevent unacceptable and harmful forms of behaviour by strengthening students' social and emotional skills. The Law on Preschool Education and Upbringing in the Republika Srpska stipulates that children belonging to national minorities may receive preschool education in their mother tongue or bilingually. Pursuant to this Law, the Rulebook on the provision of bilingual education and education in the languages of national minorities was adopted. The Rulebook regulates the provision of bilingual preschool education and in the languages of national minorities in preschool institutions and other institutions implementing preschool education programmes in the Republika Srpska. To gain a better understanding of how gender is mainstreamed in the teaching content and research approaches, the Gender Equality Advisory Board of the University of Banja Luka conducted a research on this issue. The research produced brief recommendations for further advancing gender equality in the areas examined. The Faculty of Political Sciences and the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Banja Luka offer courses that equip students to critically examine society, education, science and the media from a gender perspective. These include Gender Philosophy and Media within the Journalism and Communication Studies programme; Gender Equality in Human Resources Management and Gender Perspectives in Social Research within the Sociology programme; and Feminist Philosophy within the Philosophy programme at the Faculty of Philosophy. Each course includes a thematic unit on gender-based violence, with content tailored to the respective study programme and its specific field of study. The mentioned courses frequently draw on video materials, publications and information materials produced by NGOs and agencies working on women's rights, as well as materials developed through research projects, such as UNIGEM. Prevention and violence against women are important topics across a range of courses at the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Security Sciences, in addition to the dedicated courses mentioned above. More broadly, efforts to develop critical thinking and raise awareness of gender-related social dynamics are reflected in the Italian Women's Literature course within the Romance Studies programme. The course highlights the work of women writers and draws on contemporary approaches to literary interpretation, including feminist theory. The English Studies programme likewise addresses women's literary contributions in its literature courses and uses contemporary critical approaches to literature and society, including feminist theory. Within the Romance Studies programme, courses on Italian language teaching methodology cover contemporary educational theories and approaches that examine the relationship between educational discourse, gender and power relations in society.

Article 15: Training of professionals

11. Please complete tables I and II included in the Appendix in order to provide a comprehensive overview of the professional groups that receive initial and in-service training on the different forms of violence against women and domestic violence. Please specify the frequency and scope of the training and whether it is compulsory.

Article 78 of the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina foresees regular professional training. Accordingly, CEST FBiH provides regular professional training for judges and prosecutors on issues related to violence. The competent ministries and administrative bodies provide regular professional training for civil servants and other employees whose duties involve working directly on issues related to violence. The Federal Ministry of the Interior provides regular professional training for police officers in the cantonal ministries of the interior on issues related to violence. Official training programmes have been adopted and are being implemented. Information on these programmes is provided in Tables I and II in the annex.

The Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska, in cooperation with relevant institutions and international partners, delivered a Training of Trainers programme for police officers, involving 14 officers from the police administrations of Banja Luka, Prijedor, Zvornik and Trebinje. The programme aimed to strengthen institutional capacity to respond to cases of domestic and gender-based violence. The programme also produced a dedicated training manual for future trainers. The manual was developed in line with adult-learning principles and follows a modular approach. It covers the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, the concept of human security, gender-based violence, adult-learning methodologies, communication skills, risk assessment, as well as practical working methods and case studies. The training was evaluated using pre- and post-training questionnaires. With the support of UN Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the project "Improving the Police Response to Violence against Women and Empowering Women in the Police of the Republika Srpska" was launched in 2025. As part of the project, specialised training on digital violence against women and girls was organised for police officers, representatives of the judiciary and other actors involved in the protection system. During the reporting period, three such training sessions were held, with a total of 45 participants. The training covered online violence, digital evidence, digital forensics, the analysis of electronic traces, protection of victims' privacy, risk assessment, and practical simulations of institutional responses. Particular attention was paid to a victim-centred approach, prevention of secondary victimisation, gender-sensitive responses, multisectoral cooperation, and strengthening institutional capacity to respond to digital and sexual violence. With technical support from the Ecumenical Women's Initiative, specialised educational materials and guides were developed and used for the training sessions held in December 2025. These materials were intended for the police, prosecutors' offices and other protection providers and included the publication "Digital Violence – A Guidance Manual for Key Protection Providers", developed in accordance with GREVIO recommendations and the Istanbul Convention. The project was implemented by the Women's Network of the Republika Srpska Ministry of the Interior. As part of the quality assurance process for training, pre- and post-training evaluation questionnaires were used to assess participants' knowledge, skills and attitudes in relation to gender-based violence, the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, police responses, multisectoral cooperation and victim protection. In recent years, professional development programmes have been organised for education professionals. Training was provided for educators, professional support staff and heads of institutions to strengthen inclusive practices by supporting education professionals and parents. Efforts to further develop and promote inclusive education have continued. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Republic Pedagogical Institute implements the "Skills for Adolescence" programme. The programme, among other things, aims to prevent unacceptable and harmful forms of behaviour by strengthening students' social and emotional skills. Six two-day training sessions were delivered for 117 class teachers during the programme implementation.

Training for police officers in the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina is delivered in cooperation with police academies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Centres for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training of the Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as international organisations, including ICITAP, UNDP, OSCE and IOM. NGOs also organise training for police officers on gender-based violence and human trafficking as part of their activities, in accordance with the relevant protocols. Since the adoption of the GREVIO's Report, there has been significant progress in the training of police officers. In particular, systematic training on domestic violence and gender-based violence has been provided since 2024. Responsibility for organising and coordinating professional training of police officers lies with the Chief Inspector - Expert Advisor to the Chief of Police for Professional Education and Training of Police Officers, within the Office of the Chief of Police. Staff of the Department of Health and Other Services have attended training on digital violence against women, as well as training on gender-based violence.

12. Please specify if the expertise of women's rights organisations or specialist support services is integrated in the design and/or implementation of the training.

Representatives of NGOs are involved in both the development and delivery of training programmes. Training content includes, among other things, information on the role and importance of NGOs, the areas in which they work and the services they provide. NGO representatives are also engaged as trainers in the delivery of these programmes. In addition, the official training programmes may be delivered by NGOs in accordance with the prescribed training curriculum. One example is the Training Programme for Professionals in the Social and Child Protection System on

Protection against Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, implemented by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in partnership with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and in cooperation with the Federation of Social Workers of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, among others.

The expertise and role of women's NGOs providing specialised services are recognised, and their experience and views are regularly taken into account in the development of legislation and public policies on violence against women, as well as in the design and delivery of professional training. The tables annexed to this report show that women's NGOs organise and deliver the largest number of trainings, with donor funding providing support for their implementation.

Cooperation between the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska and civil society is reflected in their joint work on numerous projects and programmes, as well as training activities and meetings. The curriculum for "Domestic Violence and Violence within the Family Community", taught at the Police Academy of the Republika Srpska, was developed in cooperation with the Foundation Udružene žene from Banja Luka. The programme is intended for Police Academy cadets and police officers of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska who are not assigned to duties involving cases of domestic violence and violence within the family community. This cooperation also resulted in the development and promotion of the "Responding to Cases of Domestic Violence" guide for police officers. Seminars entitled "Domestic Violence or Violence within the Family Community" were also delivered, with a total of 1,210 cadets from the 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th classes of the Police Academy attending the seminars. During the reporting period, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska also cooperated with the Lara Foundation in Bijeljina through a number of projects, including "Together for Better Protection of Women from Violence," "Strengthening the Capacity of Support Service Providers for Victims of Gender-Based Violence – Phase III," "Improving Specialised Support Services for Victims of Sexual Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina," "Strengthening Institutional Support to End Gender-Based Violence – Phase II," "Support to the Safe Network," "Raising Public Awareness of Trafficking in Human Beings in Migration Flows," and "Proactive Citizens," among others. The Women's Network of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska (RS WPON) is committed to promoting the role of women within police structures and strengthening women's capacity to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. The Network's vision is to contribute actively to building a gender-equal police organisation in which women can fulfil their potential, while developing prevention measures to combat gender-based violence and protect vulnerable groups, with a particular focus on women and children. The Women's Network works with the Ministry of the Interior and other competent ministries in developing and delivering training for police officers.

Article 16: Preventive intervention and treatment programmes

13. Please provide information on measures taken to increase the number of available preventive intervention and treatment programmes for perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence both for voluntary and mandatory attendance.

In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Article 30 provides for mandatory psychosocial treatment as a protective measure, while Article 31 provides for mandatory treatment for addiction. Mandatory psychosocial treatment is provided in community mental health centres. Staff at these centres are required to undergo training in accordance with the programme adopted by the Federal Ministry of Health. The programme has already been delivered in four training cycles and will continue in 2026. In the area of sexual violence, 24 sector-specific training sessions and six two-day multisectoral training sessions were held in 2024 and 2025 in cooperation with the Foundation for Local Democracy Sarajevo. More than 320 professionals from the key sectors involved in preventing, detecting and investigating sexual violence, collecting evidence and providing support to victims took part in these sessions. In 2025, the Federal Ministry of Health and UNFPA organised two additional sector-specific training sessions for health professionals. The training was based on the publication "Clinical Management of Rape and Other Forms of Sexual Violence" and brought together 73 representatives of 12 hospitals and three university clinical centres in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The

participating institutions have gynaecology departments and therefore need to be familiar with the basic procedures for responding to cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence. An initiative is under way to set up centres for the clinical management of victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence in three healthcare institutions: University Clinical Centre Tuzla, University Clinical Hospital Mostar and General Hospital "Prim. dr Abdulah Nakaš" Sarajevo. A more systematic approach was needed to ensure consistent practice and clearly define the responsibilities of each actor involved in providing support to victims. A joint Protocol for responding to cases of rape in Sarajevo Canton was consequently developed and signed on 28 November 2025. The Protocol sets out a multidisciplinary framework for preventing, detecting and prosecuting rape, as well as for providing protection and assistance to victims through the relevant institutions, in cooperation with non-governmental organisations. Joint protocol is currently being developed for Tuzla Canton. At its 69th session, held on 9 April 2026, the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Information on the establishment of centres for supporting victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence, following a proposal by the Coordination Team for Monitoring the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention. The Government also adopted Conclusion V. No. 637/2026 of 9 April 2026, which sets out recommendations for the competent authorities, within their respective areas of responsibility, for the implementation of Article 25 of the Istanbul Convention and the recommendations of the GREVIO Committee. The Conclusion was published in the Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, No. 29/26, and forwarded to the relevant federal and cantonal authorities for further action. It was also sent to the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina for information.

In the Republika Srpska, psychosocial treatment for perpetrators of violence is provided in the premises of the mental health centre of the competent primary healthcare centre, in cooperation with the social work center. Primary healthcare centres operate in 54 of the 64 local self-government units. Where necessary, other healthcare services are provided in the nearest localities where primary healthcare centres or secondary- and tertiary-level healthcare facilities are available. This includes services required when the court orders mandatory psychosocial treatment or addiction treatment for the perpetrator of violence, in accordance with the relevant legislation. Mandatory psychosocial treatment and mandatory treatment for addiction for perpetrators are provided solely on the basis of a court decision.

The Department of Health and Other Services and the Public Health Institution "Brčko Health Centre" do not have specific prevention or treatment programmes for perpetrators of domestic or sexual violence. Such treatment is provided as part of the regular work of the Mental Health Centre and the guardianship authority

14. Please provide information on measures taken to:

- a. increase the number of men and boys attending perpetrator programmes for domestic and sexual violence;

According to the findings of the Evaluation of the application of protective measures, no recidivism occurred in the cases involving temporary deprivation of liberty, protective measure prohibiting harassment or ordering psychosocial treatment. These findings were subsequently incorporated in the professional training programmes to encourage more frequent application of the said measures. This has led to an increase in the number of imposed psychosocial treatment measures: 55 in 2022, 96 in 2023, 168 in 2024 and 200 in 2025. There has also been an increase in the number of imposed measures of mandatory treatment for addiction: 30 in 2022, 55 in 2023, 95 in 2024 and 151 in 2025. In accordance with Article 5 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, provisions of this Law do not apply to children who perpetrate violence. Measures of mandatory psychosocial treatment and mandatory treatment for addiction may not be ordered against children. In the case of minors, the applicable legislation is the Law on Protection and

Treatment of Children and Juveniles in Criminal Proceedings (Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nos. 7/14 and 74/20).

- b. ensure that the perpetrator programmes apply standards of best practice;

Under the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, with the consent of the Federal Ministry of Health, adopted the Rulebook on the manner and place of implementation of the protective measure of mandatory psychosocial treatment of perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Federal Ministry of Health adopted the training programme for providers of psychosocial treatment. No training sessions on the provision of psychosocial treatment were held in 2025. To date, 27 professionals have completed the relevant training and obtained certification to provide psychosocial treatment. Overall, 64% of staff engaged in the provision of psychosocial treatment hold this certificate. The training programme will continue in 2026, expanding the number of centres equipped to implement this measure.

- c. ensure the safety of victims and co-operation with specialist support services for victims;

One of the principles set out in Article 5 of the Rulebook on the manner and place of implementation of the protective measure of mandatory psychosocial treatment of perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the principle of victim safety. This means that the implementation of the measure must not compromise the safety of the victim, their family members or other persons connected to the victim. All activities must be carried out so as to prevent re-victimisation. The Rulebook also foresees the principle of interdisciplinarity, according to which professionals from different fields are expected to work together to implement the protective measure. Article 10 of the Rulebook requires adoption of a written plan that includes information on steps the victim can take to contribute to their own safety and to the effective implementation of the protective measure. Article 17 sets out the procedures for ensuring that the court is promptly informed of any crisis situations, breaches of the measure, or other circumstances that may affect the victim's safety.

In the Republika Srpska, the Rulebook on the implementation of the protective measure of mandatory psychosocial treatment requires healthcare professionals and associates engaged in psychosocial treatment of perpetrators to receive training on the gender dimensions of domestic violence and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. This training is a mandatory requirement under the Rulebook. Training for healthcare professionals and associates involved in providing psychosocial treatment to perpetrators of violence covers the gender dimensions of domestic violence. It is based on the understanding that domestic violence constitutes a form of gender-based violence, with the victim's sex as a primary factor underlying the violence. Healthcare institutions are required to work closely with the competent guardianship authorities and specialised services providing support to the victims. Where there is an increased risk, they must also cooperate with the police and judicial authorities. A victim of domestic violence may participate in the perpetrator's psychosocial treatment, provided that the victim consents and the person conducting the treatment considers such participation necessary. Where a victim participates in the perpetrator's psychosocial treatment, the healthcare professionals and associates providing the treatment must take particular care to protect the victim's safety. In coordination with other authorities, institutions and services involved, they must address any circumstances or risks that could result in further violence and/or re-traumatisation of the victim. Before psychosocial treatment begins, the healthcare institution and the social work centre, together with the perpetrator of domestic violence, prepare a written activity plan. The plan describes how psychosocial treatment will be conducted, specifies the perpetrator's obligations, includes a risk assessment, and provides for measures to be taken in the event of a crisis. The adult victim of domestic violence must be

informed of the written activity plan. Where the victim is a child, this information must be provided through their legal representative, namely the parent who is not the perpetrator of domestic violence. Where the victim participates in psychosocial treatment, they must also be involved in preparing the written activity plan. The victim is provided with the part of the plan relating to crisis situations, including information on places where they can seek safety and telephone numbers they can call for assistance. If the perpetrator does not attend psychosocial treatment regularly, or if the healthcare institution determines that, despite regular attendance, the treatment is unlikely to lead to a change in the perpetrator's behaviour, the institution must immediately notify the competent guardianship authority. The guardianship authority must then inform the court that ordered the measure, so that another protective measure can be imposed. If the perpetrator discontinues psychosocial treatment, is suspended from treatment, or if there are reasonable grounds for concern about the victim's safety, the victim must also be informed.

d. ensure that the outcomes of the programmes are monitored and evaluated.

Articles 13 and 18 of the Rulebook on the manner and place of implementation of the protective measure of mandatory psychosocial treatment of perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina provide for the evaluation of the measure.

Article 18: General obligations

15. Please provide information on any multi-agency co-operation mechanisms, structures or measures in place designed to protect and support victims of any of the forms of gender-based violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention (e.g., interdisciplinary working groups, case-management systems, cross-sectoral protocols/ guidelines...). Please describe:

Bosnia and Herzegovina has established legal and protocol-based mechanisms for cooperation among institutions responsible for responding to domestic violence, violence against women and other forms of gender-based violence covered by the Istanbul Convention. These mechanisms include laws on protection against domestic violence, local and cantonal protocols governing responses to violence, coordination bodies and coordination and cooperation groups. They also provide a basis for operational cooperation among the police, prosecution services, social work centres, healthcare and educational institutions, courts and civil society organisations. Responsibilities of the protection providers, specialised support services, victim protection procedures, protective measures, arrangements for inter-institutional cooperation and data collection in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina are governed by the relevant legal framework. Noteworthy example of the good practice is Protocol on the work and cooperation of the Coordination Body for the prevention of, protection from and response to domestic violence in Sarajevo Canton. The Coordination Body brings together the Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of the Interior, Police Administration, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice and Administration, Ministry of Education, Sarajevo Canton Prosecutor's Office, Foundation for Local Democracy and the Coordination Board of Associations of Persons with Disabilities. Prosecution authorities play a particularly important role as a central component of the criminal justice response. Cantonal Prosecutor's Office of the Sarajevo Canton, as a signatory to the Protocol, investigates and prosecutes perpetrators of domestic violence within its legal mandate. Prosecutors on duty assess the nature of reported incidents in cooperation with the police, direct the criminal justice response and ensure effective protection of victims. The Cantonal Prosecutor's Office of the Sarajevo Canton also has a Witness Support Department, which provides victims with information about their rights and supports them throughout their participation in the investigations and criminal proceedings. A recent development in Sarajevo Canton is the adoption of the Protocol for responding to cases of rape, signed on 28 November

2025, the first protocol of its kind in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Protocol establishes a multidisciplinary institutional framework for preventing rape, ensuring its timely detection and effective prosecution, and providing victims with professional support and protection. The signatories are the Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Sarajevo Canton Prosecutor's Office, Public Institution "Prim. dr Abdulah Nakaš" General Hospital, Public Institution Sarajevo Canton Social Work Centre and Foundation for Local Democracy. The Protocol further strengthens coordination among the prosecution service, police, healthcare sector, social work centre and civil society organisations. Another important institutional development is the establishment of the first centre for supporting victims of rape in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a specialised clinic at the Public Institution "Prim. dr Abdulah Nakaš" General Hospital. The centre provides support to victims through an integrated model of medical, psychological, social and legal services.

A similar legal framework is in place in the Republika Srpska. The Law on Protection against Domestic Violence in the Republika Srpska designates the police, prosecution services, social work centres, social welfare services, healthcare and educational institutions, and the competent court as protection providers. At the local level, the relevant authorities follow an agreed protocol for responding to cases of violence and coordinate their work through a coordination and cooperation group comprising representatives of the authorities, institutions and organisations involved in protecting, assisting and supporting victims. The important role of the prosecution authorities in the Republika Srpska is underscored by the requirement that the police immediately notify the competent public prosecutor when violence is reported and submit to the prosecutor their report and collected evidence, accompanied with a risk assessment. Once the investigation is completed, the competent public prosecutor informs the police in writing whether an indictment has been filed or the investigation discontinued and gives the reasons for any discontinuation. This places the prosecution authorities at the centre of the criminal justice response, working closely with the police and other protection providers. Specialised support services include shelters, SOS helplines, free legal aid, psychosocial support and other forms of assistance, often provided by civil society organisations, particularly those working with women and children victims of violence. A gender-sensitive, victim-centred approach includes prompt action, informing victims of their rights, assessing risks, developing safety plans, providing access to shelters and ensuring the protection of children. In terms of resources, the system relies largely on the existing capacities of institutions and specialised organisations. The Republika Srpska legislation provides for a specific funding arrangement for shelters, with 70% of funding coming from the Republika Srpska budget and 30% from the budgets of local self-government units. Implementation is monitored through annual reports and records documenting the action taken, as well as assessments of how protocols are applied in practice and how coordination bodies function. Overall, cooperation mechanisms are in place and operate within the framework of legislation, protocols, coordination bodies and specialised support services. Prosecutor's offices play a particularly important role given their responsibilities in leading investigations, directing police work, deciding on criminal prosecution and ensuring protection of victims' rights and safety during criminal proceedings.

- a. the state agencies involved in their functioning (law-enforcement agencies, judiciary, public prosecutor, local authorities, healthcare services, social services, educational institutions etc.);

Articles 72 and 75 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina require all levels of government to adopt policies, programmes of measures and strategies focused on preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women. At its 45th session, held on 30 December 2024, the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted a Decision establishing a Coordination Body to monitor the implementation of the Strategy for Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence 2024-2027. The Coordination Body comprises representatives of the Federal

Ministry of Justice, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Education and Science, Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport, Federal Institute for Development Programming, and the Gender Centre of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which serves as the lead institution. Earlier, the government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina at its 21st session, held on 30 November 2023, adopted a Decision establishing a Coordination Team to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention. The Gender Centre of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina leads the Coordination Team, which comprises the Federal Ministry of Justice, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Education and Science, Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport, and Federal Ministry of Displaced Persons and Refugees. Coordination bodies have also been established in all ten cantons. Article 75 of the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women provides for the adoption of a framework protocol for responding to cases of violence. Protection providers are required to sign the protocol covering one or more municipalities or cities, which establishes arrangements for coordinating the response to cases of violence. The Framework Protocol serves as the basis for municipal and city-level protocols. The Law defines the protection providers responsible for providing assistance to the victims. These include the competent authorities and institutions, namely the police, prosecution services, courts, guardianship authorities, healthcare and educational institutions, free legal aid institutes and other public institutions, as well as specialised non-governmental organisations. Protection providers are either represented on the coordination bodies or maintain ongoing cooperation with them.

- b. whether they involve specialist support services provided by civil society organisations, especially women's rights organisations;

Article 13 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina recognises specialised non-governmental organisations as protection providers. Article 14 defines specialised support services, which may be provided, among others, by associations, foundations and religious communities. Article 74 of the Law further defines the role of non-governmental organisations. In October 2025, UN Women and the Federal Ministry of the Interior signed a Memorandum of Understanding, reaffirming their shared commitment to strengthening cooperation on gender equality, women's empowerment and the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. In 2025, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy signed a Memorandum with five shelters run by civil society organisations and Gracija magazine to cooperate on a programme for the economic empowerment of women leaving shelters. This led to the establishment of the "With Her for Her Freedom" programme. The Ministry also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UN Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, reaffirming cooperation to strengthen the social protection system in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a particular focus on protecting victims of violence, strengthening professional capacities of the protection system, and supporting civilian victims of war.

- c. how they adopt a gender-sensitive approach to violence against women, including the prioritisation of the safety of women and girl victims, their empowerment and a victim-centred approach;

Article 5 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina defines the general principles governing protection from violence in all cases, with the aim of ensuring the most effective protection of victims' rights, without discrimination on any ground. It also stipulates that specific measures necessary to prevent and protect women from gender-based violence do not constitute discrimination within the meaning of the Law. Courts, prosecutor's offices, police authorities, guardianship authorities

and other institutions responsible for social and healthcare protection, together with specialised non-governmental organisations, are responsible for implementing and enforcing the Law within their respective mandates. They are required to work together in coordination. These institutions have a duty to ensure that victims of violence and perpetrators are handled by appropriately trained staff. Article 19 of The Law requires protection providers to ensure prompt handling of cases of violence, while ensuring that the interests and well-being of the victim are given priority, particularly where the victim is a child, a person over 65 years of age, a person with disability or a person under guardianship.

- d. the financial and human resources dedicated to their implementation and any available information on the evaluation of their outcome or impact.

Under the Law on Development Planning and Development Management in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Rulebook on the development of strategic documents, the preparation and adoption of strategic documents must be accompanied by the allocation of financial resources and the identification of funding sources within the budgets of the competent institutions. Article 73 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina requires all levels of government, within their available resources, to provide funding for programmes and projects aimed at preventing violence and creating and improving conditions for the protection of victims of violence. Article 4 of the Law further recognises protection from violence as a public interest of the Federation, cantons, cities and municipalities.

In the Republika Srpska, the General Protocol for responding to cases of domestic violence has been in force since 2022. The Protocol was signed by the Ministers of Family, Youth and Sports, Internal Affairs, Justice, Health and Social Welfare, Administration and Local Self-Government, and Education and Culture. The main purpose of the General Protocol is to ensure that the signatories work in a coordinated, effective and comprehensive manner to provide victims of domestic violence with immediate assistance, support and protection, while preventing and curbing the recurrence of violence. The Law also provides for the adoption of a local response protocol in each local self-government unit in the Republika Srpska, as well as the establishment of a coordination and cooperation group comprising representatives of all institutions, authorities and non-governmental organisations providing specialised services to women victims of violence. Implementation of these protocols ensures efficient response to domestic violence and contributes to prevention by strengthening professional competencies, improving understanding of domestic violence, challenging stereotypes and prejudices, and promoting “zero tolerance” of domestic violence and, consequently, of all other forms of violence. Local coordination groups meet regularly to coordinate activities related to violence prevention and training, as well as interventions aimed at preventing and addressing domestic violence, protecting victims and promoting their rights. Their work covers both individual cases of violence and broader response to domestic violence, which includes progress assessment and planning of further activities. To strengthen coordination and align the policies of the Republika Srpska institutions in preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women, as well as in promoting gender equality more broadly, the Government of the Republika Srpska appointed members of the Coordination Board during the reporting period to monitor the implementation of the Gender Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2023-2027 in the Republika Srpska. The Coordination Board is responsible for preparing annual operational plans in the Republika Srpska and monitoring their implementation. These plans include, among other things, a range of measures defined under the programme “Preventing and Combating Discrimination and All Forms of Gender-Based Violence”. The Center for Gender Equity and Equality coordinates the work of the Coordination Board, oversees the preparation of the annual operational plans and prepares reports on their implementation for consideration and adoption by the Government of the Republika Srpska. This ensures coordination in the implementation of policies and measures for combating violence against women at the entity level. Alongside policies specifically targeting

violence against women, the Center for Gender Equity and Equality of the Republika Srpska also provides ongoing technical support to local self-government units in developing local gender equality action plans. These plans, among other things, include programmes and measures for prevention of gender-based discrimination and violence. The Centre provides this support through training and advisory services. During the reporting period, the Centre provided training to 16 local self-government units, which went on to develop local gender equality action plans that include measures to combat domestic violence and violence against women at the local level. Republika Srpska has also adopted a Protocol on the protection of children from violence, neglect and abuse. The Protocol was signed by the Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Ministry of the Interior, and Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of the Republika Srpska. The primary purpose of the Protocol is to strengthen child protection services in the Republika Srpska and ensure appropriate and timely assistance whenever a child is exposed to any form of violence, neglect or abuse. The Protocol clearly defines the responsibilities of educational institutions and their staff, guardianship authorities, healthcare institutions and the police, as well as the procedures for informing the media and the public about children who are victims of violence, neglect or abuse. The Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska organises professional meetings, round tables, training sessions and consultations. It also cooperates closely with its organisational units, the Women's Network of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice of the Republika Srpska, prosecution authorities and courts in the Republika Srpska, healthcare institutions, the University Clinical Centre of the Republika Srpska, the Police Academy, the academic community, including professors and students of psychology and social work, as well as international organisations and experts. The Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska has actively participated in professional initiatives and dialogue on improving the legislative framework, implementing the Istanbul Convention, strengthening sentencing policy, improving the institutional response to domestic and gender-based violence, and addressing issues related to digital evidence and online safety. The University of Banja Luka (UNIBL) has developed and adopted Guidelines for the prevention of sexual harassment and gender-based violence at UNIBL. The University has established an internal, secure database to monitor cases in which measures have been imposed following reported incidents. It has also appointed an adviser and an assistant to oversee implementation of the Guidelines and manage the database. The Minister of Family, Youth and Sports of the Republika Srpska has appointed a Coordination Body to implement the Strategy for Combating Domestic Violence in the Republika Srpska for the period 2026-2032.

