

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Report submitted by Denmark
pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 4
of the Council of Europe Convention
on preventing and combating violence
against women and domestic violence
(1st thematic evaluation round)**

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Introduction

In accordance with Article 66, paragraph 1, the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) shall monitor the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). Following its baseline evaluation procedure which provided an overview of the implementation of the full spectrum of provisions of the convention by each state party, Article 68, paragraph 3, of the convention and Rule 30 of the Rules of Procedure of GREVIO (the Rules of Procedure) mandate GREVIO to carry out subsequent evaluation procedures divided into rounds. At the beginning of each round, GREVIO shall select the specific provisions on which the evaluation procedure shall be based and shall send out a questionnaire (Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure).

For its 1st thematic evaluation round, GREVIO adopted this questionnaire to be sent to all states parties which have undergone the baseline evaluation procedure, according to an order approved by GREVIO. States parties are requested to transmit to GREVIO a reply to this questionnaire within five months from the date it was sent.

GREVIO decided to focus its 1st thematic evaluation round on the theme of building trust by delivering support, protection and justice. To address this overarching theme, the present questionnaire aims, in its first section, to identify developments in key areas such as comprehensive and co-ordinated policies, funding and data collection that have ensued following the completion of the baseline evaluation procedure. In its second section, it sets to obtain more in-depth information on the implementation of selected provisions in the area of prevention, protection and prosecution, in respect of which baseline evaluation procedures and the Conclusions on the Recommendations of the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention have revealed significant challenges and the need for further sustained implementation. In its third section, it brings its attention to emerging trends in the area of violence against women and domestic violence. Its fourth and last section requests annual statistics for two complete calendar years prior to receiving this questionnaire on specific administrative and judicial data.

The reply to the questionnaire should be submitted in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe (English and French) and should contain all the relevant information on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention since GREVIO's first baseline evaluation report, including copies or extracts of relevant legislation, regulations, case law and strategic documents or action plans referred to (Rule 33 of the Rules of Procedure).

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.

Partner violence and killing

Since 2002, Denmark has had national action plans for the prevention of violence against women and violence in intimate relationships. Since the baseline evaluation, the Danish government has finished the implementation of two national action plans against violence in family and close relationships covering the period of 2014-2017/2018 and 2018-2022. These action plans complement the permanent measures already in place in social services, the healthcare system and in the judicial system. The latest action plan covered the period of 2019-2022 and an English version is found here:

[Action Plan for the Prevention of Psychological and Physical Violence in Intimate Relationships 2019-2022.pdf \(globalwps.org\)](#)

On 3 March 2023, political negotiations were concluded regarding financing 14 initiatives in a new National Action Plan to Combat Intimate Partner Violence and Intimate Partner Killings. The 14 initiatives include the development of a new detection tool to be used in the Danish hospitals to detect victims of partner violence amongst pregnant women and offer them treatment, substantial funds to support ambulatory treatment of victims and children who have witnessed violence in their family as well as a partnership consisting of relevant authorities and civil society to support the improvement of the national efforts to combat partner violence and partner killings. In the new National Action Plan the government has reached a political agreement providing 136,1 million DKK in 2023-2026 for a new National Action Plan to Combat Intimate Partner Violence and Intimate Partner Killings. As part of the political agreement regarding the Finance Act for 2023, the parties to the agreement further allocated 19,6 million DKK in 2024, 36,2 million DKK in 2025 and 2026 and 36 million DKK permanently from 2027 to the National Action Plan (See the press release here: [Link](#)). The consolidated Action Plan was launched on June 27 2023. See the press release and Action Plan here ([26 initiativer i historisk ambitiøs handlingsplan mod partnervold og partnerdrab | Digitaliserings- og Ligestillingsministeriet \(digmin.dk\)](#))

In this new Action Plan there is a focus on preventing partner killings, by strengthening the efforts regarding partner violence. Danish research shows, that women are much more likely to be victims of partner killings. (See an article describing the findings of a PHD on Danish homicides 1992-2016 here: [Link](#)). The action plan is also based on new research from the United Kingdom regarding an 8-stage pattern in partner killings of women, which points to

stalking, coercive control, escalation and planning, amongst other elements, leading up to a partner killing on a women (See the research described here: [Link](#)).

For new policy developments please see the answer provided to Article 8 question 4 under the headline “Partner violence and killing”.