16. Please detail whether any such co-operation mechanisms or structures set up for the delivery of support services for a specific form of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention is based on a legal or policy document advocating for or requiring such approaches.

Yes. These cooperation mechanisms are based on legal and strategic documents, including legislation on protection against domestic violence, local and cantonal protocols, and requirements to establish coordination bodies or cooperation groups. In the Republika Srpska, the law expressly foresees conclusion of protocols governing response to cases of violence and establishment of coordination and cooperation groups at the level of the local self-government units. For specific forms of violence, particularly sexual violence, the "EMPOWER HER - Strengthening the response to sexual violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina" project is a particularly notable initiative. It aims to establish an institutional framework for preventing and responding to sexual violence through cooperation between public institutions and non-governmental organisations. The project was launched in October 2023 with a planned duration until October 2026 and is implemented by the Local Democracy Foundation, in partnership with the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Safe Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with support from UN Women and funding from the UN Trust Fund. A new mechanism has already been established in Sarajevo Canton, namely the Protocol for responding to cases of rape, while similar models are being developed in Tuzla Canton, Banja Luka and Mostar. This further institutionalises cooperation between the prosecutor's offices,

police, healthcare institutions, social work centres and specialised support organisations in responding to specific forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention.

Articles 72 and 75 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina require all levels of government to adopt policies, programmes of measures and strategies focused on preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women. The Law also requires coordination bodies to be established at all levels of government.

The General Protocol for responding to cases of domestic violence in the Republika Srpska was adopted pursuant to the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence. The same law provides for the adoption of local protocols and the establishment of coordination groups within local self-government units. The adoption of the Protocol on the protection of children from violence, neglect and abuse in the Republika Srpska is not prescribed by law. However, following its publication in the Official Gazette, its implementation became mandatory for all institutions responsible for responding to cases covered by the Protocol. The Protocol was adopted to strengthen cooperation among the institutions in protecting children from violence, neglect and abuse and to ensure coordinated response to preventing violence, neglect and abuse of children. The Coordination Board for Monitoring the Implementation of the Gender Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2023-2027 in the Republika Srpska was established on the basis of the corresponding strategic document, as required under the Law on Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina – consolidated text.

17. Please explain whether all or some of the services of protection and support offered for victims of the different forms of violence against women are provided on the basis of a one-stop-shop approach.

Not all protection and support services for victims of different forms of violence against women are available through a “one-stop-shop” model, as the system still largely relies on referrals between the police, prosecution services, social work centres, healthcare institutions, safe houses and civil society organisations. A more specialised model is, however, being developed for sexual violence. In Sarajevo Canton, a specialised clinic has been established at the Public Institution “Prim. Dr Abdulah Nakaš” General Hospital. It is the first centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina dedicated to supporting rape victims and aims to bring medical, psychological, social and legal support together in one place. The Centre for the Clinical Management of Victims of Rape was established within the “Prim. Dr Abdulah Nakaš” General Hospital in Sarajevo under the Joint Protocol for responding to cases of rape in Sarajevo Canton. The Joint Protocol was signed on 28 November 2025 by the relevant institutions and organisations to provide victims with access to a range of services through a “one-stop-shop” model.

In the Republika Srpska, there is currently no system through which women victims of violence can access services based on a “one-stop-shop” model.

In the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the 2018 Protocol on cooperation and procedures in cases of violence against women and domestic violence sets out in greater detail the steps to be followed by police officers and other protection providers, as does the 2018 Manual on the procedures in cases of gender-based and sexual violence against women and children for the police, prosecutors and judges. Both instruments will be amended following the adoption of the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence in the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is expected in the fourth quarter of 2026. At the Basic Court of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Rules on Internal Organisation and Job Classification of the Basic Court of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Section D “Witness Support Department”, Article 12 (Responsibilities of the Department), foresees the following: “The Witness Support Department is responsible for providing psychological, social and logistical support and assistance to witnesses, as well as to children and minors, within the meaning of the

Law on the Protection and Treatment of Children and Minors in Criminal Proceedings of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who appear before the Criminal Division of the Court.” The Rules also establish the position of Expert Associate for Witness Support, whose responsibilities are as follows: provides psychological, emotional, logistical and other forms of support to witnesses during and after their testimony in criminal proceedings, depending on the number of cases before the Court and the schedule for calling witnesses to testify; provides psychological counselling to vulnerable witnesses, including children, witnesses with physical and psychological difficulties and victims of torture, during and after their testimony in criminal proceedings; assesses witnesses’ needs and takes the necessary measures in accordance with their needs; contacts witnesses to obtain the information necessary for their successful participation in criminal proceedings; establishes contacts with relevant organisations and institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the aim of providing assistance to witnesses; cooperates with civil society in providing support and information to witnesses that may be useful to them after giving testimony; meets the highest standards of confidentiality in handling data and information classified as highly confidential; ensures gender equality; establishes and manages the Witness Support Department within the Basic Court of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including logistical and administrative activities; conducts assessments of all witnesses in criminal cases and provides psychological counselling to vulnerable witnesses, including children, witnesses with physical and psychological difficulties and victims of torture, sexual violence, etc., during and after their testimony, depending on the number of cases before the Court and the schedule for calling witnesses to testify; develops and updates the Internal Procedures for the functioning of the Witness Support Department for the Court; develops and updates templates and reporting procedures that take gender equality and disability perspectives into account for statistical purposes; reports to the President of the Court on a regular monthly basis on support and protection activities undertaken, including the number of witnesses handled/supported by the Witness Support Department and the challenges faced by the Department; accesses individual criminal case files through the CMS on the basis of a written instruction received as a task from the presiding judge or judicial panel; generates a “Report by Party Role” in the CMS in order to identify cases involving sensitive or vulnerable witnesses; submits requests to the presiding judge for access to a specific case file after confirmation of the indictment, where a sensitive or vulnerable witness has been identified; initiates contact with witnesses on the basis of a written instruction from the judge; informs the judge in writing of such contacts and the outcomes of the intervention; attends proceedings conducted in the presence of a minor offender, in particular the questioning of the minor, within the meaning of the Law on the Protection and Treatment of Children and Minors in Criminal Proceedings of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: the Law); attends proceedings in which children and minors against whom a criminal offence has been committed are questioned, in accordance with the Law; attends proceedings in which children and minors who have witnessed a criminal offence are questioned, in accordance with the Law; and performs other duties and tasks as instructed by the president of the court.

Article 20: General support services

18. Please provide information on programmes and measures aimed at ensuring, through general services, the recovery of victims of violence, including in the health and social areas, financial assistance, education, training and assistance in finding employment and affordable and permanent housing.

The Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women provides for the temporary accommodation of victims in shelters as a specific form of support, as well as accommodation in another appropriate institution or with another family. Other forms of assistance include social protection services to meet victims’ essential social and material needs; access to healthcare, education and training; psychological and legal counselling; assistance with employment; temporary financial assistance; and a free SOS helpline for victims of violence.

The legal and policy framework of the Republika Srpska places particular emphasis on victims of domestic violence having access to general support services, including healthcare and social services. It also addresses the availability and capacity of these services, staff training to assist victims and refer them to appropriate services, and victims' right to legal assistance in proceedings in which they seek to exercise their rights and obtain protection. The Law on Protection against Domestic Violence stipulates that victims of domestic violence have the right to access all protection providers, to have their cases dealt with as a matter of urgency, and to be exempt from all procedural costs. Victims' access to healthcare services, as well as the training of staff to assist victims and refer them to appropriate services, has also been further enhanced. The health sector has a specific and complex role in preventing and combating domestic violence, as healthcare professionals are often the first people to whom victims turn for help and are also among the first in a position to recognise signs of violence, including when victims are not ready to speak about it openly. Under the Law on Social Welfare of the Republika Srpska, victims of domestic violence are entitled to access all social protection services. The Law recognises them as beneficiaries of these rights and services and defines them as "persons who, within the family environment, are subjected to physical, psychological, economic or sexual suffering or emotional pain, or threats of such acts, and who, as a result of these circumstances, find themselves in a situation of social need". Under the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence, social work centres are part of the system providing support and assistance to victims of domestic violence. Through professional teams, they develop individual work plans for victims and provide psychosocial support. In addition to representatives of the relevant institution, these professional teams include other officials from institutions at the local self-government level that are protection providers, including the police, healthcare professionals, representatives of non-governmental organisations, prosecution services, courts and educational institutions, as well as other professionals working on family and domestic violence issues. They determine a plan of assistance for the victim and coordinate the assistance provided in accordance with the victim's needs and wishes.

Victims of domestic violence are entitled to free legal aid in the proceedings to exercise their rights and obtain protection, in accordance with the legislation governing free legal aid. Under the Law on Exercising the Right to Free Legal Aid in the Republika Srpska, the Centre for the Provision of Free Legal Aid is authorised to provide free legal aid to individuals who meet the statutory requirements, ensuring their right to a fair trial and equal access to justice before courts and other authorities. Victims of domestic violence are among the categories of persons entitled to free legal aid. The Law stipulates that victims of domestic violence are entitled to free legal aid on the basis of their personal characteristics or status before the competent authority. In matrimonial and family proceedings, they are given priority over other applicants when free legal aid is being considered. Free legal aid is also available to the victims of wartime torture, including women who were victims of sexual violence during the war; persons with disabilities; children in proceedings concerning their right to maintenance; children whose rights, obligations or legally protected interests are being determined in proceedings before a court, another state authority or a public institution; and children without parental care. The Centre provides free legal aid in the form of general information on the rights and obligations, legal advice, and assistance in completing forms and representation before the courts. Free legal aid also includes exemption from court and administrative fees payable on applications and decisions for which fees are prescribed. In April 2026, a draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Exercising the Right to Free Legal Aid in the Republika Srpska was adopted, extending eligibility for free legal aid to victims of sexual violence in proceedings to obtain protection as victims. The Law on Preschool Education and Upbringing in the Republika Srpska provides that, where there is insufficient capacity to accommodate all preschool-age children, priority for admission to preschool institutions is given to the following categories:

- children who are beneficiaries of social welfare;*
- children with rare diseases;*

- children whose parents are persons with disabilities or persons suffering from serious illnesses, taking into account the parents' right to reasonable accommodation in the child enrolment process;
- children of single parents;
- children from families with three or more children;
- children from families recognised as beneficiaries of financial assistance, child allowance or maternity allowance; and
- children belonging to minority ethnic communities.

Under the Law on Employment Mediation and Rights during Unemployment in the Republika Srpska, women are among the categories given priority when determining participation in public works employment programmes. Under the Law on Social Housing of the Republika Srpska, where persons eligible for social housing receive the same number of points, priority in the allocation of a housing unit is given, among others, to victims of domestic violence and victims of wartime torture, including women victims of conflict-related sexual violence. For the purposes of the Law, social housing means housing of a defined standard provided, with public-sector support, to individuals who, for various reasons, primarily economic, social or health-related, are unable to resolve their housing needs independently. Housing support under the Law is provided by allocating a housing unit under a fixed-term non-profit tenancy, with security of tenure for as long as the need for housing continues, provided that the general and specific conditions laid down by the Law are met. In the Republika Srpska, the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence foresees that, where a victim so wishes, she may request the presence of a person of trust so that she does not have to go through the process of exercising her rights alone. The victim may choose a person of trust before or during the proceedings. A person of trust may be present during one or more proceedings or actions relating to protection from domestic violence. The person of trust provides the victim with emotional, moral and psychological support but may not take legal action on her behalf. To enable victims to exercise this right, all protection providers are required not only to inform them of this right but also to allow the person of trust to be present. In accordance with professional standards, the official responsible for the matter should duly record the presence of the person of trust, for example in an official note or the record of proceedings. Victims of violence who are parties to proceedings may otherwise take procedural steps themselves or through a representative. The representative is a legal professional chosen by the victim of domestic violence.

In the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, services are provided daily at the premises of the Sub-Department for Social Protection and the Centre for Mental Health, one of the leading centres of its kind in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Questions specific to the public health sector:

19. Have specific measures been taken to ensure that public health services (hospitals, health centres, other) respond to the safety and medical needs of women and girls victims of all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention on the basis of national/regional standardised protocols?

In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, two types of measures have been taken to strengthen the capacity of healthcare staff to provide appropriate healthcare services to victims of different forms of violence. The first measure concerns training for healthcare professionals and other staff in healthcare institutions under the "Strengthening the Health System Response to Gender-Based Violence" training programme, developed by the Federal Ministry of Health. The programme has been implemented since 2016 and is regularly updated. The second measure concerns the development and adoption of internal protocols governing the response of primary healthcare services, including standard operating procedures (SOPs). Further information on these procedures is provided in the response to Question 20.

In the Republika Srpska, specific measures have been introduced under the Law on Health Care and the Resource Package for the Health Service Response to Gender-Based Violence to ensure that public health services address the safety and healthcare needs of women and girls who are victims of violence defined under the Istanbul Convention.

Specific measures are also in place at the Brčko District Hospital, but they still need to be further strengthened to bring them into line with the Istanbul Convention, particularly with regard to forensic examinations, which are currently carried out only by the Brčko District Police.

20. Do such protocols detail the procedure to:

a. identify victims through screening;

YES. Detailed information is provided below.

b. provide treatment for all the medical needs of victims in a supportive manner;

YES. Detailed information is provided below.

c. collect forensic evidence and documentation;

YES. Detailed information is provided below.

d. ensure that a clear message of support is conveyed to the victim;

YES. Detailed information is provided below.

e. refer to the appropriate specialist support services that form part of a multi-agency co-operation structure; and

YES. Detailed information is provided below.

f. identify children who may have been exposed to domestic violence or other forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and require further support.

YES. Detailed information is provided below.

Healthcare institutions are expected to use standard operating procedures (SOPs) to guide healthcare providers in responding to cases, providing support and respecting victims' legal rights. These procedures are based on good clinical practice, principles of professional ethics, international conventions, and recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) and other relevant institutions. A generic framework for "Internal protocols for the identification of and response to victims of gender-based violence in primary healthcare, including standard operating procedures" has been developed and presented to healthcare institutions. The framework is adapted to each healthcare institution and its organisational structure. It consists of a normative section setting out the responsibilities of the relevant services towards victims, which is approved and signed by the person responsible for the institution (the director), together with standard operating procedures set out in an annex and divided into two groups: identification of gender-based violence and response to victims of violence. Both sets of procedures have been developed in detail for family medicine teams, mental health centres, gynaecology and paediatric services, as well as other services within primary healthcare centres. The procedures cover the areas referred to in Question 20, including cooperation with other sectors where necessary. Several primary healthcare centres have already adopted this type of internal protocol, together with standard operating procedures, during the preceding period. Another measure is the introduction of safety and quality standards for responding to gender-based violence as part of the broader standards for primary healthcare. These standards are intended to promote a consistent and standardised approach among healthcare professionals and other healthcare staff. Incorporating specific criteria on gender-based violence into primary healthcare standards provides a systematic and sustainable framework for delivering support to these vulnerable groups. The development of additional indicators for annual monitoring, with mandatory reporting to the Agency for Quality and Accreditation in Health Care of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina as required by law, makes it possible to monitor healthcare institutions and assess the safety and quality of care provided to victims of gender-based violence.

In the Republika Srpska, the Law on Health Care provides for the protection of public health at the entity level, including the provision of healthcare to victims of domestic violence in accordance with legislation governing the protection of victims of domestic violence. It also establishes the entity's responsibility for public health, including the provision of healthcare to population and disease groups of particular social and medical importance, including persons requiring emergency care under health protection legislation. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the Republika Srpska recognises the important role of the healthcare system in responding to violence against women and girls. For many women and girls, contact with a healthcare professional is their first, and often only, point of access to support and treatment. Strengthening healthcare professionals' capacity to identify and support victims of violence is therefore essential to preventing and responding to gender-based violence. To support healthcare professionals and other healthcare staff in providing services to victims of gender-based violence, the Resource Package for the Response of Healthcare Service Providers in the Republika Srpska to Gender-Based Violence was prepared by an interdisciplinary working group comprising representatives of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the Republika Srpska; the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of the Republika Srpska; the Council for Combating Domestic Violence and Violence within the Family Community in the Republika Srpska; the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska; the Ministry of Justice of the Republika Srpska; the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republika Srpska; the Ministry for Economic Relations and Regional Cooperation of the Republika Srpska; the Centre for Gender Equity and Equality of the Republika Srpska; the Health Insurance Fund of the Republika Srpska; the Institute of Public Health of the Republika Srpska; and the Chamber of Medical Doctors of the Republika Srpska, with support from the UNFPA Regional Office team in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Package draws on the Resource Package: Strengthening the Health System Responses to Gender-Based Violence in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, produced by the UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) Information Centre and Network, and adapted to the context of the Republika Srpska. The Resource Package for the Response of Healthcare Service Providers in the Republika Srpska to Gender-Based Violence comprises the following chapters: Introduction; Methodology; The Concept of Gender-Based Violence; States' Obligations under International Law; Legislative Framework in the Republika Srpska; Strategic Framework in the Republika Srpska; Situation in the Republika Srpska; Guidelines for Healthcare Professionals on Strengthening the Health System Response to Gender-Based Violence; Conclusions and Recommendations; Annexes; and Biography. The chapter Guidelines for Healthcare Professionals on Strengthening the Health System Response to Gender-Based Violence comprises four sections: The Role of Healthcare Professionals in Responding to Gender-Based Violence; Steps for an Effective Healthcare Response to Gender-Based Violence; Forensic Examinations and the Provision of Evidence in Court; and Establishing Referral Pathways Integrated into Healthcare. The latter is divided into three sections: Definition of a Referral System; Stakeholders Involved in the Referral System; and Developing an Effective Referral System. The publication is accompanied by six annexes providing further guidance:

- Publication "Strengthening the Response of Healthcare Service Providers in the Republika Srpska to Gender-Based Violence" (training package)*
- Procedure: "Response to Gender-Based Violence in the Public Health Institution Primary Healthcare Center Banja Luka;*
- Publication "Resource Package for the Response of Providers of Psychosocial Services in the Republika Srpska to Gender-Based Violence"*
- Publication "Resource Package for the Response of Providers of Psychosocial Services in the Republika Srpska to Gender-Based Violence" (training package)*
- Publication "Psychosocial Treatment of Perpetrators of Gender-Based Domestic Violence" (training module)*
- Publication "Minimum Standards for the Prevention of and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies".*

21. Please provide information on the procedures in place for the documentation and collection by actors of the public health sector of forensic evidence in relation to victims of domestic violence, victims of sexual violence, including rape, and victims of female genital mutilation.

Standard operating procedure on documentation and record keeping is an integral part of the Internal protocol for the identification of and response to victims of gender-based violence in primary healthcare. Healthcare institutions that have adopted this internal protocol follow the procedures set out in the protocol. Where an internal protocol has not been adopted, they follow their own procedures, which are based on the Law on Health Records and Records in the Field of Healthcare (Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, No. 37/12) and the implementing regulations adopted under that Law. Specific standard operating procedures have also been developed for documenting cases of rape and collecting evidence, and these have been distributed to hospitals and clinical centres. Training has been provided to gynaecology departments on implementing the obligations under Article 25 of the Istanbul Convention, with a focus on documenting offences. These procedures have been further adapted for the Centre for Clinical Management of Rape Victims, established under the Joint Protocol for responding to cases of rape in Sarajevo Canton, and form an annex to that Protocol. The same approach will be applied to any new centres established in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In 2020, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the Republika Srpska issued the "Guidelines for organising activities to promote sexual and reproductive health and prevent and respond to gender-based violence in emergencies in local communities in the Republika Srpska". In 2022, Action Plans for the Protection of Sexual and Reproductive Health and the Prevention of and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies were adopted for the City of Banja Luka, the City of Prijedor, the City of Bijeljina, the City of Trebinje and the Municipality of Srebrenica. Detailed information on the documentation and collection of forensic evidence by the public healthcare sector in cases involving victims of domestic violence and other forms of violence against women is provided in the Resource Package for the Response of Healthcare Service Providers in the Republika Srpska to Gender-Based Violence.

22. Are all women victims of violence, irrespective of any of the grounds listed in Article 4 paragraph 3 of the Istanbul Convention, in particular asylum-seeking women, refugee women, migrant women, women from national or ethnic minorities, women with irregular residence status, women with disabilities and LGBTI women, able to benefit on an equal footing from existing healthcare services? Please describe any measure taken to reduce legal or practical barriers to their accessing regular healthcare services.

Women with irregular residence status who are accommodated at the Immigration Centre of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs have access to healthcare services available at the Centre. The Immigration Centre has an inpatient unit staffed by a permanent nurse. Healthcare is provided based on an agreement with the Lukavica outpatient clinic of the East Sarajevo Health Centre, a public healthcare institution, which provides both routine and emergency medical services. Upon admission to the Immigration Centre, each person undergoes a general medical examination and, where necessary, their clothing and personal belongings are washed and disinfected. For this purpose, a doctor from the contracted healthcare institution visits the Centre and, based on an assessment of the person's health and the medical findings, prescribes any further treatment required. All prescribed medication is made available to residents through the contracted pharmacy and the Immigration Centre's inpatient unit. Upon arrival, each resident provides information about their health and physical and psychological condition. Where a person has, or is suspected of having, an infectious disease, they are placed in an isolation room in accordance with the doctor's recommendation regarding the appropriate accommodation and duration of isolation. Where hospital treatment is required, the decision to refer the person to a healthcare institution is made by a doctor. The Center has at its disposal a psychiatrist from the same contracted healthcare institution who provides mental health services. Where, based on the medical findings and opinion, a person is assessed as having mental problems that make

continued accommodation in this type of facility inadvisable, and where clinical psychiatric treatment is required, the person is referred to such treatment without delay, in accordance with the medical recommendation.

The Law on Health Care (Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nos. 46/10 and 75/13) prohibits discrimination on any grounds in the provision of healthcare. As noted above, measures to strengthen the capacity of healthcare staff to provide appropriate healthcare services to victims of different forms of violence include ongoing training under the adopted training programme. This training consistently emphasises the obligations towards vulnerable groups and the explicit prohibition of discrimination. The said issues are addressed not only through training but also through the Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification of and Response to Victims of Gender-Based Violence. In the context of protection from gender-based violence, it is also important to note that according to the Law on Patients' Rights, Obligations and Responsibilities (Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, No. 40/10) every patient has the right to accessible healthcare appropriate to their health condition and individual needs, as well as the right to emergency medical care, which may not be conditional on the patient's health insurance status. Accordingly, a victim of domestic violence, or a child who is a victim of violence, is entitled, under the legislation on protection against domestic violence, to healthcare that includes the provision of care and treatment for the physical, mental and reproductive health consequences of violence. The Law places particular emphasis on preventive action and provision of timely information. As of the date of this report, the Federal Ministry of Health has no information indicating that patients have been denied healthcare on any of the grounds referred to in Question 22.

In the Republika Srpska, the Law on Health Care provides for the protection of public health at the entity level, including the provision of healthcare to refugees, displaced persons and returnees in accordance with the legislation governing the rights of these groups. According to the same law, foreign nationals and stateless persons are entitled to healthcare in accordance with the law, international agreements and legislation governing health insurance. Pre-hospital emergency care for persons who are ill or injured, including emergency medical services provided at the scene of a medical emergency, at primary healthcare level through emergency medical services, and during the transport of patients, is available to everyone, including persons who are not citizens of the Republika Srpska. These services are intended to prevent life-threatening conditions, irreversible harm to health or death. In exercising their right to healthcare, all citizens are treated equally, regardless of race, sex, language, national origin, religion, social background, birth, education, financial circumstances, political or other beliefs, social status or any other personal characteristic that may constitute grounds for discrimination.

23. Please provide information on the measures in place to facilitate the identification and care of victims of violence against women in institutions for persons with disabilities and for the elderly as well as for those in closed reception facilities for asylum-seekers and to respond to their safety and protection needs.

Measures addressing this issue in institutions for persons with disabilities and elderly persons will be prepared in the coming period, in accordance with the constitutional division of responsibilities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the areas of social protection and healthcare.

Under the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence in the Republika Srpska, children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities and persons under guardianship who are victims of domestic violence are entitled to special assistance and protection. The Law on Social Welfare of the Republika Srpska identifies victims of domestic violence, both adults and minors, among the categories of persons in need of social protection. For the purposes of the Law, a child victim

of domestic violence is defined as a minor who is subjected to physical, psychological or sexual suffering, emotional pain or threats of such acts, as well as neglect, lack of care or failure to meet basic needs, where this seriously limits the child's ability to enjoy their rights and freedoms. An adult victim of domestic violence is defined as a person who, within the family environment, is subjected to physical, psychological, economic or sexual suffering, emotional pain or threats of such acts, and who, as a result, is in a situation of social need. Under the applicable legislation and implementing regulations, protection providers are required to provide victims with the assistance and protection they need. This includes victims accommodated in social welfare institutions for elderly persons and in institutions providing accommodation for persons with disabilities. Social work centres and social welfare services play a particularly important role in this regard. They arrange the placement of the beneficiaries from these categories based on the placement decisions and are legally required to maintain regular communication with the institution where the beneficiary is accommodated, including through the regular exchange of information on the beneficiary's condition and needs.

24. Please provide information on how the authorities ensure that different groups of women and girls, inter alia women with disabilities, Roma women and other women belonging to national or ethnic minorities, migrant women and intersex persons are fully informed, understand and freely give their consent to procedures such as sterilisation and abortion.

Article 173b of the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as amended, defines the criminal offence of forced sterilisation. According to this provision, anyone who performs an operation on another person for the purpose or with the effect of preventing natural reproduction, without that person's informed consent and understanding of the procedure, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of one to eight years. Where the offence is committed out of hatred, against a child, a family member or close person, or against a person who is particularly vulnerable because of a serious physical or mental impairment, the offender shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of one to ten years. Where the offence results in the death of the person concerned, the offender shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of three to 15 years. Article 171(2) of the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Unlawful Termination of Pregnancy) stipulates that anyone who, without the consent of the pregnant woman, commences or performs termination of her pregnancy shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of one to eight years. Where the offence causes serious harm to the pregnant woman's health or results in her death, or where the offence is committed against a child, the offender shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of three to 15 years. The Law on Patients' Rights, Obligations and Responsibilities (Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, No. 40/10) guarantees every patient, among other rights, access to healthcare, including emergency medical care, the right to information, and the right to be informed and participate in decisions concerning their treatment. Article 10 of the Law provides that, in order to safeguard the patient's right to make autonomous decisions about treatment and participate in the treatment process, the doctor responsible for the patient's care must provide them, in a timely manner, with all the information necessary to make an informed decision on whether to consent to the proposed medical intervention. The information must be sufficiently comprehensive, accurate and timely. Whether it is sufficiently comprehensive is assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the patient's ability to ask the responsible healthcare professional questions during or after the consultation and to receive answers they can understand. Its accuracy is assessed on the basis of the medical and other facts established during the patient's examination and treatment. Information is considered timely if the patient is informed of the clinical findings and proposed medical interventions at least 24 hours before they are required to make a decision, allowing sufficient time to consider whether to consent, except in emergency situations.

The Law on the Conditions and Procedure for Termination of Pregnancy (Official Gazette of SRBiH, 29/77) stipulates that a pregnancy may be terminated at the request of the pregnant woman and with her written consent. Such consent may be withdrawn orally at any time before the procedure begins, as provided for by the Law on the Rights, Obligations and Responsibilities of Patients. Termination of pregnancy is permitted provided that the pregnancy has not exceeded ten weeks and that the procedure will not pose an immediate risk to the life or health of the pregnant woman. A medical doctor specialising in gynaecology and obstetrics shall determine, on the basis of a medical examination, whether the conditions for terminating the pregnancy have been met, within two days of the submission of the request. If the pregnancy has exceeded ten weeks and its termination may pose an immediate risk to the life or health of the pregnant woman, the healthcare institution to which the request was submitted establishes a committee to decide on the request, consisting of two medical doctors and a social worker. By way of exception, a pregnancy may be terminated at the pregnant woman's request and subject to the committee's prior approval, inter alia, if it resulted from the criminal offence of rape, sexual intercourse with a minor or a woman deprived of legal capacity, sexual intercourse through abuse of position, or incest. In these cases, the committee must decide on the pregnant woman's request for termination of pregnancy within three days of its submission, and the minutes must be signed by the committee members and the pregnant woman. Healthcare institutions adopt standard operating procedures within their respective remit to regulate matters relating to termination of pregnancy, the provision of information in language understandable to the patient, and informed consent. Such procedures are a standard requirement in the healthcare sector.

In the Republika Srpska, citizens are equal in exercising their right to healthcare, irrespective of race, sex, language, ethnic affiliation, religion, social origin, birth, education, financial status, political or other beliefs, social status, or any other personal characteristic that may constitute grounds for discrimination. The Law on Healthcare of Republika Srpska stipulates that foreign nationals and stateless persons are entitled to healthcare in accordance with the Law, international agreements and the regulations governing health insurance.

Article 22: Specialist support services

25. Please describe the type of specialist support services dedicated to women victims of the forms of gender-based violence covered by the Istanbul Convention (e.g., stalking, sexual harassment and domestic violence, including their digital dimension, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, forced sterilisation, forced abortion), including those specialist support services providing:

a. shelters and/or other forms of safe accommodation

The new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Chapter VI, Articles 56-68, regulates the placement of victims of violence in a shelter, another appropriate institution or with another family. Article 65 of the same Law regulates the provision of funds required to finance shelters. Funds are provided from the budget of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to cover the costs of accommodation capacities, utilities and remuneration for shelter staff, and from the budgets of the cantons and local self-government units to cover the costs of accommodating victims in shelters and their stay there. Article 65 of the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina regulates the financing of shelters. In this regard, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy provides annual funding for the protection and accommodation of victims of domestic violence in shelters by cofinancing the accommodation costs of victims of domestic violence referred to shelters. The funds are awarded under the Current Transfer to Non-Profit Organisations – Implementation of the Law

on Protection against Domestic Violence, on the basis of a public call for the allocation of funds to associations/foundations providing temporary accommodation to victims of domestic violence. In 2024 and 2025, significant funding amounting to BAM 1,000,000 was allocated for this purpose from the budget. The allocation of BAM 500,000 in 2025 for the establishment of a shelter within the Ljubuški Social Welfare Centre is of particular significance. There are currently five shelters operating in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a total of 126 beds available. The shelters are run by the following non-governmental organisations: Foundation for Local Democracy - Sarajevo, Vive Žene Citizens' Association in Tuzla, the Žene sa Une Association in Bihać, the Medica Citizens' Association in Zenica and the Žena BiH Association in Mostar. It is important to note that the new Law on Social Services of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is currently in the parliamentary procedure, provides for the expansion of the network of service providers, which also implies an increase in shelter capacity. In addition to funding from the federal budget, shelters are financed from the budgets of other levels of government - the state, cantonal and municipal levels. Four shelters, in Sarajevo, Zenica, Tuzla and Bihać, receive support from cantonal budgets, while two receive funding from municipalities and state-level ministries. Since 2021, the Government of Sarajevo Canton has assumed responsibility for fully financing the shelter run by the Foundation for Local Democracy Sarajevo, thereby ensuring its stable operation. In 2024, of the 347 victims of domestic violence accommodated in shelters, 186 were minors, namely children who were direct or indirect victims of domestic violence, accounting for 53.60% of all victims of domestic violence accommodated in shelters. In 2025, of the 427 victims of domestic violence accommodated in shelters, 249 were minors, namely children who were direct or indirect victims of domestic violence, accounting for 58.31% of all victims of domestic violence accommodated in shelters.

b. medical support

Healthcare support for victims of gender-based violence forms part of healthcare provision in the Federation of BiH. It is regulated in detail by internal protocols governing the response of services within primary healthcare centres, together with standard operating procedures (SOPs). With regard to victims of rape, an initiative has been launched to establish Clinical Management Centres for Victims of Rape and Sexual Violence within the following three healthcare institutions: Tuzla University Clinical Centre, Mostar University Clinical Hospital and the Prim. Dr Abdulah Nakaš General Hospital in Sarajevo. The first Centre was established within the Prim. Dr Abdulah Nakaš General Hospital in Sarajevo on the basis of a multisectoral cooperation protocol. The Protocol provides for mandatory cooperation between governmental and non-governmental bodies in addressing all the victim's needs, including the need for different services.

c. short-and long-term psychological counselling

Healthcare support for victims of gender-based violence forms part of healthcare provision in the Federation of BiH. It is regulated in detail by internal protocols governing the response of services within primary healthcare centres, together with standard operating procedures (SOPs) and includes, among else, psychological counselling services.

d. trauma care

Healthcare support for victims of gender-based violence forms part of healthcare provision in the Federation of BiH. It is regulated in detail by internal protocols governing the response of services within primary healthcare centres, together with standard operating procedures (SOPs) and includes, among else, trauma care.

e. legal counselling

Article 17 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides for the right to free legal aid. Free legal aid is provided to victims of violence to facilitate their access to healthcare, social protection,

financial assistance and accommodation, the exercise of their right to compensation for material and non-material damage, and their participation in criminal proceedings as victims of violence or injured parties. The right to free legal aid for victims of violence accommodated in shelters is ensured by free legal aid institutions and legal entities providing specialised support services. The legal framework and system of free legal aid are not regulated by legislation at the level of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but by nine cantonal laws on the provision of free legal aid. Central Bosnia Canton is the only canton in which the relevant legislation has not yet been adopted and a free legal aid institute has not been established. Legal advice is also provided by certain specialised non-governmental organisations.

f. outreach services

Information not available.

g.telephone helpline

Article 71 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides for a free SOS telephone helpline for victims of violence. The operation of the SOS helpline is ensured and financed from the budget of the Federation of BiH. Its operation, staffing and provision of counselling are regulated by a by-law on the operation of the SOS helpline, adopted by the Federal Minister of Labour and Social Policy in consultation with the Gender Centre of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The 2026 Budget earmarks BAM 100,000 for the establishment of a free SOS helpline for victims of domestic violence. The Rulebook governing the operation of this anonymous SOS helpline, which will provide assistance and support to victims of violence, is pending adoption. The helpline currently operates under a Memorandum of Cooperation signed by the Gender Centre of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Jajce Social Work Centre and the following non-governmental organisations: the Foundation for Local Democracy in Sarajevo, the Vive Žene Citizens' Association in Tuzla, the Žene sa Une Association in Bihać, the Medica Citizens' Association in Zenica and the Žena BiH Association in Mostar.

h.other forms of support (e.g. socio-economic empowerment programmes, online assistance platforms etc.)

With regard to women's employment and economic empowerment, the Federal Employment Institute continuously implements programmes cofinancing employment, self-employment and training, with the aim of increasing overall employment, reducing unemployment and strengthening competitiveness. The Employment Cofinancing Programme includes a specific measure entitled "Employment of Women", which supports employers that hire unemployed women, thereby helping to improve their economic security and social inclusion. The Self-employment Cofinancing Programme includes a measure entitled "Entrepreneurship for Women", aimed at encouraging women to start their own businesses. A total of 1,951 women benefited from employment cofinancing measures in 2025, of whom 54% were covered by the "Employment of Women" measure and 45.3% by the "Entrepreneurship for Women" measure. As regards other programmes, women accounted for 90% of participants in the "Labour Market Training" programme, 59.6% in the "Training and Employment with a Known Employer" programme, 52.5% in the "Service in Cooperation with Employers" programme and 42.8% in the "Second Chance – Start-up 2025" programme. In implementing these programmes, the Federal Employment Institute cooperated with two social work centres and nine non-governmental organisations.

In addition to the general support services referred to above, victims of domestic violence in the Republika Srpska are entitled to specialised support measures, including free, confidential SOS helplines and shelters. The aim of specialised support measures is to empower victims by providing them with the best possible support and assistance tailored to their specific needs. The SOS helpline 1264 operates in the Republika Srpska to assist victims of violence against women and domestic violence. Specialised support for victims of domestic violence in the Republika Srpska through the SOS helpline is provided by organisations that also implement the special support measure of accommodation in a shelter. Calls are free of charge for

victims, while the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports provides funding for the SOS helpline. Shelters in the Republika Srpska continuously accommodate victims of domestic violence. The accommodation of victims in shelters is regulated by the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and implementing legislation, including the standards and procedures for implementing this measure. In the Republika Srpska, this support measure is implemented in three shelters in Banja Luka, Bijeljina and Modriča, which are run by women's non-governmental organisations. In addition to accommodation in a shelter and the provision of basic living conditions, victims of domestic violence receive psychosocial assistance and support through counselling and therapeutic work. During their stay, victims receive healthcare and their health is monitored. Children accommodated in shelters are enrolled in new schools and receive support in adapting to their new environment and mastering the curriculum. Women and children participate in occupational therapy activities. Victims are also psychologically prepared for formal family-law and social protection procedures before social work centres. Victims are supported in developing an exit strategy through the creation of a positive and supportive environment. They are also supported in finding employment through various forms of education and training. Shelters continue to support women after they leave the programme, thereby contributing to their long-term stability and empowerment. After women and children leave a shelter, its professional teams continue to support them for 18 months by facilitating access to additional professional, psychological, legal and medical assistance. Shelter staff continuously monitor opportunities for education and training, donations and other forms of support, and regularly contact former beneficiaries to ensure their access to these opportunities. This approach makes it possible to maintain contact with former beneficiaries and further empower them, thereby contributing significantly to their social and economic independence. In 2025, the City of Banja Luka provided an apartment in which women and children who are victims of violence will be able to live after leaving a shelter. The apartment was placed under the management of the Udružene žene (United Women) women's non-governmental organisation, which runs the shelter in the city.

Since 2012, the Criminal Police Unit of the Police of the Brčko District of BiH has employed a psychologist specialising in children and minors involved in criminal proceedings and in providing psychosocial support to adult victims of serious criminal offences during pre-investigation and investigation proceedings. This support is provided in cooperation with the guardianship authority, which arranges the placement of victims in a shelter based on their freely given consent and its assessment of other necessary forms of protection and support. Under the 2013 Protocol on Cooperation in Providing Support to Witnesses between the Police of the Brčko District of BiH and the Prosecutor's Office of the Brčko District, the relevant legislation and the psychologist's job description, the psychologist participates in certain investigative actions from the time an offence is reported until an indictment is issued, pursuant to an order of the prosecutor or a request from an authorised official. In addition to providing short-term psychological counselling, the psychologist assesses the victim's current mental state and ability to give a statement and makes recommendations concerning further support for the victim or witness. After an indictment is issued, professional support is provided by the psychologist of the Basic Court of the Brčko District of BiH. From the time an offence is reported and after the trial, witnesses and victims are also kept informed of all necessary and further forms of support, including free legal aid and healthcare, psychosocial and psychological support. This is a multisectoral approach to support that also involves cooperation, as necessary, with all other relevant institutions in the Brčko District of BiH and beyond, including healthcare institutions, the Social Work Centre, educational and judicial institutions, and shelters in relevant areas. This multisectoral cooperation is supported by the Protocol entitled "Institutional Network for the Provision of Support to Victims and Witnesses in the Brčko District of BiH", signed in 2014, including by the non-governmental organisations Gender Brčko, Vive Žene Tuzla, Udružene žene Banja Luka and Lara Bijeljina, as well as other associations. In 2021, the Prosecutor's Office of the Brčko District of BiH and the non-governmental organisation Vive Žene Tuzla signed a protocol on providing support to women survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and, where necessary, victims of other offences. This psychological support, as a specialised service within the Police, continues to be provided in accordance with the protocols and relevant legislation, using a trauma-informed approach when working with victims and witnesses. An SOS helpline is currently being established.

26. Which type of specialist support service includes child psychologists or other professionals specialised in supporting children who have been exposed to domestic violence, including violence perpetrated by one parent against the other?

Healthcare support for victims of gender-based violence forms part of healthcare provision in the Federation of BiH. It is regulated in detail by internal protocols governing the response of services within primary healthcare centres, together with standard operating procedures (SOPs). It includes, inter alia, psychological services for children provided through community mental health centres and mental health centres for the protection of children and adolescents. Other services, such as paediatric and gynaecological services, are also involved as necessary.

In the Republika Srpska, in addition to psychiatrists, mental health centres employ qualified psychologists trained to work with children. Social work centres also employ psychologists, social workers and, frequently, pedagogists who provide professional services and support in the field of psychosocial protection. The Psychiatry Clinic of the University Clinical Centre of the Republika Srpska has a Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Department where, in addition to psychiatrists, clinical psychologists are involved in treating child victims of violence whenever medically indicated. Shelters in the Republika Srpska employ qualified psychologists and social workers who provide treatment to children staying in the shelters.

27. Do specialist support services exist that cater to the specific needs of migrant women and girls or those belonging to national or ethnic minorities who are victims of violence against women, including women and girls seeking asylum and those granted refugee or international protection status?

In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, specialised support services for migrant women who are victims of gender-based violence are provided by women's non-governmental organisations that also run shelters. In addition to temporary accommodation, shelters provide them with psychosocial support and free legal aid.

There are no migrant accommodation centres in the Republika Srpska. Nevertheless, the competent institutions, including the police and healthcare institutions, also assist these groups in accordance with their respective mandates and the applicable legislation.

Article 25: Support to victims of sexual violence

28. Please indicate if any of the below services are available in your territory:

- a. sexual violence referral centres (e.g. specialist support services offering immediate medical care, forensic examination and crisis intervention to victims of sexual violence);

In accordance with the division of responsibilities for implementing the initiative of the Gender Equality Agency of BiH to establish centres, the bodies involved in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina include, in addition to the Gender Equality Agency of BiH, three hospitals, the Federal Ministry of Health, the competent cantonal ministries and the NGO Foundation for Local Democracy. In this regard, and in line with the division of responsibilities in the field of healthcare, an Agreement on Cooperation in the Implementation of the project "Strengthening the Capacity of Institutions to Address Gender-Based Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina" was concluded in 2021. Its purpose was to highlight the importance of establishing the centres and to support the institutions in implementing the necessary measures under healthcare legislation. The initiative primarily concerns the establishment of Centres for the Clinical Management of Victims of Rape and Sexual Violence within the following three healthcare institutions: Tuzla University Clinical Centre, Mostar University Clinical Hospital and the Prim. Dr Abdulah Nakaš General Hospital in Sarajevo. In the context of strengthening the healthcare response to sexual violence, it is important to note that, in 2022 and 2023, the Gender Equality

Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina provided financial support for the adaptation of premises for centres for clinical management of victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence within Tuzla University Clinical Centre, Mostar University Clinical Hospital and the Public Institution Prim. Dr Abdulah Nakaš General Hospital in Sarajevo. These existing capacities form a strong foundation for the further development of a standardised and coordinated institutional response to sexual violence in the Federation of BiH.

There are no specialist support services in the Brčko District of BiH offering immediate medical care, forensic examinations and crisis intervention to victims of sexual violence. These services are provided by the public healthcare institution in the Brčko District of BiH.

b. rape crisis centres (e.g. specialist support services offering long-term counselling, therapy and support to victims of sexual violence regardless of whether the sexual violence occurred recently or in the past);

Although the competent authorities in the cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina respond to cases of rape in accordance with the relevant legislation, practice indicates a need for a stronger institutional framework and a clearly defined multidisciplinary approach. The absence of standardised procedures and formalised cooperation between the competent actors results in inconsistent responses, difficulties in accessing rights and a risk of secondary victimisation. In this context, the establishment and implementation of specific protocols for responding to cases of sexual violence, primarily rape, enable interinstitutional cooperation to be formalised, roles and responsibilities to be clearly defined, and a coordinated, timely and victim-centred response to be ensured. The Protocol for Responding to Cases of Rape in the Sarajevo Canton was signed on 28 November 2025. It establishes an institutional framework based on a multidisciplinary approach to the prevention, detection and prosecution of rape and the provision of protection and assistance to victims, with the support of public institutions and in cooperation with non-governmental organisations. The Protocol provides for the establishment of a Centre for the Clinical Management of Victims of Rape within the Public Institution Prim. Dr Abdulah Nakaš General Hospital in Sarajevo. This involves setting up an outpatient facility as a specialised space for providing medical care, conducting forensic examinations and collecting evidence, while respecting the principles of confidentiality and a victim-centred approach. The Centre also provides immediate psychological and trauma support. It also facilitates information-gathering interview with a police officer and prosecutor (statement taking), as well as actions by the Prosecutor's Office in accordance with the principles of a sensitive and victim-centred approach. Procedures/a protocol for the medical management of victims of rape within this healthcare institution have also been developed. This model enables timely medical and forensic intervention in accordance with the standards of the Istanbul Convention and GREVIO recommendations. The Protocol also provides for the establishment of a Rape Crisis Centre within the Foundation for Local Democracy, in accordance with Article 25 of the Istanbul Convention, which requires the provision of long-term specialist support to victims of rape. The Centre provides ongoing psychological support, trauma therapy and counselling, as well as free legal aid and, where necessary, accommodation in a shelter, with the aim of empowering victims and supporting their long-term recovery. Work is under way to develop a protocol for responding to cases of rape in the Tuzla Canton.

c. any other specialised services offering short-term and/or long-term medical, forensic and psycho-social support to victims of sexual violence.

Article 15 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH guarantees victims of violence, inter alia, the right to access support services for victims of violence, free medical assistance for as long as necessary, social protection, healthcare, and psychological and legal counselling services.

Specialised psychosocial support services are provided to victims of sexual violence in the Brčko District of BiH under the Protocol on Cooperation.

In the Republika Srpska, the Law on Healthcare of the Republika Srpska and the Toolkit for Healthcare Providers Responding to Gender-Based Violence provide for specific measures to ensure that public healthcare services respond to the safety and medical needs of women and girls who are victims of all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention, including sexual violence. The following list provides an overview of the key responsibilities of healthcare professionals in responding to all forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence:

- *understanding the symptoms;*
- *providing the patient with information about the type of violence and its consequences for women's health;*
- *asking questions where clinical symptoms indicate possible exposure to violence;*
- *creating a welcoming and confidential environment, listening to the patient and providing validating responses;*
- *taking medical history and conducting an examination;*
- *providing appropriate medical and psychological assistance;*
- *documenting the health consequences;*
- *providing the patient with information and referring them to other service providers as necessary;*
- *supporting the patient in protection planning; and*
- *providing follow-up care.*

The management of healthcare institutions is responsible for ensuring an institutional framework that enables healthcare professionals to fulfil their role.

In the Republika Srpska, documenting, including the collection and preservation of forensic evidence, is carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO). The record of the examination of a patient following sexual violence is used in conjunction with the WHO Guidelines for Medico-Legal Care for Victims of Sexual Violence, which contain information on how the examination should be conducted. Before a forensic examination is conducted, the written informed consent of the victim or their parent or guardian must be obtained. The forensic examination focuses on medical history-taking and clinical observations. When injuries are described, the following are recorded: site, size, shape, surrounds, colour, contours, course, contents, age, borders and depth.

Injuries are classified as follows:

- *abrasion: disruption of the outer layer of the skin;*
- *bruise: an area of haemorrhage beneath the skin;*
- *laceration: splitting or tearing of tissue caused by a moderately sharp to blunt object;*
- *incision: a type of cut wound with a (usually) clear, regular edge; and*
- *stab wound: a wound that is deeper than it is long and is inflicted by a sharp object.*

During the examination, a speculum or proctoscope is used for sexually active patients.

Indications for a gynaecological examination include:

- *genital pain;*
- *bleeding;*
- *a foreign object (used during the assault and potentially still present); and*
- *an assault within the previous 24 hours. In such cases, an endocervical canal swab should be collected.*

The findings are further documented by photography, including colposcopic imaging.

The victim is informed that the samples may be used in possible court proceedings. If the assault has not been reported to the police, specimens are collected and retained for a specified period, including for other purposes.

Once collected, the samples should not be out of the doctor's sight until handed to the police. This process is called "continuity of evidence" and is designed to avoid allegations of specimen tampering. All actions relating to the collection and documentation of forensic evidence are carried out using the prescribed forms.

29. Please provide information on the number of such services and the number of women and girls supported annually.

The Protocol for Responding to Cases of Rape in the Sarajevo Canton was signed on 28 November 2025, and premises were adapted for the establishment of centres for clinical management of victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence within Tuzla University Clinical Centre, Mostar University Clinical Hospital and the Public Institution Prim. Dr Abdulah Nakaš General Hospital in Sarajevo. The Protocol also provides for the establishment of a Rape Crisis Centre in the Sarajevo Canton within the Foundation for Local Democracy in Sarajevo, in accordance with Article 25 of the Istanbul Convention, which requires the provision of long-term specialist support to victims of rape. The Centre provides ongoing psychological support, trauma therapy and counselling, as well as free legal aid and, where necessary, accommodation in a shelter, with the aim of empowering victims and supporting their long-term recovery. In view of the above, no data are available on the number of services provided, as the services have only recently been established.

No records are kept on this type of data in the Brčko District of BiH.

30. Please indicate the procedures and time frames for collecting and storing forensic evidence in cases of sexual violence (e.g. existence of protocols, use of rape kits) in the relevant services.

The new Protocol for Responding to Cases of Rape in the Sarajevo Canton has established an institutional framework for a coordinated response to cases of rape, including cooperation between the police, the Prosecutor's Office, the healthcare institution, the Social Work Centre and civil society organisations. Under this model, a specialised outpatient clinic has been established within the Public Institution Prim. Dr Abdulah Nakaš General Hospital. It is intended to provide immediate and coordinated access to medical examinations, the documentation of injuries, psychological and social support, and referral of victims through the protection system. Forensic evidence in cases of rape is collected, documented, stored and submitted to the competent authorities in accordance with the Protocol, the procedures of the Public Institution Prim. Dr Abdulah Nakaš General Hospital, the rules of medical and forensic practice, and the rules of criminal procedure. This includes an immediate response, a medical examination of the victim, the recording and documentation of injuries, the securing of traces and the preservation of the chain of custody. In all other respects, evidence is handled in accordance with the rules of the Criminal Procedure Code and the relevant case law, including orders for expert examination, the lawfulness of evidence, and the evidentiary value of medical documentation and forensic findings. The Prosecutor's Office plays a key role in directing the investigation, ordering the necessary evidence-gathering measures, coordinating with the police and ensuring that the evidence collected is lawful, properly documented and admissible in criminal proceedings. The time frame for the competent authorities to collect and store forensic evidence in cases of sexual violence is 72 hours.

31. Please describe any applicable access criteria for use of these services (e.g. affiliation with a national health insurance, residence status, prior reporting of the case to the police, other).

Healthcare institutions are required to provide victims with emergency medical care and comprehensive healthcare to preserve their physical and mental health, in accordance with medical practice and the highest applicable standards, regardless of when the rape or sexual violence occurred and irrespective of the victim's health insurance status. This is stipulated in the Protocol for Responding to Cases of Rape in Sarajevo Canton.

In the Republika Srpska, citizens are equal in exercising their right to healthcare, irrespective of race, sex, language, ethnic affiliation, religion, social origin, birth, education, financial

status, political or other beliefs, social status, or any other personal characteristic that may constitute grounds for discrimination. The Law on Healthcare of Republika Srpska stipulates that foreign nationals and stateless persons are entitled to healthcare in accordance with the Law, international agreements and the regulations governing health insurance. All victims have access to all specialist support services, irrespective of their ethnic affiliation, place of residence, health insurance status or residence status. Victims incur no costs for the services provided as part of this procedure, in accordance with the Law on Social Protection and the Law on Health Insurance.

In the Brčko District of BiH, all victims have access to all specialist support services, irrespective of their ethnic affiliation, place of residence, health insurance status or residence status.

Article 31: Custody, visitation rights and safety

32. Please indicate whether under national law incidents of violence covered under the scope of the convention must be taken into account in the determination of custody and visitation rights of children. If this is the case, please clarify to what extent these provisions:

- a. explicitly list domestic violence as a criterion to be taken into account when deciding on custody and/or visitation rights in the applicable legislation. If so, please clarify whether this criterion is/has been applied in practice in the determination of both custody and visitation rights;

Article 154 of the Family Law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of the Federation of BiH, 35/05, 41/05 – correction, 31/14 and 32/19 – Constitutional Court decision) establishes the criteria for deprivation of parental custody. These include abuse of parental rights, gross neglect of parental duties, abandonment of the child, failure to care for a child with whom the parent does not live, thereby manifestly endangering the child's safety, health or morals, and failure to protect the child from such conduct by the other parent or another person. Abuse of parental rights exists, in particular, in cases involving physical or psychological violence against the child, sexual exploitation of the child, inducing the child to engage in socially unacceptable behaviour or another serious violation of the child's rights. However, these criteria concern violence against the child and do not explicitly list domestic violence, including violence perpetrated by one parent against the other, as a criterion for determining custody rights. As domestic violence is not explicitly listed as a criterion, it is not applied outside the context of Article 154.

The Family Law of the Brčko District of BiH does not explicitly list domestic violence as a criterion to be taken into account when determining custody rights.

- b. acknowledge the harm that witnessing violence by one parent against the other has on a child;

This is not explicitly provided for by the Family Law of the Federation of BiH.

- c. ensure that custody with the non-violent parent is preferred over foster-care;
This is not explicitly provided for by the Family Law of the Federation of BiH.
- d. foresee the screening of civil proceedings related to the determination of custody or visitation rights for a history of domestic violence among the parties;
This is not explicitly provided for by the Family Law of the Federation of BiH.
- e. foresee that judges conduct risk assessments or request the disclosure of risk assessments drawn up by law-enforcement agencies or other competent stakeholders for

victims of domestic violence, with a view to taking them into account and determining the best interest of the child in the context of custody and visitation decisions.

Article 21 of the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH provides for risk assessments, and a Rulebook governing risk assessments has also been adopted. Risk assessments are conducted by the police in coordination with all protection providers. In this regard, the risk assessment includes, inter alia, questions as to whether there is a dispute over custody of the child or the arrangements for contact between the child and the parent who perpetrated the violence. A risk assessment is conducted in respect of children, taking into account any threat made directly against them or any threat relating to their separation from the victim of violence. However, the Family Law of the Federation of BiH does not explicitly require courts to conduct or obtain risk assessments prepared by law-enforcement agencies with a view to taking them into account in decisions on custody and visitation rights. Under Article 281(1), where a court is determining with which parent the child will live, as well as personal relations and direct contact between the child and the parent with whom the child does not live, child maintenance or other matters relating to parental care, it invites the guardianship authority to participate in the proceedings in order to protect the child's interests. The guardianship authority is authorised to submit its own proposal and take other steps in the proceedings to protect the child's rights and interests, particularly by presenting facts not raised by the parties, proposing the presentation of evidence and pursuing legal remedies. Pursuant to Article 284 of the Family Law of the Federation of BiH, the guardianship authority must, at the court's request, collect information about the personal and family circumstances of the child and the parties to the proceedings where the court considers this necessary for its decision. In proceedings concerning child maintenance, the guardianship authority must, at the court's request, collect and examine information about the personal and family circumstances of the child and the parties to the proceedings and the parties' financial circumstances, particularly whether their declared income reflects their actual standing.

In the Republika Srpska, under the Family Law, no hearing before the guardianship authority is scheduled in conciliation proceedings between spouses where, inter alia, a court decision has established that one spouse perpetrated domestic violence against the other spouse or their minor biological or adopted child, where the court has imposed an emergency protective measure or a protective measure in any of the situations listed, or where the competent prosecutor has issued an order to conduct an investigation into domestic violence. In such cases, social work centres or services draw up an official note stating that the conciliation proceedings cannot be conducted.

Article 124 of the Family Law of the Republika Srpska specifies the circumstances in which a court may deprive a parent of parental rights, including where the parent grossly neglects their parental duties by, inter alia, failing to pay child maintenance for more than three months during the preceding year. The new family legislation provides that a court may restore a parent's parental rights if the grounds on which they were withdrawn cease to exist, except where parental rights were withdrawn by a final court decision because the parent had committed a criminal offence against the sexual integrity of the child. When submitting findings and expert opinions in disputes concerning the exercise of parental rights and/or contact between parents and children under the Family Law, social work centres in the Republika Srpska conduct a psychological assessment of parental capacity and of the environment in which each parent will spend time with the child. They consider whether any risks to the child exist and analyse the current situation and all the circumstances of the individual case. They also contact healthcare and educational institutions, consider the risk assessment submitted by the competent police station and assess the best interests of the child. When formulating an opinion on custody, identified incidents of domestic violence are given particularly serious consideration and are

assessed together with all the information collected about the perpetrator and family members. The information required to prepare the findings and opinion is collected through home visits to the parents' addresses, individual interviews with the parents and the child conducted separately, observation of contact between the parents and children, the use of psychological assessment instruments and the review of documentation.

Article 124, entitled "Care of the Child", of the Family Law of the Brčko District of BiH (Official Gazette of the Brčko District of BiH, 23/2007) provides that parents must care for the child jointly, by mutual agreement and on an equal basis, unless otherwise stipulated by the Law. Where the parents disagree over the exercise of parental care, the decision is made by the guardianship authority for the area in which the child resides. Article 136, entitled "Deprivation of Parental Care", provides in paragraph 1 that a court, in non-contentious proceedings, must deprive a parent of parental care where the parent, through abuse of their rights, gross neglect of their duties, abandonment of the child or failure to care for a child with whom they do not live, manifestly endangers the child's health or morals, or where the parent fails to protect the child from such conduct by the other parent or another person. Paragraph 2 provides that abuse of rights exists, in particular, in cases of physical or psychological violence against the child, sexual exploitation of the child, inducing the child to engage in socially unacceptable behaviour or another gross violation of the child's rights. Furthermore, Article 288, entitled "Right to Protection from Violent Behaviour in the Family", provides in paragraph 1 that spouses, common law partners and all family members have the right to protection from violent behaviour in the family. Paragraph 2 provides that the Police of the Brčko District of BiH and the guardianship authority are required to provide such protection. Finally, paragraph 3 provides that all natural and legal persons must notify the Police of the Brčko District of BiH or the Prosecutor's Office of the Brčko District of BiH immediately upon becoming aware of violent behaviour.

33. Please describe the measures in place to ensure that judges, court-appointed experts and other legal professionals:

- a. have sufficient knowledge of the law and understanding of the dynamics of intimate partner violence, including the psychological impact of witnessing violence on the child;

Article 78 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH establishes an obligation to provide professional training. The Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centre of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is now legally required to provide judges and prosecutors with regular professional training on violence. The competent ministries and administrative authorities must provide regular professional training for civil servants and employees who work directly in this field, while the competent ministries of the interior must provide police officers with regular professional training on violence. The Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centre of the Federation of BiH delivers three training programmes for different target groups and levels, as well as one online training module. Under all training programmes for judicial office holders, a total of 22 training sessions attended by 900 participants were held in 2024, of whom 36% were women and 64% were men. In 2025, a total of 18 training sessions attended by 305 participants were held, of whom 77% were women and 23% were men.

- b. duly take into account victims' grievances in cases of domestic violence and hear children victims/witnesses, where applicable, in the determination of custody and visitation rights;

Pursuant to Article 45 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH, an appeal against a court decision imposing a protective measure may be lodged by the applicant for the protective measure, the victim of violence or the person against whom the protective measure was imposed. An appeal against a court decision dismissing an application for a protective measure or terminating the proceedings may also be lodged by the applicant or the victim of violence. Where a court is deciding which parent the child will live with, personal relations and direct contact between the child and the parent with whom the child does not live, child maintenance or other matters relating to parental care, the court must, pursuant to Article 283(2) of the Family Law of the Federation of BiH, request the guardianship authority to inform the child of the possibility of participating in the proceedings, taking into account the child's age and maturity.

- c. are informed of the unfoundedness of notions of “parental alienation”² or analogous concepts that are used to overshadow the violence and control exerted by perpetrators of domestic violence over women and their children.

Changes in attitudes and greater awareness can be achieved only through the provision of the prescribed training for judicial office holders delivered through the training programmes of the Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centre (CEST) and provided for by the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH. Judges, prosecutors, expert associates in judicial institutions and psychologists working in witness support departments can acquire additional knowledge through training organised by the Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centre of the Republika Srpska. The training covers all aspects of violence against women, its causes and consequences, and procedural matters.

At its 275th regular session, held on 30 December 2025, the Judicial Commission of the Brčko District of BiH adopted the 2026 Professional Training Plan for Civil Servants and Employees in the Judiciary of the Brčko District of BiH. The Plan provides for training in the third quarter of 2026 on the following topic: “Gender Equality in Judicial Institutions, Including Gender-Sensitive Communication, Sexual Harassment, the Working Environment and Gender Discrimination”. Pursuant to Article 14 of the Law on the Judicial Commission of the Brčko District of BiH (Official Gazette of the Brčko District of BiH, 19/2007, 20/2007 – correction, 2/2008, 4/2021 and 6/2021), the Judicial Commission also provides professional training for judges, prosecutors, the Public Attorney, lawyers of the Office, and expert associates in the judiciary and the Prosecutor's Office of the District, in co-operation and co-ordination with the Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centres of the Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In previous years, the Judicial Commission regularly adopted Professional development plans for civil servants and employees in the judiciary of the Brčko District of BiH. With regard to court-appointed experts, the Law on Expert Witnesses has been submitted for parliamentary adoption. Among other matters, it provides that expert witnesses must undertake education and professional development and that failure to do so constitutes a breach for which one of the measures prescribed by the Law may be imposed.

² In its baseline evaluation reports GREVIO has consistently referred to the statement of December 2017 by the European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP), which draws attention to the fact that the concepts of “parental alienation syndrome” (PAS) and “parental alienation” (PA) are unsuitable for use in any psychotherapeutic practice. This statement by the EAP, which is made up of 128 psychotherapy organisations from 41 European countries, acts as a guiding principle for European psychotherapists. Moreover, in February 2020 the World Health Organisation (WHO) published its new draft International Classification of Diseases, 11th Revision (ICD-11) and confirmed that it had removed parental alienation from index term in the final ICD-11. See also the Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women (EDVAW Platform) statement of May 2019 “[Intimate partner violence against women is an essential factor in the determination of child custody, say women's rights experts](#)”.

34. Please provide details on the procedures in place to ensure that the competent court for family-related issues co-operate/communicate with other relevant bodies/professionals, including, but not limited to, criminal courts, law-enforcement agencies, health and education authorities and specialist women's support services when taking decisions on custody and visitation or when offering family law mediation. Please specify whether the law provides a legal framework for any of the procedures in place.

Article 13 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH designates the following protection providers for victims of violence: police authorities, prosecutors' offices, courts, guardianship authorities, healthcare and educational institutions, free legal aid institutes and other public institutions, as well as specialised non-governmental organisations. Article 19(2) expressly provides that, in cases of violence, protection providers must co-operate with one another and with other competent government bodies, authorities and non-governmental organisations in the best interests of the victim, and must exchange the necessary data and information. Where family matters concerning spouses or common-law partners are linked to domestic violence, family-related matters such as divorce, custody and parental rights etc. may be covered by the risk assessment conducted following a report of violence. A report may be submitted by any competent protection provider or by the victim of violence. Pursuant to Article 66 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH, where it considers this necessary in a case of violence, the competent guardianship authority may establish a special professional team consisting of representatives of the guardianship authority, the police and legal entities providing the specialist support services referred to in Article 14 of the Law. The team prepares a custom plan for the victim's protection, assistance and support. The professional team referred to in paragraph 1 must co-ordinate all activities aimed at providing assistance and support to the victim in order to ensure their protection. The victim assistance plan must include, in particular, the measures to be taken in accordance with the legislation governing social protection, healthcare and child protection. Where the victim is a child, the victim assistance plan must also include measures for the protection of the child in accordance with the legislation governing family relations and the regulations governing the protection of children's rights.

In the Republika Srpska, the guardianship authority participates in proceedings concerning parental rights, contact between a child and the parent with whom the child does not live, and child maintenance in order to protect the child's interests. The guardianship authority submits its opinion and proposal to the court. Where matrimonial dispute also concerns the exercise of parental rights, contact between the child and the parent with whom the child does not live, or child maintenance, the guardianship authority participates in the proceedings in order to protect the child's interests. The guardianship authority submits findings and an expert opinion, together with a proposal, to the court concerning the exercise of parental rights, contact between the child and the parent with whom the child does not live, and child maintenance. Where the parents have reached an agreement on these matters, the guardianship authority submits its opinion on whether the agreement serves the best interests of the child. A court hearing matrimonial dispute or conducting proceedings concerning matters affecting a child informs the guardianship authority of the proceedings in order to protect the child's rights and interests, invites it to attend all hearings and provides it with all decisions issued in the proceedings. The court orders the guardianship authority to inform the child, in a manner appropriate to the child's age and maturity, of the possibility of participating in all proceedings concerning matters affecting the child.

35. Please provide detailed information on the procedures in place (including, if applicable, the relevant personnel used, the specific infrastructure available), in the exercise of custody and visitation rights, to:

- a. eliminate the risk for the abused parent to be subjected to further violence;

Under the Rulebook on the implementation of protective measures for perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women within the competence of the police, a risk assessment of potential for violation and a plan for implementing protective measures are prepared when such measures are applied. The Federation of BiH has established a rapid system for the immediate protection of victims. A key development is that police authorities are empowered to impose emergency protective measures immediately at the scene, on the basis of a risk assessment, for a period of up to 48 hours. According to the data provided in the Annex to this document for the period from 1 January to 31 March 2026, police authorities identified a high level of risk and proposed a total of 1,393 emergency protective measures, of which 1,165 were imposed and implemented. This is a remarkably high approval rate of 83.6%, confirming that police officers in the field conduct accurate, well-founded and professional risk assessments that are duly considered by the courts. The most frequently imposed emergency protective measures focus on preventing contact and removing the perpetrator from the victim's living environment, in direct compliance with the standards of the Istanbul Convention:

- Prohibition on approaching the victim was sought in 595 cases and imposed in 456 cases.*
- A ban on communication, harassment and stalking was sought in 490 cases and imposed in 448 cases, constituting an implementation rate of 91.4%.*
- Removal of the perpetrator from the flat or house and a ban on returning were sought in 209 cases and imposed in 198 cases, constituting an implementation rate of 94.7%.*

Where a breach of a measure is recorded, police officers respond immediately and temporarily arrest and detain the perpetrator. Data for the first three months of 2026 show that this strict restrictive measure was proposed in 110 cases and successfully implemented in 102 cases, constituting an implementation rate of 92.7%. A total of 1,769 long-term protective measures were proposed during this period, of which 1,576 were implemented, representing 89%. This demonstrates that the system ensures continuity in the protection of victims after the initial 48-hour emergency measures expire.

- b. eliminate the risk for the child to witness or experience violence;

Article 55 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH regulates the right to contact between a perpetrator of violence and a child. It provides that a perpetrator against whom a protective measure has been imposed may have contact with the child through and under the supervision of the guardianship authority, provided that the guardianship authority considers such contact to be in the best interests of the child.

- c. ensure that the responsible personnel are trained and that the facilities are suited to enable safe supervised visitation.

Article 78 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides for the mandatory professional training of members of the judiciary, police officers, social workers and other protection providers.

The approach taken by social work centres in the Republika Srpska depends on the circumstances of each individual case, the overall context, the child's relationship with the parent who perpetrated the violence and the child's wishes regarding contact, although these factors are additionally assessed by professionals in each case. Other factors are

also considered, including whether the violence was directed only against the other partner, whether the child was present, the form of violence involved (psychological, physical, sexual, economic or a combination of several forms) and any other identified risks. Depending on these factors, different arrangements are possible in practice, ranging from a ban on contact to supervised contact on the premises of a social work centre, under the supervision of one or more professionals and with particular attention paid to ensuring safety and protecting the child. The court decides on the arrangements for maintaining personal contact in accordance with the Family Law, while social work centres or services submit their findings and expert opinion together with a proposal.

36. Please indicate whether national provisions foresee the withdrawal of parental rights in criminal sentences if the best interest of the child, which may include the safety of the victim, cannot be guaranteed in any other way.

Under the criminal legislation of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, parental rights cannot be withdrawn by the same final verdict by which a person is found guilty of a criminal offence.

Parental rights cannot be withdrawn in criminal proceedings in the Republika Srpska. Under the Family Law of the Republika Srpska, a court withdraws parental rights from a parent who abuses their parental rights or grossly neglects the duties arising from those rights, in non-contentious proceedings. A parent abuses their parental rights and duties if they: perpetrate physical or psychological violence against the child; sexually exploit the child; exploit the child by forcing them to work excessively or perform work inappropriate for their age; incite the child to commit criminal offences; allow or induce the child to consume alcohol, drugs or other intoxicating substances; induce the child to engage in any form of socially unacceptable behaviour; or otherwise seriously violate the child's rights. A parent grossly neglects their parental rights and duties if they: abandon the child; fail for more than one month to care for a child with whom they do not live; fail to maintain personal contact with a child with whom they do not live or prevent contact between the child and the parent with whom the child does not live; fail, without justification, to create the conditions for living with a child placed with another family or in an institution within one year; fail to pay child maintenance for more than three consecutive months or for more than three months during the preceding year; neglect the basic living needs of a child with whom they live; or fail to comply with measures previously imposed by the competent authority to protect the child's rights and well-being. Proceedings for the withdrawal of parental rights may be initiated by the guardianship authority, a parent or an adoptive parent.

In the Brčko District of BiH, parental rights may be withdrawn only in non-contentious proceedings.

Article 48: Prohibition of mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes or sentencing

Criminal law:

37. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure that mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes are prohibited in criminal proceedings related to cases involving the different forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention.

The Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH covers the criminal offences referred to in the Istanbul Convention. Criminal proceedings instituted and conducted against the perpetrators of these offences are governed by the general provisions of the Criminal

Procedure Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the principal criminal procedure law. The Criminal Procedure Code does not provide for mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes in criminal proceedings.

The Criminal Procedure Code of the Republika Srpska does not provide for alternative dispute resolution in criminal proceedings. A plea agreement may be used in place of a lengthy trial, and there are no restrictions as to the criminal offences in respect of which such an agreement may be concluded.

The applicable criminal legislation in the Brčko District of BiH does not provide for alternative dispute resolution or mediation in criminal proceedings involving the different forms of violence against women. The Law on the Protection and Treatment of Children and Juveniles in Criminal Proceedings of the Brčko District of BiH (Official Gazette of the Brčko District of BiH, 44/11) defines mediation as a process in which a neutral third party, the mediator, assists the victim and the perpetrator in reaching a mutually acceptable resolution through communication. Mediation is mandatory when educational recommendations are imposed. It is conducted by authorised officials of the Social Work Centre on the proposal of the prosecutor handling the case. The conditions for applying educational recommendations and the course of the procedure are regulated by the Rulebook on the application of educational recommendations to juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences.

38. Where voluntary alternative dispute resolution processes exist for any criminal offences within the remit of the Istanbul Convention, such as conciliation or mediation, please provide information on the safeguards incorporated to ensure the free and informed consent of the victim to such processes and the measures taken to avoid that direct or indirect pressure is placed on the victim. Please also state whether the offer of alternative dispute resolution processes may result in the discontinuation of criminal investigation and prosecution or other consequences for the victim.

Under the Criminal Procedure Code of the Federation of BiH, plea agreements are also permitted in cases involving violence against women. During the plea agreement procedure, the injured party or victim is given an opportunity to state their claim for restitution or compensation before the prosecutor. The court may accept or reject the plea agreement.

Civil law:

39. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure that alternative dispute resolution processes such as mediation or procedures which can be considered tantamount to the latter are not used in family law proceedings such as divorce proceedings or proceedings related to custody and visitation of children, where there is a history of violence.

The Family Law of the Federation of BiH provides for mandatory mediation between spouses with minor children in divorce proceedings. Mediation between spouses with minor children is a mandatory stage of divorce proceedings, as divorce proceedings may be instituted only after mediation has taken place. Both spouses must attend the mediation attempt, except where one spouse has behaved violently towards the other. Only in such cases will the mediation procedure not be discontinued due to the absence of the spouse who behaved violently towards the other spouse, and only in such cases will failure to participate in the mediation attempt not constitute an obstacle to instigating divorce proceedings.

The Civil Procedure Code of the Republika Srpska, which governs civil disputes, provides that a court may propose that the parties resolve their dispute through mediation in accordance with a separate law if it considers this appropriate in view of the nature of the dispute and other circumstances. The parties may also make such a proposal jointly at any time before the close of the main hearing.

In the Brčko District of BiH, mediation does not formally constitute part of civil proceedings. Under the former Civil Procedure Code of the Brčko District of BiH (Official Gazette of the Brčko District of BiH, 31/06), adopted in 2006, mediation was a mandatory stage of civil proceedings and was conducted by judges of the Basic Court of the Brčko District of BiH. However, mediation proved largely ineffective, and its retention as a mandatory stage of proceedings was therefore not considered justified. The new Civil Procedure Code of the Brčko District of BiH (Official Gazette of the Brčko District of BiH, 8/09, 52/10 and 27/14), adopted in 2009, abolished mediation as a mandatory stage of civil proceedings. Courts nevertheless remain under an obligation, at every stage of the proceedings, to seek to reconcile the parties and inform them of alternative methods of dispute resolution. In matrimonial disputes, the Family Law of the Brčko District of BiH (Official Gazette of the Brčko District of BiH, 23/07) provides that conciliation between spouses is a mandatory stage of the proceedings and is conducted by the Social Work Centre of the Brčko District of BiH.

Articles 49 and 50: General obligations and immediate response, prevention and protection

40. Please describe the human, financial and technical resources provided to law enforcement agencies to diligently respond to and investigate all cases of violence against women, including their digital dimension.

As regards human resources, the rules on the internal organisation of the cantonal ministries of the interior clearly specify the positions for police officers involving duties under the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH and duties pertaining to related criminal offences. Police officers who meet the requirements set forth in the Rulebook are assigned to these posts. Technical resources include the development and adoption of the Rulebook referred to in Article 77(12) of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women, concerning the establishment of an information database. The drafting of this Rulebook is under way. Financial resources are provided in line with the approved human and technical resources established by the applicable legislation. The key technical resources for investigating digital violence against women include specialised software for digital forensics and the extraction of data from mobile phones and computers. These resources are located primarily within the Federal Police Administration of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the larger cantonal ministries of the interior, including those in Sarajevo, Tuzla and Zenica. Although levels of technical equipment vary, this challenge is successfully addressed through established mechanisms for inter-agency co-operation and mutual professional assistance. Smaller cantonal ministries of the interior regularly and efficiently use the resources of the Federal Police Administration or neighbouring centres. Through official assistance, co-ordination and joint work, the timely forensic processing of digital evidence, including evidence of online threats, stalking and blackmail, is ensured. This guarantees the continuity and effectiveness of investigations into the digital dimension of violence throughout the Federation of BiH.

During the reporting period, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska implemented several activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of police officers and other institutions to respond to gender-based violence, domestic violence and digital violence against women and girls. Particular emphasis was placed on gender-sensitive responses, a victim-centred approach, risk assessment, the prevention of secondary victimisation, and improved co-ordination between the police, the judiciary and other protection providers. Specialised training was organised for police officers and future trainers on domestic violence, gender-based violence, digital violence, online safety, digital evidence, digital forensics, and responses to sexual and online violence. Specialised manuals and guides were developed and used as part of these activities for the police and other actors within the protection system, including the Manual for Training of Trainers and the guide entitled “Digital Violence: An Advisory Guide for Key Protection Providers”. Through training and expert discussions, particular attention was paid to preserving and collecting digital evidence, protecting victims’ privacy, communicating with victims, assessing risk and strengthening the practical skills of police officers in handling complex cases of violence. Publications and professional activities have highlighted challenges encountered in practice, including the insufficiently effective enforcement of sentences, problems in the application of sentencing policy, the need to strengthen the institutional response, and the importance of consistently applying protective measures and emergency protective measures. The organisational units of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska implemented these activities in co-operation with the Network of Women and representatives of the judiciary, academia and international organisations.

41. Which measures have been taken to ensure that the premises of police stations are accessible and suitable for receiving and interviewing victims of violence while ensuring their privacy? Is it possible to report cases of violence against women elsewhere than in police stations, including through digital means?

This matter is regulated by the Rulebook on the Implementation of protective measures for Perpetrators of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women within the Competence of the Police (Official Gazette of the Federation of BiH, 86/25). Most cantonal ministries of the interior and police administrations, including those in Sarajevo, Tuzla, Zenica, Mostar and Bihać, have established dedicated crisis-intervention rooms. These rooms are physically separated and soundproofed from the rest of the police station and have neutral, calming interiors resembling a living room. They are also frequently equipped with audiovisual equipment that enables statements to be recorded in one take. The rooms are equipped and used in close co-operation with local non-governmental organisations that run shelters, thereby ensuring a gender-sensitive environment that prevents secondary traumatising and guarantees victims complete privacy when reporting violence. Violence against women and domestic violence can be reported without attending a police station in person. The system is designed to receive reports from any location, and the following reporting methods are available in practice: Free SOS helplines: Victims or witnesses may report violence 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through the single SOS helpline 1265 for the Federation of BiH. The helpline connects victims directly with non-governmental organisations and shelters, which then immediately alert the police. Digital and online reporting: Most cantonal ministries of the interior have platforms for reporting criminal offences online on their official websites, often under the name “E-Police Officer”, or dedicated email addresses through which members of the public may submit reports. Reports may be made entirely anonymously and are treated as a matter of the utmost urgency by police operational centres. Reporting through other institutions: Cases may be reported to social work centres, healthcare institutions, including hospitals and primary healthcare centres, or schools. Where a report is submitted to another authority or information is received by a ministry of the interior that does not have jurisdiction, it is

immediately forwarded ex officio to the competent ministry of the interior for further action. The person who submitted the report must be informed accordingly.

In criminal proceedings involving violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and peer violence, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska applies the provisions of the Law on the Protection and Treatment of Children and Juveniles in Criminal Proceedings when interviewing child witnesses. In accordance with that Law, interviews are audio and video recorded in specially equipped rooms within the Ministry in order to prevent the child from being interviewed repeatedly and thereby subjected to further victimisation and trauma.

42. Please explain whether specialist police/prosecution units exist to investigate and prosecute violence against women and specify:

a. which forms of violence against women they are competent for;

Given the internal organisation of police bodies in the Federation of BiH, there are no dedicated specialist units for investigating and prosecuting violence against women. Such cases are handled by the existing general crime departments and departments for violent and sexual offences. This structure, which exists within the Federal Police Administration and all cantonal ministries of the interior, ensures institutional coverage across the Federation of BiH. Consequently, every canton has trained inspectors who work on such cases. The departments divide responsibility according to the chapters of the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH, depending on the seriousness and nature of the offence. The Department for violent and sexual offences primarily deals with the most serious forms of gender-based violence under Chapter XVI, Criminal Offences against Life and Limb, including murder, femicide and grievous bodily harm. They also deal with all offences under Chapter XIX, Criminal Offences against Sexual Freedom and Morality, including rape, coercion into sexual intercourse and sexual harassment. The General crime department is responsible for offences affecting public safety and family relations. They investigate domestic violence under Chapter XXI, Criminal Offences against Marriage, Family and Youth, as well as endangering security, stalking and unlawful deprivation of liberty under Chapter XVII, Criminal Offences against Human and Civil Freedoms and Rights. In practice, these departments co-operate closely or join cases where domestic violence escalates into grievous bodily harm or sexual abuse.

b. whether such units exist in all police/prosecution districts throughout the country.

Departments for general crime and violent crime and sexual offences exist within the Federal Police Administration and all cantonal ministries of the interior, which ensures institutional coverage across the Federation of BiH. Consequently, every canton has trained inspectors who work on such cases.

The Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska allows criminal offences to be reported online through its website, www.mup.vladars.rs. The Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska has no specialist units for investigating and prosecuting violence against women. Within the police administrations, all such offences fall within the competence of the police stations.

As part of their regular work, the Prosecutor's Office of the Brčko District of BiH and the Police of the Brčko District of BiH have trained prosecutors and police inspectors assigned to General Crime Departments who are responsible for investigating and prosecuting violence against women.

43. Please describe any measures taken to ensure swift investigation into and effective prosecution of cases of violence against women and domestic violence such as prioritisation through fast-tracking, benchmarking or other initiatives, without compromising the thoroughness of the investigation.

In practice, measures are taken to ensure that cases of violence against women and domestic violence are handled more swiftly and effectively. However, it is important to emphasise that the caseload is very high, particularly in relation to domestic violence, placing a significant burden on the prosecution service. Cases in which detention has been sought or ordered are treated as priorities because of statutory time limits, the need to protect the victim, prevent interference with witnesses and preserve evidence. Under the project "Standardising and Improving the Prosecutorial Response to Gender-Based, Domestic and Digital Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina", implemented by the Foundation for Local Democracy with the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, consultations were held with prosecutors from the Federation of BiH, the Republika Srpska and the Brčko District of BiH. These activities are intended to identify challenges and good practices and develop a common, standardised approach to prosecutorial action. The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of BiH approved the continuation of activities under this project with a view to developing and adopting practical instructions and guidelines for prosecutors. These instructions are intended to cover the standardisation of best practices, a list of priority investigative measures to be taken at an early stage of proceedings, improved risk assessment, the collection of corroborating evidence, the handling of cases in which the victim withdraws their testimony, and the lawful collection and preservation of digital evidence. A specific objective is to establish more systematic monitoring of cases involving criminal offences covered by the Istanbul Convention, including domestic violence, sexual violence and the digital dimension of violence. This would enable chief prosecutors and prosecutors handling cases to monitor more effectively the number, duration, stages and outcomes of cases, identify cases subject to unjustified delays, and ensure faster, more consistent and accountable action without compromising the thoroughness of investigations.

Article 19 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH designates proceedings for protection against domestic violence and violence against women as urgent. Article 80 of the Law prescribes misdemeanour sanctions or fines for officials employed by protection providers who breach the obligation to act urgently.

Under the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence of the Republika Srpska, all protection providers, including the police and prosecutors' offices, must ensure that domestic violence cases are handled without delay and as a matter of urgency. The interests and well-being of the victim must be treated as a priority in such proceedings, particularly where the victim is a child, an older person, a person with disabilities or a person under guardianship.

44. Are any measures taken to encourage women and girls who experience any of the forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention to report incidents of violence to the authorities? Please provide examples of any measures taken to instill confidence in law-enforcement officials, including those aimed at addressing any language or procedural difficulties they encounter when lodging complaints, in particular those of migrant women, asylum-seeking women, women with disabilities, women with addiction issues and other women and girls at risk of intersectional discrimination.

Article 16 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH requires all protection providers, upon first contact with a

victim of violence, to inform the victim, in a language they understand and in a manner understandable to them, of all their rights, the available protective measures and services under this Law and other legislation, and the institutions, authorities and legal entities providing specialist support services. Campaigns promoting the reporting and prevention of violence also use formats adapted to different vulnerable groups. These include the representation of persons with disabilities and materials in Braille and sign language. The Framework Protocol, which is currently at an early drafting stage and is being developed under the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in FBiH, also addresses access to protection mechanisms for persons with disabilities.

The Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska continuously provides training to police officers handling domestic violence and gender-based violence cases to enhance their ability of working on such cases. One of the policies of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska is also to employ a sufficient number of women police officers. In addition to the Police Training Administration, the Women Police Officers Network - WPON RS plays an important role in the work and training of police officers. It is registered as a non-governmental organisation, and its members are women police officers employed by the Ministry.

45. Please indicate whether protocols/standard operating procedures or guidelines for police officers are in place providing guidance on how to receive reports, interview victims, investigate and collect evidence in cases of rape and sexual violence, domestic violence, psychological violence, stalking, sexual harassment (including their online manifestation), forced marriage, female genital mutilation and forced sterilisation/abortion. Please provide information on how the authorities ensure the comprehensive collection of evidence beyond the victim's testimony.

Although the system of protocols in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is fragmented and has primarily been developed for domestic violence through entity legislation, cantonal protocols and the Framework Protocol, the Criminal Procedure Code of FBiH (the CPC of FBiH) provides the main and most important legal framework enabling the police and prosecutor's offices to collect comprehensive evidence beyond the victim's testimony. As specific operational protocols frequently do not exist for forms of violence such as rape, stalking or online harassment, strict application of the mechanisms available under the CPC is essential to obtaining evidence. These mechanisms include orders for the digital forensic examination of mobile devices, urgent forensic medical examinations to secure DNA evidence, and psychiatric and psychological expert assessments of the fear and post-traumatic stress disorder experienced by the victim. By relying on the legal mechanisms provided by the CPC and the forensic capacity of the Federal Police Administration of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the judiciary can prosecute perpetrators even where a victim decides to withdraw their testimony because of fear or social pressure.

The Police of the Republika Srpska act in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code, the Criminal Code of the Republika Srpska, the Law on the Protection and Treatment of Children and Juveniles in Criminal Proceedings, the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence of the Republika Srpska, and the Law on Police and Internal Affairs of the Republika Srpska. These laws regulate the actions of police officers and all other protection providers in the cases referred to above. The police response depends on the complexity of the case. In cases involving serious criminal offences, all protection providers are involved, while the sequence of measures and actions and the treatment of victims are determined by the type and seriousness of the criminal offence, in full compliance with the applicable legislation. The General Protocol on the Response of Protection Providers in Cases of Domestic Violence in the Republika Srpska defines the procedures to be followed by protection providers, and teams have also been established

at the level of local self-government units. The Rulebook on the procedure and manner of conducting risk assessments prescribes a template risk assessment form, which is completed whenever the authorities respond to a report of domestic violence. The Protocol on the Protection of Children from Violence, Neglect and Abuse defines the procedures to be followed by protection providers, including police officers.

Police officers in the Brčko District of BiH act in accordance with the relevant legislation, primarily the Criminal Procedure Code of the Brčko District of BiH, the Criminal Code of the Brčko District of BiH, the Law on Police Officers of the Brčko District of BiH and other relevant legislation, as well as the 2018 Protocol on Cooperation and Procedures in Cases of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in the Brčko District of BiH, which is expected to be amended in the fourth quarter of 2026. All incidents, including domestic violence, sexual violence and violence perpetrated through digital platforms, may be reported by calling 122. Reports are received by the duty police officer at the Operations and Communications Centre, who takes any measures that cannot be delayed, including protecting the victim's life and health, collecting initial information about the incident and securing the scene, etc. Where domestic violence, sexual violence or violence perpetrated through digital means is reported, the duty officer notifies the General Police Unit and then the Criminal Police Unit. In cooperation with the prosecutors of the Prosecutor's Office of the Brčko District of BiH who are conducting the investigation, these units are responsible for taking all investigative measures prescribed by law.

46. Please describe the efforts taken to identify and address all factors that contribute to attrition (the process whereby cases drop out of the criminal justice system) in cases of violence against women and domestic violence.

Efforts to prevent discontinuance of prosecution in cases of violence against women include comprehensive reform of the system, which directly incorporates the instrument of a person of trust but is not limited to that measure. Together with free legal aid, the person of trust provides crucial emotional and procedural support, helping to prevent victims from withdrawing their statements because of fear or societal pressure. Through the new 2025 Law institutions in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina are seeking to reduce the dependence of the proceedings as a whole solely on the victim. This is achieved by introducing mandatory on-the-spot risk assessments and the emergency removal of perpetrators from the home, thereby shielding victims from coercion, and through the strict application of the mechanisms under the CPC of the FBiH. These mechanisms require the police and prosecutors to continue investigations ex officio and build cases on material, digital and forensic evidence, irrespective of whether the victim chooses to testify.

As regards the Republika Srpska, the answer to this question is contained in the responses to Questions 18, 22, 24, 28, 33, 37, 40, 41, 43, 44 and 45 of the Questionnaire.

The 2018 Protocol on Co-operation and Procedures in Cases of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in the Brčko District of BiH defines in greater detail the steps to be taken by police officers and other protection providers. These are also addressed in the 2018 Manual for Police Officers, Prosecutors and Judges on Responding to Gender-Based and Sexual Violence against Women and Children. These documents will be amended following the amendment of the 2018 Law on Protection against Domestic Violence in the Brčko District of BiH, which is expected in the fourth quarter of 2026.

47. Please indicate if legislative or other measures have been taken to issue a renewable residence permit to migrant women who have become a victim of any of the forms of violence covered by

the Istanbul Convention if the competent authority considers that their stay is necessary for the purpose of their co-operation in investigation or criminal proceedings.³

Appropriate legislative measures have been taken in Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding the issuance of residence permits to migrant women who are victims of violence. Article 58 of the Law on Aliens (Official Gazette of BiH, 88/15, 34/21 and 63/23) provides that a foreign national may be granted temporary residence on humanitarian grounds, including where the person is a victim of violence and the competent authority considers their stay necessary for co-operation with the competent authorities in an investigation or criminal proceedings. Temporary residence is granted for a specified period and may be extended, thereby ensuring that the permit is renewable in accordance with the relevant international standards. Article 58(2)(d) of the Law on Aliens provides that temporary residence on humanitarian grounds may also be granted to a foreign national who does not meet the requirements for temporary residence under Article 49, entitled “General Requirements for Granting Temporary Residence”, of the Law. This includes other justified humanitarian grounds, which, depending on the circumstances, are specified in a bylaw enacted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina upon the proposal of the Ministry. Before the categories of women covered by Chapter VII of the Istanbul Convention on migration can be considered under the cited statutory provision, it is necessary to designate the institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina responsible for defining the scope of their rights and providing accommodation and care for them.

Article 51: Risk assessment and risk management

48. Please describe any standardised and mandatory risk assessment tools in use by all relevant authorities in all regions for forms of violence against women such as stalking, violence committed in the name of so-called honour and domestic violence and to what extent these tools are being used in practice to assess the lethality risk, the seriousness of the situation and the risk of repeated violence with a view to preventing further violence. Please specify whether the following elements are considered as red flags when carrying out the risk assessment:

- a. the possession of or access to firearms by the perpetrator;

YES. This is provided for in Article 6(2)(a) and (n) of the Rulebook on the procedure and manner of conducting risk assessments for victims of domestic violence and violence against women. Where this risk is identified, the police officer must immediately seize the weapon on a temporary basis. Article 21 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides for risk assessments. Accordingly, following every report of violence, the competent police authority, in co-operation with the protection providers, must conduct a risk assessment for all victims of violence, with particular regard to the risk of lethality, the seriousness of the situation and the risk of repeated violence, with a view to managing the risk and ensuring the co-ordinated provision of protection and support to victims. The risk assessment takes particular account of whether the perpetrator possesses or has access to firearms and whether the firearms need to be seized. In accordance with the Law, the Federal Ministry of the Interior adopted the Rulebook on the procedure and manner of conducting risk assessments for victims of domestic violence and violence against women (Official Gazette of the Federation of BiH, 86/25). The Rulebook introduced the following mandatory, standardised risk assessment tools, which must be completed by a police officer immediately after violence is reported:

³ This question refers to the obligation contained in Article 59, paragraph 3. State parties that have entered a reservation in respect of Article 59 may reply to this question but are not required to do so.

Form 1: Risk assessment and reassessment.

Form 2: Narrative assessment of the level of risk (high, moderate or low).

Form 3: Separate risk assessment and evaluation for children who are victims or witnesses of violence.

Article 6(2) and Article 7(c) of the Rulebook explicitly qualify and define all the elements referred to above as key risk factors or “red flags” in the assessment.

- b. the filing for separation/divorce by the victim or the break-up of the relationship;

YES. Article 6 paragraph 2 item l. In the Federation of BiH, the risk assessment under the Law and the Rulebook includes, among other things, information on whether the victim has instituted or intends to institute divorce proceedings or end cohabitation with the perpetrator.

- c. pregnancy;

YES. Article 6 paragraph 2 item m. In the Federation of BiH, the risk assessment under the Law and the Rulebook includes, among other things, information on whether the victim is particularly at risk because of pregnancy, disability or old age.

- d. previous acts of violence;

YES. Article 6 paragraph 2 item b. In the Federation of BiH, the risk assessment under the Law and the Rulebook includes, among other things, information on whether the perpetrator committed domestic violence or another form of violence previously or immediately before the risk assessment and whether they are likely to repeat it.

- e. the prior issue of a restrictive measure;

YES. Article 6 paragraph 2 item i. In the Federation of BiH, the risk assessment under the Law and the Rulebook includes, among other things, information on whether a protective measure has previously been imposed on the perpetrator and whether that measure has been breached.

- f. threats made by the perpetrator to take away common children;

YES. Article 6 paragraph 2 item h and paragraph 3 In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the risk assessment under the Law and the Rulebook includes information on whether there is a dispute over custody of the child or the arrangements for contact between the child and the parent who perpetrated the violence. A risk assessment is conducted in respect of children, taking into account any threat made directly against them or any threat relating to their separation from the victim of violence.

- g. acts of sexual violence;

YES. Article 6(2)(e) and Article 7(c) In the Federation of BiH, the risk assessment under the Law and the Rulebook includes, among other things, information on whether the perpetrator committed domestic violence or another form of violence previously or immediately before the risk assessment and whether they are likely to repeat it.

- h. threats to kill the victim and her children;

YES. Article 6 paragraph 2 item d In the Federation of BiH, the risk assessment under the Law and the Rulebook includes, among other things, information on whether the perpetrator has threatened physical injury, murder or suicide.

i. threat of suicide;

YES. Article 6 paragraph 2 item d In the Federation of BiH, the risk assessment under the Law and the Rulebook includes, among other things, information on whether the perpetrator has threatened physical injury, murder or suicide.

j. coercive and controlling behaviour.

YES. Article 6 paragraph 2 items j, k and l and Article 5 paragraphs 1 and 2 In the Federation of BiH, the risk assessment under the Law and the Rulebook includes information on whether the victim is afraid and how they assess the risk of repeated violence.

In the Republika Srpska, risk assessments are conducted in accordance with the Rulebook on the Procedure and Manner of Conducting Risk Assessments. A risk assessment is an evaluation of the level of risk of repeated violence based on information collected, data held in the records of the Ministry of the Interior, the opinions of social work centres, and other relevant facts and circumstances. The following questions are considered when conducting the assessment:

- Has the perpetrator committed violence previously or immediately before the assessment, and are they likely to repeat it?*
- Has the perpetrator threatened murder or suicide?*
- Does the perpetrator have a mental illness or misuse psychoactive substances?*
- Is there a dispute over child custody or the arrangements for maintaining personal contact with the children?*
- Has an emergency protective measure or protective measure been imposed on the perpetrator?*
- Is the victim afraid, and how do they assess the risk of repeated violence?*

49. Please specify how effective co-operation is ensured between the different statutory authorities and specialist women's support services in making risk assessments and whether the risks identified are managed by law enforcement agencies on the basis of individual safety plans that include also the safety of the victim's children.

Cooperation in conducting risk assessments in the Federation of BiH and the Republika Srpska is primarily regulated by law. In the Federation of BiH, the competent police authority must, following every report of violence and in cooperation with protection providers, conduct a risk assessment for all victims, with particular regard to the risk of lethality, the seriousness of the situation and the risk of repeated violence, with a view to managing the risk and ensuring the coordinated provision of protection and support to victims. A separate assessment is also conducted in respect of children, taking into account threats made against them or threats relating to their separation from the victim. The risk assessment prepared by the police provides an important basis for further action by the prosecutors handling the case. In the Federation of BiH, the police authority immediately informs the competent prosecutor's office and submits the evidence collected and the risk assessment together with its report. It must also inform the guardianship authority of the risk assessment without delay. Similarly, in the Republika Srpska, the police immediately inform the competent public prosecutor and submit a report, the evidence collected and the risk assessment. The assessment is also submitted to the social work centre. The risks identified are subsequently addressed through emergency protection measures, protection measures, the victim's temporary accommodation in a shelter and other protection measures. In the Federation of BiH, where there are grounds for suspicion and the statutory requirements are met, the police may immediately issue a

written order imposing emergency protective measures and inform the competent prosecutor accordingly. Such measures may include removing the perpetrator from the home, prohibiting them from approaching the victim and, where necessary, the children, and prohibiting communication, harassment and stalking. Cooperation is therefore based on the statutory risk assessment conducted by the police in co-operation with protection providers. The assessment is also crucial to the action taken by prosecutors, as it enables them to assess, at an early stage, the risks to the victim and children and the need for urgent evidence-gathering measures, protective measures, detention or other procedural decisions.

Effective cooperation between the police and specialist services is ensured by Article 11(5) of the Rulebook on the Procedure and Manner of Conducting Risk Assessments for Victims of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women (Official Gazette of the Federation of BiH, 86/25), which requires the police to co-ordinate urgently with protection providers as soon as violence is reported. Article 9 also requires the completed assessment to be submitted without delay to the prosecutor, the court, the guardianship authority, the shelter and educational institutions through the joint information system. Relying on this information, law-enforcement agencies actively manage the risks identified by preparing individual safety plans and proposing emergency protective measures. Article 5(4) defines this as an ongoing process subject to regular reviews in case of change in circumstances. The safety of child victims is fully integrated into this process. Articles 6 and 12 of the Rulebook require the police to analyse specific threats against children and complete Form 3, which is designed specifically to assess risks to and ensure the protection of children. Under the Law and the Rulebook, following every report of violence, the competent police authority must conduct a risk assessment for all victims in co-operation with protection providers, with particular regard to the risk of lethality, the seriousness of the situation and the risk of repeated violence, with a view to managing the risk and ensuring the coordinated provision of protection and support to victims.

The Law on Protection against Domestic Violence of the Republika Srpska provides that police officers must prepare an individual risk assessment for every criminal offence of domestic violence or violence within the family unit. In high-risk cases, the suspect is brought before the court without delay for the imposition of emergency protective measures or referred to the prosecutor handling the case so that a motion for detention may be filed.

50. Please describe the efforts made to analyse retrospectively all cases of gender-based killings of women, in the context of domestic violence and other forms of violence against women to identify the existence of possible systemic gaps in the institutional response of the authorities with the aim of preventing such acts in the future.

The HJPC of BiH supports the monitoring of court cases involving gender-based violence by civil society organisations, educational institutions and other bodies and provides relevant data on such cases for this purpose. It is also important to note that a technical solution is currently being implemented to improve the collection of data on cases involving the murder and attempted murder of women.

Research was conducted in Bosnia and Herzegovina and published under the title “Studija uticaja lakog oružja na nasilje u porodici u BiH” (Study on the Impact of Small Arms on Domestic Violence in BiH).⁴ The research provides insight into specific risk factors associated with violence against women and domestic violence. It also collected and

⁴ Hrnčić, Z. (2024). Mogućnosti procesuiranja femicida u Bosni i Hercegovini, TPO Fondacija, Sarajevo. Available at:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/395655163_Studija_o_uticaju_lakog_oruzja_na_nasilje_u_porodici_u_Bosni_i_Hercegovini

presented actual cases of violence involving the use of weapons that resulted in court decisions in proceedings concerning the murder or attempted murder of women, intimate partners or women family members. The research also analyses the experiences of a specific target group of women who reported domestic violence, including their experiences of violence involving continuous threats with or the use of firearms. Another study conducted in Bosnia and Herzegovina was published under the title „Mogućnosti procesuiranja femicida u Bosni i Hercegovini“ (“Options for Prosecuting Femicide in Bosnia and Herzegovina”).⁵ The study contains a qualitative analysis of 246 verdicts delivered by 38 different courts in BiH between 2017 and 2022 concerning provisions of criminal law that may be linked to femicide. Of the 83 verdicts identified by the analysis as relating to femicide, 44 concerned cases resulting in death, while in 39 cases the injured parties survived an attempted murder. The study presents the sanctions imposed, the manner of commission of the criminal offences, specific risk factors and elements indicating a gendered motive for the killings. It also breaks down the verdicts by categories and classifications of different forms of femicide.

The Centre for Gender Equity and Equality of the Republika Srpska conducted an analysis of the institutional response to cases of gender-based violence covering the period from 1 January 2014 to 30 September 2015. A total of 15 women were killed during that period, two of them during armed robberies. The analysis found that the police had prior knowledge in only one case, in which earlier incidents of violence had been reported. In addition to the police response, the work of social work centres in all the cases concerned was analysed, as was media reporting on those cases. All the findings were presented at a conference on femicide and also informed the drafting of policies and measures in this area.

Article 52: Emergency barring orders

51. Have any legislative or other measures been taken to introduce and/or amend the legal framework governing emergency barring orders in order to align it with the requirements of Article 52? If yes, please specify whether:

- a. emergency barring orders may remain in place until a victim can obtain a court-ordered protection order in order to ensure that gaps in the protection do not arise;

Chapter IV, Articles 22-24, of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides for emergency protective measures. The purpose of emergency protective measures is to eliminate an immediate threat to the physical and psychological integrity of victims of violence and their children and to prevent repeated violence. Emergency protective measures imposed by the police authority take effect immediately and may remain in force for a maximum of 48 hours. The police authority must serve the written order imposing the emergency protective measures on the person against whom they have been imposed. While the measures remain in force, the person against whom they have been imposed may lodge a complaint with the competent prosecutor's office, which must decide on the complaint within 12 hours of its submission. The Federal Ministry of the Interior adopted the Rulebook on the procedure and manner of conducting risk assessments for victims of domestic violence and violence against women and the Rulebook on the implementation of protective measures for perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women within the competence of the police, which regulate the entire protection process.

⁵ Bećirović, F., Hrnčić, Z. i Miljević, D. (2025). Studija o uticaju lakog oružja na nasilje u porodici u Bosni i Hercegovini, Fondacija “Lara”, Bijeljina. Available at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/383270016_Mogucnosti_procesuiranja_femicida_u_Bosni_i_Hercegovini

- b. support and advice are made available to women victims of domestic violence in a pro-active manner by the authority competent to issue an emergency barring order;

Article 24 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides, inter alia, that the competent police authority must inform the victim of violence and the guardianship authority without delay of an order imposing emergency protective measures. An application for emergency protective measures may also be submitted to the competent police authority by the competent prosecutor, the victim or the guardianship authority. Under Articles 4 and 11 of the Rulebook on risk assessment, a police officer must immediately and proactively conduct a risk assessment, without waiting for the victim to request one, by completing Forms 1 and 2. Through this process, the police identify the victim's specific needs directly at the scene and identify factors posing a risk to the life of the victim and their children.

- c. children are specifically included in contact bans issued under the emergency barring order;

Article 23 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides, inter alia, for the following emergency protective measures: prohibition on approaching the victim and, where necessary, the victim's children and other persons at risk of violence; and a prohibition on communicating with, harassing or stalking the victim. The Federal Ministry of the Interior adopted the Rulebook on the procedure and manner of conducting risk assessments for victims of domestic violence and violence against women and the Rulebook on the implementation of protective measures for perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women within the competence of the police. Police officers must complete a specific form/checklist when responding to an incident, in accordance with these Rulebooks.

- d. any exceptions to contact bans are made and in which circumstances.

The Federal Ministry of the Interior adopted the Rulebook on the procedure and manner of conducting risk assessments for victims of domestic violence and violence against women and the Rulebook on the implementation of protective measures for perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women within the competence of the police, which regulate the entire protection process. These Rulebooks have completely eliminated any possibility of a "flexible" interpretation of contact bans. There are no exceptions permitting unrestricted communication. The only permitted arrangement is a police escort and strict supervision for the purpose of obtaining essential documents or medication. The victim and children remain completely separated from the perpetrator's presence and influence for as long as the risk persists.

There have been no changes in the Republika Srpska or the Brčko District of BiH since GREVIO's baseline evaluation.

52. Please provide information on the measures taken to enforce emergency barring orders and on responses to any violations of such orders.

Article 81 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH defines the criminal offence of breaching protective measures. Anyone who breaches an emergency protective measure imposed under Article 23(1)(a), (b) or (c), or a protective measure imposed under Article 26(a), (b) or (c) of

the Law, will be criminally sanctioned with a fine or imprisonment for up to three years. A sentence of imprisonment of up to one year imposed for the criminal offence referred to in paragraph 1 of that Article may not be replaced by a fine. A person who breaches a protective measure under Article 26(d) or (e) is liable to a fine of between BAM 1,000 and BAM 5,000. According to data from the HJPC, 197 criminal offences involving breaches of protective measures under Article 81 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina were recorded in 2025.

There have been no changes in the Republika Srpska or the Brčko District of BiH since GREVIO's baseline evaluation.

Article 53: Restraining or protection orders

53. Have any legislative or other measures been taken to introduce and/or amend the legal framework governing restraining and protection orders in order to align it with the requirements of Article 53? If yes, please specify whether:

- a. restraining or protection orders are available – in the context of criminal proceedings and/or upon application from civil courts - to women victims of all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention, including domestic violence, stalking, sexual harassment, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, violence related to so-called honour as well as digital manifestations of violence against women and girls;

The Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH, which entered into force in 2025 and had as one of its key objectives the alignment of criminal legislation with the Istanbul Convention, introduced two new security measures that may be imposed in criminal proceedings:

Article 78a - Prohibition on Approaching and Communicating with the Victim Under paragraph 1, a security measure prohibiting the perpetrator from approaching and communicating with the victim may be imposed on a perpetrator of a criminal offence against life and limb, sexual freedom and morality, a criminal offence of sexual abuse and exploitation of a child, a criminal offence against marriage, family and youth, or the criminal offence of stalking, where there is a risk that the perpetrator may repeat such an offence.

Under paragraph 2, the security measure includes prohibiting the perpetrator from approaching the victim within a specified distance, entering the area around the victim's home or workplace, and harassing or communicating with the victim, whether through information and communication technologies or by other means. Under paragraph 3, the security measure may be imposed for a period not shorter than six months and not longer than five years from the date on which the court decision becomes final. Time spent serving a prison sentence is not credited towards the duration of the measure. Finally, paragraph 4 provides that a perpetrator who breaches a prohibition on approaching and communicating with the victim imposed as part of a suspended sentence falls under the provision of Article 66 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Article 78b - Removal from the Household Under paragraph 1, the court may impose the security measure of removal from the household on a perpetrator of a criminal offence against life and limb, sexual freedom and morality, a criminal offence of sexual abuse and exploitation of a child, or a criminal offence against marriage, family and youth, where there is a risk that the perpetrator may commit another criminal offence against a member of the

household. Under paragraph 2, the security measure may be imposed for a period not shorter than six months and not longer than five years from the date on which the court decision becomes final. Time spent serving a prison sentence is not credited towards the duration of the measure. Under paragraph 3, a person on whom the measure referred to in paragraph 1 has been imposed must leave the flat, house or other residential premises constituting the household immediately after the verdict becomes final, in the presence of a police officer. Under paragraph 4, once half of the duration of the security measure imposed pursuant to paragraph 1 has elapsed, the court may, at the motion of the convicted person, discontinue its enforcement if it finds that the risk referred to in paragraph 1 no longer exists. The convicted person may submit a new motion, but not before six months have elapsed since the previous review. Finally, paragraph 5 provides that a perpetrator who fails to comply with or breaches the security measure of removal from the household may be dealt with under Article 66 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH. The Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH provides for emergency protective measures and protective measures, including a) removal from a flat, house or other residential premises and prohibition on returning to those premises; b) prohibition on approaching the victim and, where necessary, the victim's children and other persons at risk of violence; and c) prohibition on communicating with, harassing or stalking the victim. Emergency protective measures are imposed by the police authority competent for the victim's place of permanent or temporary residence and may remain in force for a maximum of 48 hours. During that 48-hour period, proceedings for the imposition of protective measures may be instituted where warranted by the circumstances of the individual case. Protective measures are imposed by the court competent for the victim's place of permanent or temporary residence and may remain in force for a period not shorter than one month and not longer than three years.

- b. children are specifically included in protection orders;

Article 11(1) of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH provides that, for the purposes of the Law, a victim of domestic violence is any member of a family or household who is subjected to acts of domestic violence regulated by the Law. Paragraph 2 provides that a child is a victim of domestic violence if the child was present when violence was perpetrated against another family member, even if the acts of violence were not directed against the child. Accordingly, a child or children may be specifically included in orders for protective measures in the given case.

- c. any exceptions to contact bans are made and, if so, in which circumstances these may be made. Article 55 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH regulates contact between a perpetrator of violence and a child. A perpetrator against whom a protective measure has been imposed may have contact with the child through and under the supervision of the guardianship authority, provided that the guardianship authority considers such contact to be in the best interests of the child. The guardianship authority decides on the exercising of the right to contact referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article by a separate decision.

In the Republika Srpska, all competent authorities act in such situations in accordance with the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence, the Criminal Code of the Republika Srpska and the Rulebooks governing the imposition of emergency protective measures and protective measures. Under the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence, emergency protective measures in the Republika Srpska are imposed by the competent court. An application for emergency protective measures may be submitted by the competent police officer, the social work centre, or the victim of domestic violence or violence within the family unit. Emergency protective measures are proposed and imposed in acute cases of domestic violence. Their purpose is to eliminate immediately any threat to the victim's physical and psychological integrity, stop the violence and remove the perpetrator, thereby ensuring the timely and effective protection of victims while the violence is occurring. On an application from the competent police officer, social work centre or victim of domestic violence, the

competent court may impose the following emergency protective measures: a) removal of the perpetrator from a flat, house or other residential premises; and b) prohibition on the perpetrator approaching or contacting the victim of domestic violence. Unlike emergency protective measures, which may be imposed either before proceedings are instituted or during proceedings against a perpetrator of domestic violence and are intended to protect the victim rather than sanction the perpetrator, protective measures are imposed after the completion of misdemeanour proceedings and constitute a sanction for domestic violence. Protective measures are also imposed by the competent court in misdemeanour proceedings on an application from the competent police officer, social work centre or victim of domestic violence. The protective measures are as follows:

- removal from a flat, house or other dwelling;
- prohibition on approaching the victim of domestic violence or violence within the family unit;
- prohibition on harassing or stalking the victim of domestic violence or violence within the family unit;
- mandatory psychosocial treatment; and
- mandatory treatment for addiction. The court must impose a protective measure within 30 days of the submission of the application. To ensure the physical protection of victims of domestic violence and provide them with support and assistance in exercising their rights and interests, the Law allows a social work centre or social welfare service, with the victim's prior consent or at their request, to issue a decision on the victim's temporary accommodation in a shelter.

54. Please provide information on the measures taken to enforce protection orders and on responses to any violations of such orders.

Police measures are activated where there is an immediate threat and a high level of risk, including violence perpetrated in the presence of a child and threats involving weapons or murder. They are implemented by immediately removing the perpetrator from the home, completely prohibiting physical and digital contact with the victim and children, and prohibiting access to schools and kindergartens. Any breach of these prohibitions is subject to a zero-tolerance response: the police arrest the perpetrator, and the breach is prosecuted as a separate criminal offence, together with a motion for detention. The Annex to this document contains the quarterly Report on Reports of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women and the Implementation of Protective Measures and Emergency Protective Measures.

Article 56: Measures of protection

55. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure the following:

- a. that the relevant agency informs the victim when the perpetrator escapes or is released temporarily, at least when they or their family might be in danger (paragraph 1 b);

Article 15 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH, which regulates the rights of victims of violence, guarantees the following rights: e) the right to be informed, without undue delay, of the perpetrator's release from detention or escape; the imposition, extension, replacement or termination of protective measures ordered for the victim's protection; or the release of a convicted person from prison; and f) the right to be informed of the action taken following a report of violence and of the outcome of the proceedings.

- b. the protection of the privacy and the image of the victim (paragraph 1 f);

Article 15 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH, which regulates the rights of victims of violence, guarantees the following rights: ċ) the right to the protection of the victim's dignity when being interviewed as a witness; lj) the right to the confidentiality of any information that could reveal the identity of the victim or a member of their family.

c. the possibility for victims to testify in the courtroom without being present or at least without the presence of the alleged perpetrator, notably through the use of appropriate communication technologies, where available (paragraph 1 i);

Article 15 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH, which regulates the rights of victims of violence, guarantees the following rights: h) the right to avoid contact with the perpetrator before and during the proceedings, unless such contact is required by the judicial proceedings.

d. the provision of appropriate support services for victims so that their rights and interests are duly presented and taken into account (paragraph 1 e).

Article 15 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH, which regulates the rights of victims of violence, guarantees the following rights:

- a) the right to access support services for victims of violence;*
- b) the right to free medical assistance for as long as necessary;*
- c) the right to effective psychological and other professional assistance and support from a body, organisation or institution providing assistance to victims of violence;*
- č) the right to protection from intimidation and retaliation;*
- ć) the right to the protection of their dignity when being interviewed as a witness;*
- d) the right to be accompanied by a person of trust during all actions in which they participate;*
- dž) the right to a legal representative;*
- đ) the right to be accompanied by a personal assistant where the victim is a person with disabilities who uses personal assistance services;*
- e) the right to be informed, without undue delay, of the perpetrator's release from detention or escape; the imposition, extension, replacement or termination of protective measures ordered for their protection; or the release of a convicted person from prison;*
- f) the right to be informed of the action taken following a report of violence and of the outcome of the proceedings;*
- g) the right to be interviewed without unjustified delay after submitting a report and, upon request, by a person of the same sex;*
- h) the right to avoid contact with the perpetrator before and during the proceedings, unless such contact is required by the judicial proceedings;*
- i) the right to social housing in accordance with housing policy regulations;*
- j) the right to temporary accommodation in a shelter;*
- k) the right to police protection and security to enable them to collect their personal belongings without obstruction when leaving the shared household;*
- l) the right to free legal aid; and*
- lj) the right to the confidentiality of any information that could reveal the identity of the victim or a member of their family.*

The Police of the Brčko District of BiH is a member of the working group established by the Government of the Brčko District of BiH to draft the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence in the Brčko District of BiH. Law and the accompanying Rulebook on the implementation of emergency protective measures and protective measures within the competence of the Police of the Brčko District of BiH are expected in the fourth quarter of 2026.

Part III: Emerging trends on violence against women and domestic violence

56. Please provide information on new developments since the adoption of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report on your country concerning:

a. emerging trends in violence against women and domestic violence, including its digital manifestations (types of perpetration, groups of victims, forms of violence);

An analysis of statistical data enabling the monitoring of the relationship between perpetrators and victims shows that perpetrators continue to be predominantly men and victims predominantly women. However, there has been a noticeable increase in violence perpetrated by children and grandchildren against parents and older family members. The relevant data are provided in the Annex to this document. The data analysis also shows significant progress in the response to domestic violence cases. Under the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence, one or more protective measures are imposed in response to each report. The number of protective measures as a percentage of the number of reports was only 4% in 2010, 38% in 2018, 51% in 2022, 77% in 2023, 101% in 2024 and 114% in 2025 (Excerpt from the statistical data of the Gender Centre of FBiH and the HJPC). The Federation of BiH has seen an increase in digital forms of domestic violence, including cyberstalking, revenge pornography (blackmail with intimate recordings), and the use of deepfake technology (AI) to create false explicit content intended to discredit women publicly. The victims of these emerging trends include young women/adolescent girls on social media, women who have recently left an abusive partner and are subsequently stalked through digital channels, and children whose profiles are abused to locate or blackmail their mothers. In response to these trends, the Federal Police Administration conducts advanced digital forensic investigations. The legal framework in the Federation of BiH has been harmonized so that stalking, psychological abuse and the manipulation of digital content are treated as separate criminal offences and accorded the same priority and level of risk as physical violence. Over the preceding three-year period, police officers from the Cybercrime Department of the Federal Police Administration conducted a range of complex operational and investigative activities involving cyber crime. Particular emphasis was placed on preventing and combating technology-facilitated sexual abuse of children. Activities of rapid identification of perpetrators of technology-facilitated criminal offences or individuals who take to online channels to announce their intention to commit criminal offences. Such cases are dealt with as a matter of particular urgency. Police officers continuously provide professional and operational assistance in investigations into the most serious forms of crime, including the criminal offences of terrorism, murder, rape and aggravated theft, as well as cases involving missing persons. Forensic investigation and the analysis of electronic evidence are instrumental in these cases.

b. emerging trends in domestic case law related to violence against women;

There is no new information on emerging trends in domestic case law related to violence against women.

c. emerging trends in the allocation of funding and budgeting by your state authorities;

The principal mechanism for implementing the 2024-2027 Strategy for Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence is based on the implementation of the legal framework and the principles of accountability of the bodies implementing the activities. The Strategy provides for its activities to be incorporated into the three-year and annual work plans of administrative authorities at all levels of government in the Federation of BiH. When preparing their three-year work plans, administrative authorities are required to include the relevant measures under the Strategy for which they are responsible, together with the corresponding indicators and the baseline and target values of those indicators for each

year of the three-year period. The Strategy also provides for its measures to be included as programmes in three-year work plans. Each programme in a three-year work plan is also established as a programme in the Budget Framework Document and assigned a code. A measure under the Strategy therefore corresponds to a programme in both the three-year work plan and the Budget Framework Document.

The approach to preventive awareness-raising campaigns has notably changed. Certain competent ministries now secure budgetary funds for campaigns promoting non-violent behaviour and similar initiatives.

- d. innovative approaches to primary prevention, for example new target audiences and means of communication, public/private partnerships etc.

In October 2025, UN Women and the Federal Ministry of the Interior signed a Memorandum of Understanding confirming their joint commitment to strengthening cooperation on gender equality. During 2026, the Federal Ministry of the Interior, in cooperation with UN Women BiH, is implementing a campaign to combat domestic violence and violence against women. Non-governmental organisations, associations of persons with disabilities and children will participate in workshops. Negotiations are also under way with BH Telecom on implementing a campaign on children's online safety. Under the Council of Europe project "Combating Digital and Sexual Violence against Women in BiH I and II", a series of workshops was held for protection providers, focusing on the prevention of and protection from sexual and digital violence and the exchange of good practices concerning legislative and practical solutions. As part of their preventive work, police officers from the Cybercrime Department of the Federal Police Administration continuously provide training for parents and children throughout the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This includes lectures at educational institutions, frequently delivered outside regular working hours on a voluntary basis and in cooperation with schools and non-governmental organisations. As part of its cooperation with non-governmental organisations, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy signed a Memorandum with shelters in the Federation of BiH in early 2025. The Memorandum established institutional cooperation with the non-governmental sector to strengthen support for victims of domestic and gender-based violence. The Memorandum forms part of the programme "With Her for Her Freedom", which links accommodation and psychosocial assistance in shelters with measures for the economic empowerment of women after they leave shelters, with the aim of preventing their revictimisation. Cooperation with non-governmental organisations was thereby formalised around the shared objectives of ensuring sustainable funding, strengthening shelter capacity and developing programmes for the social reintegration of victims. The Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy's cooperation with shelters under the Memorandum is a key component of institutional support for victims of violence. Broader social programmes are also being implemented in parallel, ranging from direct financial assistance to families through an online application for new mothers to strategic documents aimed at strengthening the social protection system in the long term. The Ministry therefore not only ensures continuity in the work of shelters through funding and formalised cooperation with the non-governmental sector, but also develops digital tools for providing faster and more transparent support to citizens, including an online application for one-off assistance to new mothers. It also develops strategic measures to reduce poverty, promote the inclusion of marginalised groups and strengthen institutional capacity. Together, these activities demonstrate that the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy is building an integrated social protection system linking emergency interventions, including the accommodation of victims of violence, direct financial assistance to families and long-term policies aimed at prevention and the empowerment of vulnerable groups. In 2026, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UN Women in BiH reinforcing cooperation on strengthening the social protection system in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a particular focus on protecting victims of violence, improving the professional capacity of the protection system and supporting civilian victims of war.

In the Republika Srpska, all analyses conducted to date indicate that perpetrators are predominantly men, accounting for an average of 90%, while victims are most commonly

women. Most perpetrators and victims of domestic violence are between 31 and 50 years of age. Domestic violence in the Republika Srpska most commonly takes two forms: intimate partner violence between spouses or common-law partners and intergenerational violence perpetrated by children against their parents, which is on the rise. The most frequently recorded forms of domestic violence are physical, psychological and combined violence. Other forms of violence, including economic and sexual violence, are recorded less frequently. Of all forms of violence against women, domestic violence predominates, accounting for more than 90% of all recorded criminal offences involving violence against women. Since the baseline evaluation, the Republika Srpska has intensified efforts to include the digital dimension of violence against women in prevention activities. This is also a result of amendments to criminal legislation recognising digital forms of violence against women. Recent years have also seen an increase in budgetary allocations in the Republika Srpska for combating domestic violence. Allocations for the work of the coordinating body monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Republika Srpska increased as follows: 2022: BAM 503,500, increased through budget realignments to BAM 539,800 and subsequently to BAM 549,900; 2023: BAM 609,400, increased through a budget realignment to BAM 610,500; 2024: BAM 503,500, increased through a budget realignment to BAM 620,400; 2025: BAM 618,000, increased through a budget realignment to BAM 714,200, demonstrating an upward trend. Allocations for accommodating victims of domestic violence increased as follows: 2022: BAM 300,000, increased through a budget realignment to BAM 340,000, with final budget expenditure of BAM 343,900; 2023: BAM 300,000, increased through a budget realignment to BAM 345,000; 2024: BAM 300,000, increased through a budget realignment to BAM 480,000, with final budget expenditure of BAM 523,000; and 2025: BAM 400,000, increased through a budget realignment to BAM 500,000. In addition to the year-on-year increase in funding from the budget of the Republika Srpska for organisations providing accommodation and care to victims of violence and conducting prevention and protection activities, funds are also allocated from the budget of the Republika Srpska to support the Association of Women Victims of War. In July, the Government of the Republika Srpska adopted a decision increasing the monthly benefit for unemployed parents of four or more children from BAM 750 to BAM 800. A total of 5,094 persons currently exercise this right, of whom 4,225, or 83%, are women.

e. emerging trends related to access to asylum and international protection for women victims of violence against women.

No emerging trends have been recorded concerning access to asylum and international protection for women who are victims of gender-based violence.

Part IV: Administrative data and statistics

57. Please provide annual statistics for two complete calendar years prior to receiving this questionnaire on administrative and judicial data on:

Statistical data are presented in Appendix 1 and pertain to the following criminal offences:

- *Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH: 166-174, 179, 180, 183, 188, 189, 203-213, 222, 362*
- *Criminal Code of the Republika Srpska: 124-138, 141, 142, 144, 145, 149, 150, 155, 156, 156a, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 170a, 171, 183, 190, 191, 192, 193, 210, 362*
- *Criminal Code of the Brčko District of BiH: 163-173a, 177, 178a, 180, 181, 185, 186, 186a, 200, 200a, 202, 203, 205, 207, 212a, 217, 218, 218a, 356*

a. the number of reports, investigations opened, prosecutions, final convictions secured and sanctions imposed in respect of all forms of violence against women and domestic violence covered by the Istanbul Convention;

The data for the Federation of BiH are provided in the Annex to this document (excerpt from the statistical data of the FBiH Gender Centre and data from the HJPC of BiH).

- b. the number of emergency barring orders issued by the competent authorities, the number of breaches of such orders, and the number of sanctions imposed as a result of these breaches;

The data for the Federation of BiH are provided in the Annex to this document (excerpt from the statistical data of the FBiH Gender Centre and data from the HJPC of BiH).

- c. the number of protection orders issued, the number of breaches of such orders and the number of sanctions imposed as a result of such breaches;

The data for the Federation of BiH are provided in the Annex to this document (excerpt from the statistical data of the FBiH Gender Centre and data from the HJPC of BiH).

- d. data on the number of decisions issued by family courts on custody/visitation/residence of children that have expressly taken into account incidents of domestic violence.

The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have the requested data.

During 2024 and 2025, 2,090 reports of domestic violence were recorded in the Republika Srpska. A total of 518 indictments were issued, of which 493 were confirmed. During the same period, 336 convictions were handed down. A total of 384 emergency protective measures and 99 security measures under the Criminal Code of the Republika Srpska were imposed during the same period. 31 criminal sanctions were imposed for breaches of security measures and protective measures. Numerous factors are considered when deciding on the exercise of parental rights in respect of a child. Particular attention is given to the family context, parental capacities, relationships between family members and any history of domestic violence. According to data submitted for this Report by ten basic courts, three district courts and the Supreme Court, one case was recorded during 2024 and 2025 involving non-contentious proceedings for the deprivation of parental rights due to violence perpetrated by one parent against the other.

According to the Statistics Institute of the Republika Srpska, the following criminal offences falling within the scope of the Istanbul Convention were also recorded in the period 2024-2025:

- *Avoiding payment of maintenance - 773*
- *Neglecting and maltreating a child - 83*
- *Abduction of a child - 13*
- *Nonmatrimonial cohabitation with a child - 5*
- *Sexual harassment - 28*
- *Rape - 13*
- *Procuring for prostitution - 3*
- *Sexual extortion - 1*
- *Abuse of a child for pornography - 21*
- *Sexual intercourse with a child under fifteen years of age - 18*
- *Sexual abuse of a child over fifteen years of age – 5*
- *Showing pornography to a child – 4*
- *Infringement of child's privacy - 1*
- *Change of the family status - 1*
- *Breach of family obligations - 1*
- *Lewd acts - 1*
- *Use of computer network or other technical means of communication in criminal offences of sexual abuse and exploitation of a child - 1*

The Police of the Brčko District of BiH is a member of the working group established by the Government of the Brčko District of BiH for amendments to the 2018 Law on Protection against Domestic Violence in the Brčko District of BiH. Planned amendments to the Law and the accompanying Rulebook on the implementation of emergency protective measures

and protective measures within the competence of the Police of the Brčko District of BiH are expected in the fourth quarter of 2026.

In 2025, there were 40 domestic violence cases in the Brčko District of BiH. Investigations were completed in 31 cases involving the criminal offence of domestic violence, of which 29 dated from the reporting period and two from the preceding period. Reports were submitted against 31 persons to the Prosecutor's Office of the Brčko District of BiH due to grounds for suspicion that they had committed the criminal offences concerned. In addition, investigations were completed in 11 KTA cases concerning the determination of whether the elements of a criminal offence existed. Reports were submitted against one person to the Prosecutor's Office of the Brčko District of BiH due to the grounds for suspicion that the person had committed 11 criminal offences of domestic violence. In 2024, there were 22 domestic violence cases in the Brčko District of BiH. Investigations were completed in 24 cases involving the criminal offence of domestic violence, of which 20 dated from the reporting period and four from the preceding period. Reports were submitted against 24 persons to the Prosecutor's Office of the Brčko District of BiH due to grounds for suspicion that they had committed the criminal offences concerned. Investigations were completed in four KTA cases concerning the determination of whether the elements of a criminal offence existed. Reports were submitted against four persons to the Prosecutor's Office of the Brčko District of BiH due to the grounds for suspicion that they had committed four criminal offences of domestic violence. Emergency protective measures are imposed by the decision of the Basic Court of the Brčko District of BiH. The precise number of decisions issued is also recorded on this basis. Between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2025, the Prosecutor's Office of the Brčko District of BiH received a total of 86 reports or criminal reports due to grounds for suspicion that the criminal offence of domestic violence under Article 218(1), (2) and (3) of the Criminal Code of the Brčko District of BiH had been committed. During the same period, the Prosecutor's Office of the Brčko District of BiH ordered investigations in 80 cases. Following the investigations, indictments were filed against 32 persons in 31 cases. During the same period, the competent courts of the Brčko District of BiH delivered a total of 32 final verdicts concerning the criminal offence of domestic violence under Article 218(1), (2) and (3) of the Criminal Code of the Brčko District of BiH, of which in 13 cases, 13 persons were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment; in 15 cases, 15 persons received suspended sentences; in two cases, two persons were fined; and in two cases, three persons were acquitted. Regarding data on specialised training and professional development for professional staff of the Prosecutor's Office of the Brčko District of BiH, including initial or specialised training on violence against women, no initial or specialised training in this field attended by prosecutors or expert associates of this Prosecutor's Office was recorded during the preceding year. Before the Basic Court of the Brčko District of BiH, 42 criminal proceedings were instigated, with verdicts delivered in 34 cases. Sanctions were imposed in 29 cases, there was one case of acquittal, and two verdicts have not become final.

APPENDIX 1

Table 1: Initial training (education or professional training)

Please fill in the table and list the professionals (in the area of healthcare, law enforcement, criminal justice, social welfare, education, asylum and migration, media/journalism and support services) which have received initial training on violence against women. Please place each category of professional in a separate line.

Between 2020 and 2024, the Centre for Gender Equity and Equality of the Republika Srpska delivered training on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, attended by a total of 277 representatives of the police, healthcare, social protection, the judiciary and education sectors. In addition, the Centre conducted mentoring sessions in several dozen local communities in the Republika Srpska to ensure the sustainability of multisectoral work through the proper implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

Professionals	Do they benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence?	Is the training mandatory?	Is the training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Who funds the training?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Participants in basic police training for the rank of “police officer” in the cantonal ministries of the interior	YES By systematical ly training hundreds of cadets under the new curriculum,	YES	The training forms an integral part of the Curriculum of the Police Academy of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. When the curriculum was revised in 2025, a new subject entitled “Domestic Violence, Juvenile Delinquency and	All activities within the remit of the Federal Ministry of the Interior are funded from the budget of the Government of the Federation of BiH	The training comprises a total of 30 classes, divided into three forms of instruction: Lectures: 17 classes; Practical exercises: 7 classes; Scenario-based training 6 classes; Brief description of the training content The training programme focuses on the work of police officers in protection from violence and in dealing with specific categories of persons, including victims and juveniles. The content is divided into eight thematic units:

	the police are developing a younger force that systematically eradicates outdated stereotypes in practice and introduces a new, gender-sensitive work culture.		Gender-Based Violence” was introduced. The curriculum was enhanced by introducing specialised practical training on gender-sensitive responses, aligned with the Istanbul Convention and focused on recognising trauma in victims. The focus has shifted from theory alone to the immediate protection of victims’ rights, the prevention of secondary traumatisation and the effective identification of gender-motivated hate crimes. The Curriculum is available on this link: https://policijska-akademija.fmup.gov.ba/stranica.php?idstranica=152		Introduction and theoretical frameworks – 5 classes An examination of the concepts of sex and gender, the forms and dynamics of violence, particularly violence against women and domestic violence, and the effects of trauma on victims. This unit also covers the principles of gender-sensitive policing and international standards, including the Istanbul Convention. Legal framework on domestic violence – 2 classes An introduction to the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the accompanying rulebooks governing protective measures. Police response to domestic violence – 5 classes Practical steps starting from receiving a report and the initial intervention to assessing the risk to the victim, notifying the prosecutor’s office, to implementing protective measures and coordinating with social work centres, healthcare institutions and shelters. Protection instruments in criminal law in cases of gender-based violence and hate crimes – 5 classes An analysis of criminal offences against life and limb, sexual freedom and morality, marriage, family and youth, as well as hate crimes under the CC of FBiH. Police response to gender- and sex-based violence - 4 classes Specific aspects of the initial interview with a victim, the collection of evidence, maintaining the confidentiality of information, and protecting the victim’s identity and privacy when testifying. Hate crimes - 4 classes Defining and identifying hatred as a motive, including bias indicators, collecting evidence, conducting investigations and submitting reports to the
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					prosecutor's office. Juvenile delinquency and children as victims - 4 classes Application of the Law on the Protection and Treatment of Children and Juveniles in Criminal Proceedings. This includes issuing police cautions, the specific aspects of the arrest and questioning of juveniles, and procedures in cases involving children as victims. Final stage - 1 class Analysis of the results achieved, evaluation of the programme and assessment of training participants. Link: <u>NASILJE U PORODICI, MALOLJETNIČKA DELINKVENCIJA I RODNOZASNOVANO NASILJE.docx</u>
Participants in basic police training for the rank of "junior inspector" in the cantonal ministries of the interior	YES	YES	The training forms an integral part of the Curriculum of the Police Academy of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. When the curriculum was revised in 2025, a new subject entitled "Domestic Violence, Juvenile Delinquency and Gender-Based Violence" was introduced. The curriculum was enhanced by introducing specialised practical training on gender-sensitive responses, aligned with the Istanbul Convention and focused on	All activities within the remit of the Federal Ministry of the Interior are funded from the budget of the Government of the Federation of BiH	The training comprises a total of 30 classes, divided into the following forms of instruction: Lectures (theory): 17 classes; Practical exercises: 7 classes; Scenario-based training (field simulation): 6 classes; The training is divided into 8 thematic units covering the theoretical, legal and practical aspects of the police response: Introduction and international standards - 5 classes Basic concepts of sex and gender, forms and statistics of violence, relationship dynamics, including the power and control wheel, the effects of trauma on victims, and key international instruments such as the Istanbul Convention. Legal frameworks on domestic violence - 2 classes An introduction to the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the rulebooks governing record-keeping and the implementation of protective measures.

		recognising trauma in victims. The focus has shifted from theory alone to the immediate protection of victims' rights, the prevention of secondary traumatisation and the effective identification of gender-motivated hate crimes. The Curriculum is available on this link: nasilje u porodici, maloljetnička delinkvencija i rodnozasnovano nasilje.docx	Police response to domestic violence – 5 classes Practical steps starting from receiving a report and taking urgent first action to assessing the risk to the victim, collecting evidence and cooperating with social work centres, healthcare institutions and shelters. Protection instruments in criminal law in cases of gender-based violence and hate crimes – 5 classes An analysis of criminal offences against life and limb, sexual freedom and morality, marriage, family and youth, under the FBiH legislation. Specific aspects of the response to gender- and sex-based violence - 4 classes Techniques for conducting the initial interview with a victim, securing evidence, protecting the victim's privacy and identity, and specific aspects of giving testimony, including the use of audiovisual means and protected witnesses. Hate crimes - 4 classes Identifying indicators and motives of hatred/bias, proving hatred as an aggravating circumstance or as an element of an aggravated form of an offence, conducting investigations and submitting reports. Juvenile perpetrators and offences against children - 4 classes Application of the Law on the Protection and Treatment of Children and Juveniles in Criminal Proceedings, the issuing of police cautions, and the rules governing sensitive and urgent procedures, including arrest and questioning, in cases involving juveniles. Final stage - 1 class Analysis of the work, evaluation of the training and assessment of participants. This training equips police officers with the specialised knowledge and skills needed to recognise the dynamics of domestic and gender-based violence, protect victims'
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					privacy and properly investigate hate crimes.
Judges and prosecutors	Yes	No	yes	AIRE Centre	The Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centre of the Republika Srpska and the Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centre of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the AIRE Centre in London, provided an e-learning course entitled “Basic Training on Gender Equality.” Interested participants could complete the self-paced course until the end of December 2025. The course was intended for judges, prosecutors, expert associates and advisers in judicial institutions, as well as all other employees of judicial institutions. It was available in all the languages spoken in the Western Balkans. The online gender equality course consisted of three modules: Module I explaining why gender equality concerns us. Upon completing this module, participants were expected to be better able to: • understand the concept of gender equality; • understand the concepts of sex and gender and the distinction between them; and • understand the concepts of gender roles, gender identities and sexual orientation and the distinctions between them. Module II examining gender bias and stereotypes as causes of discrimination. Upon completing this module, participants were expected to be able to: • understand the concepts of stereotypes and bias, including gender stereotypes and gender bias; • recognise gender stereotypes and bias as causes of discrimination; • understand the concept, forms and specific characteristics of discrimination, with particular emphasis on discrimination against women. Module III analysing the issue of violence against women. Upon completing this module, participants were expected to be able to: • understand violence against women as a form of gender-based violence;

					• recognise the different forms and manifestations of violence against women; • understand the prevalence of violence against women in the Western Balkans region.
Judges and prosecutors	Yes	No	Yes	CEST RS and CEST FBiH	Initial training for sexual and gender-based harassment prevention advisers in judicial institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Judges and prosecutors	Yes	No	Yes	The project “European Union Support for the Promotion of Gender Equality and the Prevention of Discrimination in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, in cooperation with the Sarajevo Open Centre	Specific aspects of access to justice from the perspective of members of vulnerable groups
Newly appointed judges and prosecutors	yes	yes	yes	CEST RS and CEST FBiH	Specific aspects of access to justice from the perspective of members of vulnerable groups (children, persons with disabilities, Roma, LGBTI, marginalized groups of women)

Social workers	yes	-	-	Atlantic Initiative / Government of Sweden	"Gender-based Violence against Roma Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina"
Social workers and psychologists	yes	-	-	Propulsion Makerspace/Council of Europe	"Connected and Safe - Local Response to Digital Gender-Based Violence"
Social workers Yes	yes	-	-	Foundation "United Women" Banja Luka	"State Obligations concerning the Protection of Victims of Violence: Strategies, Operational Objectives, and Local-Level Coordination and Cooperation Groups"
Social workers and psychologists Yes - -	yes	-	-	Foundation "United Women" Banja Luka	"Support to Victims of Violence in the Republika Srpska"
Social workers, psychologists and pedagogists	yes	MISP Manual	-	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA BiH), in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare - Healthcare Sector	"Minimum Initial Service Package for Sexual and Reproductive Health"
Social workers, special education professionals, psychologists and lawyers	yes	no	yes	Foundation "United Women" Banja Luka	A two-day training course entitled "Strengthening Capacities for Working with Women and Child Survivors of Violence." This two-day training focused on strengthening capacities for working with women and child survivors of violence, with particular emphasis on institutional support, including interventions by social work centres, planning professional work with victims of violence, developing individual support plans and providing support during the process of becoming independent. Social workers and lawyers Yes Yes Yes The JaBiHEU Association and the Dignitet Association, under the project "Advancing the Legal and Social Matrix to Prevent Femicide and Gender-Based Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina," funded by the European Union. Two two-day training courses comprising theoretical

					and practical components, during which participants analysed challenges in the existing system, exchanged examples of good practice and jointly proposed sustainable solutions. The training sought to create a forum for multisectoral dialogue among institutions, professionals and civil society, foster a deeper understanding of femicide and improve joint action aimed at building a safer society for all citizens.
Social workers	yes	yes	yes	Foundation "United Women"	Workshop entitled "Child Victims of Violence in the Support System." The training was delivered to sensitise professionals working with victims of gender-based violence. In the thematic sessions, participants had an opportunity to share their professional experiences and the obstacles they encounter, as well as to suggest ways in which support service providers could respond more effectively to cases of domestic violence.
Social worker	yes	no	yes	Foundation "United Women" Banja Luka	The role of social work centres in supporting the rehabilitation of victims of violence at the local level
Lawyers, pedagogists and social workers	yes	no	yes	Foundation "United Women" and Austrian Development Agency	Training on professional work with victims of violence in social work centres, including the planning of such work.
Social workers	yes	no	yes	UNICEF	A multidisciplinary approach to combating domestic violence and other forms of violence against children and women. The six-day training focused on combating domestic violence and other forms of violence against children and women.
Social workers	yes	no	yes	The Most Women's Association, Višegrad, and the Budućnost Citizens' Association, Modriča	Training on establishing and applying referral mechanisms, including mechanisms for institutional action and interinstitutional referrals, as well as collecting data and reporting on gender-based violence and violence against children.
Social workers and psychologists	yes	no	yes	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare	Training of trainers entitled "Stop Domestic Violence," intended for healthcare and social workers as part of the implementation of the Strategy for Combating Domestic

					Violence in the Republika Srpska.
Psychologists	yes	no	yes	OSCE	Training entitled "Education for Social Justice"
Psychologists	yes	no	Yes	UNICEF	Training for trainers under the specialist training programme on the application of the Guidelines for Responding to Cases of Violence against Children in BiH, Jahorina.
Psychologists	yes	no	Yes	UNICEF and DPRS	The Psychological World of an Abused and Neglected Child
Social workers	yes	No	no	OSCE	One-day training entitled "Strengthening Multisectoral Responses to Domestic Violence."
Social workers	yes	No	no	UNICEF and BHIDAPA	Certified specialist training by an interdisciplinary network of professionals entitled "Here and Now – Care about Adolescent Girls."
Lawyers and psychologists	yes	no	yes	Swedish organization Kvinna till Kvinna	Training entitled "Attitudes as an Element of the Approach to Handling Cases of Violence," which also presented the roles and responsibilities of the police and social work centres in arranging shelter accommodation for victims of violence.
Social workers	yes	no	yes	Foundation "Lara"	Training entitled: "Information Session on Strengthening Support for Victims of Sexual Violence"
Social workers, psychologists, police officers, judges and prosecutors	yes	No	no	Centre for Gender Equity and Equality of the Republika Srpska	Training for protection providers in the Republika Srpska - digital violence
Social workers, psychologists, police officers, judges and prosecutors	yes	No	no	Centre for Gender Equity and Equality of the Republika Srpska	Training for protection providers in the Republika Srpska - sexual violence
Specialist training for police officers handling domestic violence cases, which certifies them to conduct risk assessments of domestic violence perpetrators. Police officers of the Ministry of the Interior of the	yes	yes	yes	Ministry of the Interior of the Republika Srpska, internal resources. One training course was delivered in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.	The training lasts ten days, comprising five days of theoretical and five days of practical training. TOPIC 1: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TOPIC 2: INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL LEGAL STANDARDS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TOPIC 3: SECONDARY LEGISLATION – RULEBOOKS OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIKA SRPSKA TOPIC 4: CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TOPIC 5: CRIMINAL-INVESTIGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Republika Srpska who, upon completing the training, become certified to conduct risk assessments.					TOPIC 6: STATEMENTS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES TOPIC 7: RISK ASSESSMENT TOPIC 8: DOCUMENTING ACTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PARTICIPANTS' INDIVIDUAL WORK Preparation and presentation of an individual assignment based on a specific case.
One-day seminar for cadets entitled "Work of Police Officers in the Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Violence in the Republika Srpska."	yes	no	yes	Ministry of the Interior of RS and the Foundation "United Women"	This is a one-day seminar comprising 6 classes. The following topics are covered: Topic 1: Understanding the psychological state and needs of victims of sexual violence Topic 2: Sexual violence - definition of key concepts and the domestic legal framework Topic 3: Police response to sexual offences Topic 4: Support services for victims of sexual violence
"Proactive Legal" Club	yes	no	yes	Secondary School of Internal Affairs	The club meets once a week for workshops and lectures. Club members also deliver workshops in other schools covering topics related to violence.
"Juveniles and the Police" Club	yes	no	yes	Secondary School of Internal Affairs	The club meets once a week for workshops and lectures. Club members also deliver workshops in other schools covering topics related to violence. Students who participated in the club were certified as peer educators by the Ombudsman for Children.
Educational workers	yes	no	yes	RS Ministry of Education and Culture, RS Pedagogical Institute with the support of UNFPA	Training entitled "Healthy Lifestyles"
School principals	yes	no	yes	RS Ministry of Education and Culture	Implementation of the Child Protection Protocol
Educational workers	yes	no	yes	RS Ministry of Education and Culture	Training for the subject "Humanity and Security"

Class teachers	yes	no	yes	RS Ministry of Education and Culture	Training entitled "Skills for Adolescence"
Educational workers	yes	no	yes	RS Ministry of Education and Culture	Training in preschool institutions on the use of child development assessment tools
Educational workers	yes	no	yes	RS Ministry of Education and Culture	Social inclusion
Educational workers	yes	no	yes	RS Ministry of Education and Culture	Building pedagogical and digital competencies
School principals and pedagogists	yes	no	yes	RS Ministry of Education and Culture	Trainings covering the topics of inclusion, social justice, cultural diversity, violence prevention
Representatives of the law enforcement, healthcare, social protection, judiciary and education sectors	yes	no	No	Centre for Gender Equity and Equality of the Republika Srpska	delivered trainings on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention attended by 277 participants in total. In addition, the Centre conducted
Multisectoral teams	yes	no	no	Centre for Gender Equity and Equality of the Republika Srpska	mentoring sessions in several dozen local communities in the Republika Srpska to ensure the sustainability of multisectoral work through the proper implementation of the Istanbul Convention.
Staff of the guardianship authorities, Department of Health	yes	yes	yes	Government of the BD of BiH	Digital violence against women
Lawyers in the Department of Health	yes	yes	yes		Gender equality, support to LGBTI, support to victims of violence, etc.

Table 2: In-service training

Please fill in the table and list the professionals (in the area of healthcare, law enforcement, criminal justice, social welfare, education, asylum and migration, media/journalism and support services) which receive in-service training on violence against women. Please place each category of professional in a separate line.

Professionals	Number of trained professionals	Is the training mandatory ?	Frequency	Frequency Training supported by guidelines and protocols?	Please describe the content and duration of the training
Senior expert associate for labour inspection and operational planning	1	no	periodically	No	Workshop on defining recommendations based on the gap analysis, as a supplement to the plan for implementing the GREVIO findings for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Sexual and Digital Dimensions of Violence against Women Objective of the workshop: to improve reporting on the digital and sexual dimensions of violence against women in accordance with the GREVIO monitoring framework. The workshop was held on 12 and 13 May 2025.
Senior expert associate – inspector for foreign nationals; senior expert associate – inspector for foreign nationals; and independent training officer	3	no	periodically	No	Regional conference on gender-based violence in migration flows held on 5-6 March 2025 in Skopje, North Macedonia
Family medicine specialists Psychiatrists Nurses and visiting nurses Psychologists working in mental health centres Social workers	1822	No	Three trainings per year	Yes	Title of the training: "Strengthening the Health System Response to Gender-Based Violence in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina" The training is intended for primary healthcare institutions (healthcare centres), specifically for frontline healthcare professionals and associates who come into direct contact with victims/survivors of gender-based violence. The general objectives of the training are to: - ensure a thorough understanding of gender-based violence, including sexual violence and torture in conflict; - provide the tools needed when engaging and interacting with victims/survivors of gender-based violence; - using skills to protect the health of victims; and - foster victim-centred approaches and conduct among healthcare providers. Upon completing the training, participants are able to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in practice and adopt a victim-centred approach when working with victims/survivors of gender-based violence. The training lasts: 3 days (15 modules)
Specialists in gynaecology and gynaecology nurses Specialists in urology	73	No	Two trainings per year	Yes	Title of the training: "Clinical Management of Rape and Other Forms of Sexual Violence" The training is intended for healthcare professionals working in hospital gynaecology departments who need to be familiar with the

					basic procedures for responding to rape and other forms of sexual violence. It provides detailed guidance on the clinical management of rape (irrespective of whether it involves women, men or children); including how to conduct a comprehensive physical examination, document the findings and provide healthcare to survivors. The training lasts: 1 day
Staff of mental health centres: Psychiatrists Psychologists Social workers	28	No	One training in three years <i>*For lack of funding</i>	Yes	Title of the training: "Delivery of Psychosocial Treatment for Perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence" The training is intended for community mental health centres organised within healthcare centres. The protective measure of mandatory psychosocial treatment is implemented by community mental health centres. The objectives of the training are to: - train professionals to manage psychosocial treatment for perpetrators of violence; - sensitise professionals working with perpetrators of violence; - empower professionals to work with perpetrators of violence; - strengthen professional cooperation among specialists from different disciplines; - facilitate the exchange of knowledge and skills among professionals; - train professionals to implement the protective measure of mandatory psychosocial treatment for perpetrators of violence. The training is delivered in accordance with a curriculum covering the following topics: - the legislative and regulatory framework governing the psychosocial treatment of perpetrators of gender-based violence in BiH and the Federation of BiH; - the theoretical foundations and underlying principles of psychosocial treatment; - post-traumatic stress disorder and violence; - alcohol and drug abuse and intimate partner violence; - social stress, transition, male unemployment and the risk of violence; - psychosocial treatment for perpetrators of gender-based violence and domestic violence as a method of rehabilitation The training lasts: 12 days (four three-day modules)
Civil servants	75 participants in 2024 235 participants in 2025	No	Following the Professional Development Curriculum of the Civil Service Agency of FBiH	Yes as per the Curriculum	Trainings by the Civil Service Agency of FBiH - Corruption and gender-based violence - Gender equality and gender-based discrimination - Implementation of legislation in the area of domestic violence and violence against women - support to implementation of national and international instruments - Identifying and preventing unconscious bias in public administration - Prejudice and stereotypes as causes of discrimination - Protection of persons with disability
Judicial office holders	900 participants	No	Following the	Yes as per the	Training delivered by the Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centres (22 programmes)

	in 2024 305 participants in 2025		Professional Development Curriculum of the Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centre	Curriculum	in 2024 and 18 programmes in 2024) The training programmes covered domestic violence, violence against women, discrimination and gender equality, as well as the exposure to violence of groups subject to intersectional discrimination, including minorities and persons with disabilities.
Police officers	Under 25 different training programmes intended for police officers and participants from other institutions, a total of 149 training courses were delivered in 2025 and attended by 3,182 participants, of whom 83% were men and 17% women. In 2024, the training courses were attended by 651 participants, of whom 89% were men and 11% women.		In accordance with the programme of the Federal Ministry of the Interior	Yes as per the Curriculum	The Federal Ministry of the Interior provides continuous training for police officers. In 2025, it delivered a total of 25 training programmes addressing domestic violence, violence against women, discrimination and gender equality, as well as the exposure to violence of groups subject to intersectional discrimination, including minorities and persons with disabilities. Basic training included the topic "Domestic Violence, Juvenile Delinquency and Gender-Based Domestic Violence." Specialist training included the topic "Hate Crimes and Freedom of Assembly." Other specialised training covered various topics, including: "Gender-Based Violence and the Prevention of Femicide"; "Violence against Women and Children in the Digital Environment"; "Domestic Violence – A Standardised Approach to Handling Cases in this Field"; "Improving the Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Violence Cases"; "Sensitising Professionals Responding to Reports of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence"; "Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH: Application of the New Law"; and other related topics.
Professionals working in the social and child protection system in the field of protection from domestic and gender-based violence	Two training courses were delivered to 39 participants, of whom 23% were men and 77% women.		In accordance with the programme of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	Yes as per the Programme	In 2024, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy adopted the Training Programme for Professionals Working in the Social and Child Protection System in the Field of Protection from Domestic and Gender-Based Violence. The Programme is aimed at strengthening the professional competencies of social workers, pedagogists, psychologists and other professionals to ensure better and more effective protection for victims of violence. Training was delivered in 2024 and 2025 and continues in 2026.
Judges	-	no	yes	yes	"Digital Violence against Women and Girls: The Legal Response and Challenges at the Sanction Enforcement Stage"; "Domestic Violence and Violence against Women: Causes, Consequences and Legal Protection";

					"Technology-Facilitated Violence against Women and Girls: Practice and Challenges"; and "Conducting Investigations into the Criminal Offence of Domestic Violence or Violence within the Family Unit."
Prosecutors	-	no	yes	Yes	"Digital Violence against Women and Girls: The Legal Response and Challenges at the Sanction Enforcement Stage"; "Domestic Violence and Violence against Women: Causes, Consequences and Legal Protection"; "Technology-Facilitated Violence against Women and Girls: Practice and Challenges"; and "Conducting Investigations into the Criminal Offence of Domestic Violence or Violence within the Family Unit."
Police officers	-	No	yes	yes	"Digital Violence against Women and Girls: The Legal Response and Challenges at the Sanction Enforcement Stage"; "Domestic Violence and Violence against Women: Causes, Consequences and Legal Protection"; "Technology-Facilitated Violence against Women and Girls: Practice and Challenges"
A seminar entitled "Domestic Violence or Violence within the Family Unit" for Police Academy cadets forms an integral part of the regular curriculum.	181	Yes	Continued	Yes	This is a one-day seminar comprising 4 lessons. The following topics are covered: Preventative and protective measures against domestic violence Institutional response to domestic violence Assistance and support for victims through specialist support services Police response in cases of domestic violence and violence within the family unit Police response in cases of domestic violence and violence within the family unit/EXERCISE
Course: "Digital Environment and the Police"	188	yes	Continued	Yes	The course is compulsory and is taught throughout the fourth year at the Secondary School of Internal Affairs. Part of the curriculum covers digital violence.
Police officers, social workers, psychologists, pedagogists, judges, prosecutors, educational workers	277	no	No	Yes	Four-day multisectoral training on the provision of services in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, organised by the Centre for Gender Equity and Equality of the RS and delivered between 2020 and 2024.
Educational workers	117	yes	Continued	yes	Two-day training courses under the "Skills for Adolescence" programme, delivered by the RS Pedagogical Institute and the RS Ministry of Education and Culture.
Course: "Domestic Violence and the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Peer Violence"	188	yes	Continued	yes	The course is compulsory and is taught throughout the fourth year at the Secondary School of Internal Affairs. It covers the forms of domestic violence, the legal framework, sanctions, police response, recidivism and victimisation.

APPENDIX 2

Excerpt from statistical data of the FBiH Gender Centre

Table 1: Number of reported cases of domestic violence*

2022	2023	2024	2025
1,270	1,655	1,888	2,391

* Data from Ministries of the Interior of the Cantons pursuant to Article 222 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH.

Table 2: Number of reports on the commission of a criminal offence*

2023	2024	2025
1,237	1,433	2,109

* Data from Ministries of the Interior of the Cantons pursuant to Article 222 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH.

Table 3: Number of indictments issued*

2022	2023	2024	2025
445	636	701	838

*Data from Cantonal Prosecutor's Offices pursuant to Article 222 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH, obtained from HJPC (from CMS).

Table 4: Number of convictions*

Year	Total number of sanctions	Imprisonment	Fine	Suspended sentence	Other (caution and security measures)
2022	318	16%	6%	78%	0%
2023	341	17%	7%	72%	4%
2024	395	17%	5%	73%	5%
2025	442	19%	2%	59%	

*Data from Municipal Courts pursuant to Article 222 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH, obtained from HJPC (from CMS).

Table 5: Perpetrators convicted of the criminal offences of domestic violence, by gender*

Year	Total number of perpetrators	Men	Women
2022	447	93%	7%
2023	2,046	91%	9%
2024	1,171	94%	6%
2025	3,090	91%	9%

*Data from Municipal Courts pursuant to Article 222 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH, obtained from HJPC (from CMS).

Table 6: Injured parties in convictions for the criminal offences of domestic violence*

Year	Total number of injured parties	Men	Women
2022	1,935	20%	80%
2023	2,070	22%	78%
2024	839	21%	79%
2025	3,327	23%	77%

*Data from Municipal Courts pursuant to Article 222 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH, obtained from HJPC (from CMS).

Table 7: Children in convictions for the criminal offences of domestic violence (injured parties)*

Year	Total number of injured parties	Boys	Girls
2018	77	56%	44%
2019	86	34%	66%
2020	60	50%	50%

*Data from Municipal Courts pursuant to Article 222 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH, obtained from HJPC (from CMS).

Table 8: Information on protective measures under the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence - information provided by HJPC (from CMS)*

Year	Number of protective measures ordered						Persons subject to protective measures				Persons protected by protective measures			
	a*	b*	c*	d*	e*	f*	men	women	boys	girls	men	women	boys	girls
2022	38	278	249	55	30	1	400	19			66	249		
	651						419				315			
2023	157	537	429	96	55	2	632	70			80	275		
	1276						702 (+23 without gender identification)				355 (+24 without gender identification)			
2024	275	760	598	168	95	14	860	70			116	454	7	4
	1910						930 (+18 without gender identification)				581 (+57 without gender identification)			
2025	262	950	1,152	200	151	21	1,226	107	2	0	136	586	38	41
	2,736						1,335				801			

a* - removal from the apartment, house or dwelling and ban on returning to the apartment, house or other dwelling (includes also: removal from the apartment, house or other dwelling and ban on returning to the apartment, house or other dwelling, under the previous law)

b* - prohibition on approaching the victim and, where necessary, the victim's children (includes also: prohibition on approaching the victim of violence, under the previous law)

c* - prohibition on communicating with, harassing or stalking the victim (includes also: ban on harassment or stalking of the person subjected to violence, under the previous law)

d* - mandatory psychosocial treatment

e* - mandatory treatment for addiction

f* - provisional arrest and detention

Table 9: Number of protective measures vs. reported cases of domestic violence

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of reports	1,270	1,655	1,888	2,391
Number of protective measures	651	1,276	1,910	2,736
% of protective measures vs. number of reports	51%	77%	101%	114%

Table 10: Number of victims of domestic violence accommodated in shelters*

Number of victims of domestic violence accommodated in shelters*																					
Shelter name	Number of women victims of violence							Number of children victims of violence							Total victims of violence						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Association "Žene sa Une" Bihac	14	23	30	20	43	24	19	26	52	56	52	23	31	46	40	75	86	72	66	55	65
Citizens Association "Vive Žene - Tuzla	42	40	39	36	45	45	75	26	41	46	37	49	47	76	68	81	85	73	94	92	151
Association "Medica" Zenica	24	18	18	15	22	24	28	37	25	51	34	40	31	37	61	43	69	49	62	55	65
Foundation for Local Democracy Sarajevo	45	24	42	44	52	61	44	67	31	67	37	34	56	70	112	55	109	81	86	117	114
Association "Žena BiH" Mostar	8	9	12	10	14	8	12	9	7	20	5	12	11	20	17	16	32	15	26	18	32
TOTAL:	118	114	141	125	176	161	178	146	156	240	165	158	186	249	298	270	381	290	334	347	427

*Data source: Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy

Table 11: Number of calls to the helpline 1265

Year	2022		2023		2024	
Number of calls	1,559		2,407		2,225	
Callers by gender	M	F	M	F	M	F
	12%	88%	26%	74%	10%	90%

Table 12: Number of murdered women in Bosnia and Herzegovina

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
18	15	10	8	10	5	7	12	13	12

Table 13: Relationship between the victim and the perpetrator according to verdicts pursuant to Article 222 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH - HJPC data from CMS

	2024	2025		2024	2025		2024	2025
Ex partner	38	95	Mother - son	75	146	Son - stepmother	1	3
Brother - brother	34	52	Other (friend, colleague, relative...)	13	30	Son - stepfather	5	2
Brother - sister	14	10	No relationship	1	1	Son - father	52	106
Grandfather - granddaughter	1	4	Stepfather - daughter	3	2	Daughter-in-law - mother-in-law (husband's mother)	1	1
			Stepfather - son	-	2			
Daughter - mother	13	14	Father - daughter	31	54	Husband - wife	210	230
Daughter - stepfather	4	1	Father - son	56	75	Wife - husband	211	343
Daughter - father	60	132	Father-in-law (wife's father) - son-in-law	2	3	Mother-in-law (husband's mother) - daughter-in-law	3	1
Persons who have a child together or have conceived a child	1	-	Sister - brother	7	22	Grandson - grandfather	1	1
Foster parent - foster child	-	1	Sister - sister	1	-	Granddaughter - grandfather	-	1
Persons living or having lived in the same household	12	18	Stepmother - son	-	4	Common-law partners	89	162
Mother - daughter	10	20	Son - mother	54	57	Son-in-law - mother-in-law (wife's mother)	-	1
Persons who are or have been in an emotional or intimate relationship	-	6	Boyfriend - girlfriend	-	5	Girlfriend - boyfriend	-	1

Violent acts pursuant to Article 7 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence (data from Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy - monitoring of protective measures)

Violent acts	2022	2023
a) any use of physical force against the physical or psychological integrity of a family member	19.7%	18.4%
b) any conduct by a family member that may cause, or create a risk of causing, physical or psychological pain or suffering	15.4%	17.7%
c) causing fear, a sense of personal endangerment or an affront to the dignity of a family member through blackmail or other forms of coercion	14.4%	10.4%
d) a physical assault by one family member against another, regardless of whether physical injury occurs	19.5%	19.9%
e) a verbal attack, including insults, swearing, name-calling or other forms of severe harassment of one family member by another	18.8%	21.2%
f) sexual harassment	0.4%	0.3%
g) stalking and all other similar forms of harassment of another family member	1.2%	3.4%
h) damaging or destroying jointly owned property or property possessed	2.2%	2.3%
i) the use of physical violence or the causing of fear with the aim of depriving a family member of the right to economic independence by preventing them from working or keeping them in a position of dependence or subordination	0.4%	0.7%
j) the use of physical or psychological violence against children and neglect in their upbringing	1.1%	3.9%
k) physical or psychological violence against older or infirm persons and neglect of their care and medical treatment	0.4%	1.5%
l) forcible isolation of a family member or restriction of their freedom of movement	0.1%	0.1%
m) failure to exercise due care or to provide assistance and protection to a family member despite a legal obligation to do so	0.3%	0.3%

APPENDIX 3

Data from the HJPC BiH

Table A: DATA FROM JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN THE FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE													
CASES UNDER THE CRIMINAL CODE OF THE FEDERATION OF BiH (1 JANUARY –31 DECEMBER 2025)	NUMBER OF REPORTS	NUMBER OF INDICTMENTS	NUMBER OF FINAL CONVICTIONS	SANCTIONS				PERPETRATORS			VICTIMS		
				Long-term imprisonment	Imprisonment	Suspended prison sentence	Fine	Men	Women	Disability	Men	Women	Disability
Criminal offences against life and limb (Chapter XVI)													
Murder - Article 166 paragraph (1) CC FBiH	65	39	12		6			86	4		63	8	
Murder - Article 166 paragraph (2) item a) CC FBiH	3	5	1					7			8	2	
Murder - Article 166 paragraph (2) item b) CC FBiH	2	2						2			2		
Murder - Article 166 paragraph (2) item c) CC FBiH								1					
Murder - Article 166 paragraph (2) item d) CC FBiH	3	2	1		1			5	1		2	1	
Murder - Article 166 paragraph (2) item e) CC FBiH													
Murder - Article 166 paragraph (2) item f) CC FBiH	2	1						2			2		
Murder - Article 166 paragraph (2) item g) CC FBiH													
Aggravated murder of a woman - Article 166a paragraph (1) CC FBiH	1							1				1	
Aggravated murder of a woman - Article 166a paragraph (2) CC FBiH													
Incitement to Suicide and Assistance in Suicide – Article 170 paragraph (4) CC FBiH													
Illicit Abortion - Article 171 paragraph (1) CC FBiH													
Illicit Abortion - Article 171 paragraph (2) CC FBiH													
Illicit Abortion - Article 171 paragraph (3) CC FBiH													
Illicit Abortion - Article 171 paragraph (4) CC FBiH													
Aggravated Bodily Injury - Article 172 paragraph (4) CC FBiH	1							2			1	1	
Light Bodily Injury - Article 173 paragraph (2) CC FBiH	11	3	3		2	1		13	4		4	9	
Female Genital Mutilation - Article 173a paragraph (1) CC FBiH													
Female Genital Mutilation - Article 173a paragraph (2) CC FBiH													
Female Genital Mutilation - Article 173a paragraph (3) CC FBiH													
Forced Sterilisation - Article 173b paragraph (1) CC FBiH													
Forced Sterilisation - Article 173b paragraph (2) CC FBiH													
Forced Sterilisation - Article 173b paragraph (3) CC FBiH													
Criminal offences against the freedoms and rights of individuals and citizens – Chapter XVII													
Infringement of the equality of individuals and citizens - Article 177 paragraph (1)	33							5	3		1		

Infringement of the equality of individuals and citizens - Article 177 paragraph (2)													
Infringement of the equality of individuals and citizens - Article 177 paragraph (4)													
Stalking - Article 179a paragraph (1) CC FBiH	25	2						22			2	21	
Stalking - Article 179a paragraph (2) CC FBiH	6	2						6			1	5	
Psychological violence - Article 181b paragraph (1) CC FBiH	36							18	6		14		
Psychological violence - Article 181b paragraph (2) CC FBiH	1								1			1	
Unauthorized visual recording - Article 189 paragraph (1) CC FBiH	30	2	1		1			23	7		11	13	

Unauthorized visual recording - Article 189 paragraph (2) CC FBiH													
Unauthorized visual recording - Article 189 paragraph (3) CC FBiH		1						1					
Abuse of Sexually Explicit Footage - Article 189 a paragraph (1) CC FBiH	6							5	1			4	
Abuse of Sexually Explicit Footage - Article 189 a paragraph (2) CC FBiH													

Criminal offences against sexual freedom and morality - Chapter XIX

Rape - Article 203 paragraph (1) CC FBiH	28	3	1		1			29			1	24	
Rape - Article 203 paragraph (2) CC FBiH	5	5	1					7				3	
Rape - Article 203 paragraph (3) CC FBiH	4	1						4			1	4	
Rape - Article 203 paragraph (4) CC FBiH	1							1				1	
Rape - Article 203 paragraph (5) CC FBiH	10	4						12				8	
Rape - Article 203 paragraph (6) CC FBiH	3	3						3				2	
Sexual Harassment - Article 203a paragraph (1) CC FBiH	2							2				2	
Sexual Harassment - Article 203a paragraph (2) CC FBiH													
Sexual Harassment - Article 203a paragraph (3) CC FBiH	6	1						5			3	4	
Lewd Acts - Article 208 paragraph (1) CC FBiH	32	15	4		1	3		45			8	34	
Lewd Acts - Article 208 paragraph (2) CC FBiH	32	25	7		4	2		50	1		10	47	

Criminal offences against marriage, family and youth - Chapter XX

Connivance at contracting illicit marriage - Article 215 CC FBiH													
Forced Marriage - Article 215a paragraph (1) CC FBiH													
Forced Marriage - Article 215a paragraph (2) CC FBiH													
Forced Marriage 215a paragraph (3) CC FBiH													
Breach of family obligations - Article 221 paragraph (1) CC FBiH	2							2				2	
Breach of family obligations - Article 221 paragraph (2) CC FBiH													
Breach of family obligations - Article 221 paragraph (3) CC FBiH													
Domestic violence - Article 222 paragraph (1) CC FBiH	1,299	293	123		15	70	4	1,342	132	2	324	1,153	2
Domestic violence - Article 222 paragraph (2) CC FBiH	859	404	259		55	153	7	1,177	71		280	1,061	2
Domestic violence - Article 222 paragraph (3) CC FBiH	90	37	15		4	7		104	15	1	47	94	
Domestic violence - Article 222 paragraph (4) CC FBiH	148	104	45		9	29		202	47		122	242	

Law on Gender Equality (Official Gazette of BiH, 32/10 - consolidated text)

Gender based violence, harassment and sexual harassment - Article 29 of the LGE BiH.													
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Total:	2,746	954	473	0	99	265	11	3,184	293	3	907	2,747	4
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APPENDIX 4

Report on reports of domestic violence and violence against women and the implementation of protective measures and emergency protective measures

Report form

REPORT ON REPORTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND IMPOSED PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES					
I - REPORTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE					
Reporting period (dd/mm/yyyy - dd/mm/yyyy)	from	01/01/2026	to	31/03/2026	
Name and seat of the police authority recording data	Cantonal ministries of the interior				

Number of reports of domestic violence and violence against women	Number of victims of domestic violence and violence against women	Number of persons reported for domestic violence and violence against women	Number of reports on the commission of the criminal offence of violence against women	Number of persons provisionally arrested under CPC FBiH, in relation to domestic violence and violence against women
1044	1292	1037	757	623

Violent act(s) pursuant to Article 9 of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH, as described in the report*	
a) use of force against the physical integrity of a family member, regardless of whether it results in injury	333
b) an attack on the psychological integrity of a family member, regardless of whether it results in harm to their psychological integrity	362
c) conduct that may cause physical or psychological pain or suffering of a family member	382
č) grossly offensive and inconsiderate conduct towards a family member	298
ć) causing fear, a sense of personal endangerment or an affront to the dignity of a family member through blackmail or other forms of coercion	198
d) a verbal attack, including insults, swearing, name-calling or other forms of severe harassment of a family member	256
dž) sexual violence, abuse, harassment and exploitation of a family member	149
đ) following, stalking or otherwise similarly harassing a family member	23
e) intentionally damaging, destroying or disposing of jointly owned property or property owned or held by a family member	30
f) depriving a family member of the right to economic independence by preventing them from working or keeping them in a position of dependence or subordination	19
g) prohibiting or preventing a family member from using joint or personal property or from disposing of personal income or property acquired through their own work or by inheritance	5
h) withholding funds for the maintenance of the joint household and the care of children	6
i) neglecting children in their upbringing	2
j) subjecting children to degrading treatment or using physical punishment in their upbringing	3
k) removing children from a family member or evicting a family member from the home	8
l) withholding maintenance from a family member	4
lj) neglecting to provide care or medical treatment to older, ill or infirm family members	1
m) restricting a family member's freedom to communicate with other family members or other persons	1
n) forcible isolation of a family member or restriction of their freedom of movement	1
nj) preventing a family member from accessing healthcare or care services	3
o) exhausting a family member through work, depriving them of food or sleep, or denying them necessary rest	
p) failure to comply with a decision of the competent authority or court governing contact between a child and the parent with whom the child does not live	3

r) withholding a family member's travel document or other identification document	4
s) using photographs and recordings of a family member to discredit or demean them	
§) any other act constituting violence within the meaning of Article 8 paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Code	3
Threats to commit any of the acts referred to in Article 9(1), or any other act constituting violence within the meaning of Article 8(1) and (2) of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women in the Federation of BiH.	41
Digital dimension of violence	32

II - EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Ordered emergency protective measures and protective measures

Type of protective measure	Number of emergency protective measures sought	Number of emergency protective measures	Number of protective measures sought	Number of protective measures implemented
a) removal from the apartment, house or dwelling and ban on returning to the apartment, house or other dwelling	209	198	272	211
b) prohibition on approaching the victim and, where necessary, the victim's children and other persons at risk of violence	595	456	646	596
c) prohibition on communicating with, harassing or stalking the victim	490	448	647	600
d) mandatory psychosocial treatment	28	11	57	43
e) mandatory treatment for addiction	13	7	37	24
f) provisional arrest and detention	68	45	110	102
TOTAL:	1393	1165	1769	1576

Victims of domestic violence and violence against women, by sex and age

Total 232 28-204	0-3 1-5	4-6 2-6	7-14 7-11	15-18 1-12	19-21 1-11	22-25 1-17	26-29 0-13	30-33 0-20	34-37 1-21	38-41 3-20	42-45 3-14	46-49 0-13	50-53 2-14	54-57 4-6	58-61 2-3	62+ 0-18	Unkno wn
M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F
14 34	7 4	13 11	16 33	7 25	9 28	11 38	5 32	8 40	13 58	9 22	14 18	24 40	8				

Personal information on victims of domestic violence and violence against women:

Marital status	married	single	divorced	widowed	common-law marriage	other
	416	152	77	27	83	142
Employment status	employed	unemployed	pensioner	other		

		306			358			79			136	
Type of income		social welfare beneficiary			earning their income			other source of income			other	
		25			279			262			233	
Education	dr.sc	mr.sc	second-cycle qualification under the Bologna system	first-cycle qualification under the Bologna system	university qualifications	two-year college qualifications	secondary school qualifications	primary school qualifications	low skilled	university student	pupil	no education
	2	2			51	14	527	149		7	92	38
Disability:												

III - PERPETRATORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women, by sex and age

Total 197 187-10	18-21 5--0	22-25 6-0	26-29 19-3	30-33 21-1	34-37 21-1	38-41 33-1	42-45 22-1	46-49 21-1	50-53 15-0	54-57 8-1	58-61 2-0	62+ 14-1	minor 1
M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F
53 67	15 1	32 7	57 5	54 9	62 8	74 10	66 5	45 10	38 3	33 4	17 2	45 3	

Personal information on perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women:

Marital status	married	single	divorced	widowed	common-law marriage	other						
	338	142	75	4	110	47						
Employment status	employed		unemployed		pensioner	other						
	321		289		44	46						
Type of income	social welfare beneficiary		earning their income		other source of income	other						
	32		292		172	127						
Education	dr.sc	mr.sc	second-cycle qualification under the Bologna system	first-cycle qualification under the Bologna system	university qualifications	two-year college qualifications	secondary school qualifications	primary school qualifications	low skilled	university student	pupil	no education
				1	40	1	471	103	2		6	12
Disability:			1									

Overview of all criminal offences under the CC of FBiH and the Law covered by the report on the commission of a criminal offence (specify the relevant articles of the CC of FBiH)	Article 222-110 Article 81-09
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IV - RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PERPETRATOR OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (PERPETRATOR-VICTIM RELATIONSHIP)

spouse	273	common-law spouse	106	ex partner	98	father - son	55	father - daughter	55
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mother- son	21	mother - daughter	8	daughter - father	5	daughter - mother	7	son - father	45
son - mother	50	grandson - grandfather	2	grandson - grandmother	2	granddaughter - grandfather		granddaughter - grandmother	
stepfather - stepson/stepdaughter	13	stepson/stepdaughter - stepfather		stepmother - stepson/stepdaughter	1	stepson/stepdaughter - stepmother	2	brother - brother	16
sister - sister	12	sister - brother	3	brother - sister	19	grandfather - grandson	1	grandfather - granddaughter	
grandmother - grandson	1	grandmother - granddaughter	2	partners	43	other	34		1

APPENDIX 5

Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of the Brčko District of BiH, 19/2020 - consolidated text and 3/2024)

Article 1

In Article 2 of the Criminal Code of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 19/20 – consolidated text), paragraphs 13, 14 and 26 shall be amended to read:

“(13) A child is a person under 18 years of age.

(14) A young adult is a person who, at the time of committing the criminal offence, had reached 18 but not 21 years of age.

(26) For the purposes of this Law, family members are: spouses and common-law partners, their children and the children of either partner; former spouses and common-law partners, their children and the children of either former partner; blood relatives in the direct line; adoptive parents and adopted children; collateral relatives up to and including the third degree; relatives by marriage up to and including the second degree; and life partners or persons living together in a relationship of a lasting nature.”

Accordingly, the category of persons considered family members also includes former spouses and common-law partners, as well as life partners or persons living together in a relationship of a lasting nature. This amendment aligns the Law with Articles 3(b) and 46(a) of the Istanbul Convention.

Article 3

In Article 16, a new paragraph 7 shall be added after paragraph 6 to read:

“(7) The statute of limitations for criminal offences against sexual integrity, marriage and the family committed against a child shall begin to run from the date on which the victim reaches the age of majority.”

This amendment aligns the Law with Article 58 of the Istanbul Convention.

Article 9

In Article 163(2), the full stop at the end of item 5 shall be replaced by a semicolon, and a new item 6 shall be added to read:

“(6) deprives a child or a woman whom the perpetrator knows to be pregnant of their life.”

This amendment aligns the Law with Article 35 of the Istanbul Convention.

Article 10

Article 168(1), (3) and (4) shall be amended to read:

“(1) Whoever in contravention of abortion regulations performs abortion on a pregnant woman with her consent, commences performing abortion, or incites or assists her in procuring her own miscarriage, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of between three months and three years.

(3) If by the criminal offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article a serious bodily harm, or a serious illness or death of the pregnant woman was caused, or if the offence was committed against a child, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of between one and ten years.

(4) If by the criminal offence referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article a serious bodily harm, or a serious illness or death of the pregnant woman was caused, or if the offence was committed against a child, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of between three and 15 years.”

The amendment concerns the criminal offence of illicit abortion and aligns the Law with Articles 39 and 46 of the Istanbul Convention.

Article 11

New Articles 170a and 170b shall be added after Article 170 to read:

Female Genital Mutilation

Article 170a

- “(1) Whoever completely or partially removes, circumcises or otherwise mutilates the external genitalia of a female person, or incites or assists her to undergo such an act, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of between six months and five years.
- (2) If the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is committed out of hatred, against a child or against a family member, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of between one and eight years.
- (3) If the criminal offence referred to in paragraphs 1 or 2 of this Article results in the death of a female person, the perpetrator shall be punished for the criminal offence referred to in paragraph 1 by imprisonment for a term of between two and 12 years and for the criminal offence referred to in paragraph 2 by imprisonment for a term of between three and 15 years.”

Forced Sterilisation

Article 170b

- “(1) Whoever performs an operation on another person for the purpose of preventing natural reproduction without that person’s consent shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of between one and eight years.
- (2) If the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is committed out of hatred, against a child or against a family member, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of between one and ten years.
- (3) If the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article results in the death of a person, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of between three and 15 years.”

The introduction of the criminal offences of female genital mutilation and forced sterilisation aligns the Law with Articles 38, 39 and 46 of the Istanbul Convention.

Article 12

New Article 173a shall be added after Article 173 to read:

Stalking

Article 173a

- “(1) Whoever persistently and over a prolonged period follows or stalks another person, attempts to establish or establishes unwanted contact with that person directly or through a third person, or intimidates that person in another manner, thereby causing them anxiety or fear for their own safety or the safety of a family member, shall be punished by a fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.
- (2) If the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is committed against a family member or a child, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years.”

The introduction of the criminal offence of stalking aligns the Law with Article 34 of the Istanbul Convention.

Article 14

New Article 178a shall be added after Article 178 to read:

Psychological Violence

Article 178a

- “(1) Whoever abuses another person or treats them in a manner that violates human dignity and thereby impairs their psychological integrity shall be punished by a fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.
- (2) If the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is committed against a child, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of between six months and five years.”

The introduction of the criminal offence of psychological violence aligns the Law with Articles 33 and 35 of the Istanbul Convention.

Article 18

The title of Chapter XIX shall be amended to read:

CHAPTER XIX – CRIMINAL OFFENCES AGAINST SEXUAL INTEGRITY

Article 19

Article 200 shall be amended to read:

Rape

Article 200

- “(1) Whoever engages in sexual intercourse or an equivalent sexual act with another person without that person’s 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 between one and eight years.
- (2) Whoever coerces another by using force or threat of immediate attack upon their life or limb, or the life or limb of someone close to that person, to sexual intercourse or an equivalent sexual act, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of between tree and ten years.
- (3) Whoever commits the criminal offence referred to in paragraphs 1 or 2 of this Article against a family member or a child over 15 years of age, in a particularly cruel or particularly degrading manner, or out of hatred, or where the person raped sustains serious bodily injury, their health is seriously impaired, the woman raped becomes pregnant, or several perpetrators engage in multiple acts of sexual intercourse or equivalent sexual acts against the same victim on the same occasion, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of between five and 15 years.
- (4) If the criminal offence referred to in paragraphs 1 or 2 of this Article causes the death of the person against whom it was committed, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of at least ten years.
- (5) Consent within the meaning of paragraph 1 of this Article exists where a person voluntarily decides to engage in sexual intercourse or an equivalent sexual act and is capable of making and expressing such a decision.”

This provision fully aligns the Law with Article 36 of the Istanbul Convention by explicitly prescribing the absence of consent and defining consent in paragraph 5. It also criminalises inducing another person to engage in sexual intercourse or an equivalent sexual act with a third person without their consent.

Article 20

New Article 200a shall be added after Article 200 to read:

Sexual Harassment

Article 200a

- “(1) Whoever sexually harasses another person shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.
- (2) Whoever commits the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article against a person who is in a relationship of subordination or dependence towards the perpetrator or who is particularly vulnerable because of age, illness, disability, pregnancy or a serious physical or mental impairment shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of between three months and three years.
- (3) Sexual harassment is any unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that has the purpose or effect of violating a person’s dignity or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading or offensive environment.”

The introduction of the criminal offence of sexual harassment aligns the Law with Article 40 of the Istanbul Convention.

Article 28

The title of Chapter XX shall be amended to read:

CHAPTER XX – Criminal offences against marriage and the family

Article 29

New Article 212a shall be added after Article 212 to read:

Forced Marriage

Article 212a

- “(1) Whoever, by force or threat, compels another person to enter into marriage shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of between six months and five years.

- (2) Whoever, for the purpose of committing the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, takes another person abroad or induces them to go abroad shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years.”

The introduction of the criminal offence of forced marriage aligns the Law with Article 37 of the Istanbul Convention.

Article 34

In Article 218(1), the words “or causes them economic harm” shall be added after the word “family”.

In paragraph 3, the words “a juvenile or” shall be deleted.

In paragraph 4, the words “or a juvenile” shall be deleted.

This amendment aligns the Law with Article 3 of the Istanbul Convention.

Public Incitement to Violence and Hatred

Article 355a.

- “(1) Whoever, through the press, radio, television, a computer system or social network, at a public gathering or in a public place, or in another manner, publicly calls for, incites or encourages violence or hatred against a particular person or group on the grounds of their national, racial, religious or ethnic affiliation, skin colour, sex, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity, origin or other characteristics, or makes available to the public leaflets, images or other materials calling for such violence or hatred, shall be punished by a fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years.
- (2) Whoever commits the criminal offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article through coercion, abuse, endangering another person’s safety, exposing national, ethnic or religious symbols to ridicule, damaging another person’s property, or desecrating monuments, memorials or graves shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of between one and five years.
- (3) If the offence referred to in paragraphs 1 or 2 of this Article results in disorder, violence or other serious consequences for coexistence among the constituent peoples and others living in the Brčko District of BiH, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of between one and eight years.
- (4) Materials and objects bearing the messages referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, as well as the means used to produce, reproduce or distribute them, shall be forfeited.”

As hate speech is a form of violence frequently encountered by women and may subsequently lead to physical violence, it is important to expand the list of protected grounds, as the applicable Law does not provide protection on these grounds. This is also provided for in Article 4 of the Istanbul Convention: “Parties shall secure the implementation of the provisions of this Convention, in particular measures to protect the rights of victims, without discrimination on any ground such as sex, gender, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, state of health, disability, marital status, migrant or refugee status, or other status.”