With regard to the Danish police and the Danish prosecution service, the financial framework for the Danish police and the Danish prosecution service in the period 2021-2023 aims, among other things, to strengthen the handling of domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault and honour related crime. The framework includes the following five initiatives:

1) Increase the use of trauma-informed practice by the police and prosecution services by offering a new 12-day training course. The course aims to train around 125 police officers working in both investigative and crime prevention units throughout the Danish police.

The course aims to improve the police’s handling of cases relating to domestic violence, stalking, rape and honour-related crimes, and to ensure that more police officers acquire up-to-date knowledge relating to the complexity of these case types, including trauma informed practice and the perpetrator’s motives and patterns of behaviour.

Furthermore, a handbook has been developed for the police, which in practical terms describes and explains what it means to engage in trauma informed practice, for instance by using the latest knowledge on interrogation methods (see question 44 for further information about this handbook).

A training course aimed at the specialised teams has been established, and in 2022 84 employees completed the 12-day course. Two courses are planned for 2023 with up to 40 participants per course.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in Denmark has also launched a new e-learning course entitled Traumatized Witnesses (Traumatiserede vidner). The course is intended primarily for prosecutors, but contains a run-through of general topics and can be used across the police and prosecution service.

2) Specialised teams for handling intimate partner violence, sexual assault, stalking and honour related cases. Each police district has formed an interdisciplinary team.

See question 42 for a more comprehensive description of the specialised teams.

3) Systematic identification of relevant cases by developing a case identification tool in the police.

This tool has been in operation since the launch of the specialised teams in 2021 and enables a continuous and systematic identification and screening of cases related to domestic violence, stalking and honour-related crimes.

4) Improvement of interrogation practices in sexual assault cases by offering the possibility of use of video-recorded interrogation in sexual assault cases.

When the police receive a report of a possible rape it is mandatory to offer the alleged to have the interrogation conducted as a so-called video interrogation, which means that it is video recorded. This follows from section 745 e of the Danish Administration of Justice Act. The victim may reject the offer, if they prefer to make a statement to the police without video recording. However, if the victim rejects the offer of a video interrogation and there is subsequently a trial in the case, the victim will have to make their statement in full and will not be able to submit a video-recorded statement and then answer supplementary questions, as would be the case with a video-recorded interrogation.

In addition to the above mentioned, 30 special interview rooms have been established and distributed evenly across the country. The rooms are designed with consideration for the fact that victims of sexual assault often are in a particularly vulnerable situation, not least during police interrogation. 29 of these rooms are currently in operation, and all police districts have at least one such interview room.

5) Police guarantee in cases concerning violence and rape

A so-called 'police guarantee' has been introduced in cases relating to violence, including domestic violence and so-called dominance violence. A police guarantee means that the police must respond immediately and come to the aid of the affected citizen as quickly as possible if there is an immediate need for police assistance, for example in cases where the perpetrator is still present or in situations where there is an active physical danger.

The same applies to cases of violence of an aggravated or serious nature, cases where the victim has sustained major injuries, where the citizen is assessed to have special needs (e.g. because they are young or vulnerable) or if the police assess that they can secure important evidence relating to the crime, even if the perpetrator is no longer present at the scene. The police must provide telephone guidance in situations where the emergency call centre assesses that there is no need for the physical presence of police officers. This guidance can include what the citizen should do, how the case will proceed and/or how to seek emergency care. If the police are dispatched to a domestic violence incident where children are in the home, it is a requirement that the police notify the social services.

A similar police guarantee has also been introduced in cases relating to rape. The guarantee states that the police must respond immediately and come to the aid of affected citizens as quickly as possible if there is an acute need for police assistance. The police also provide guidance over the phone as to what the victim should do in relation to preserving evidence, identifying witnesses and noting essential details from the incident. In addition, the victim is also assigned a contact person (see the answer to question 17 about the contact person system).

The initiative is implemented as the guarantees came into force as of 1 November 2021. The police districts issue communications on an on-going basis regarding these police guarantees, including their content and the possibility to complain in the event that a citizen experiences that the police are not living up to the guarantees.

Trafficking

There is a broad political agreement in the Danish Parliament behind the battle against human trafficking. Since 2002, National Action Plans to Combat Human Trafficking has been in place, following the United Nations protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in human beings (Palermo Protocol) from 2000 and the Council of the European Union Framework Decision of 19 July 2002 on combating trafficking in human beings. The National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings from 2022-2025 sets the framework for future work in combatting human trafficking. The action plan entails a strengthened effort for victims of human trafficking. The outreach work in the field of prostitution under the auspices of the Government-funded NGO's is reinforced, the specialised accommodation for victims of trafficking is upgraded, and there is a strengthened focus on the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators.

Sexual harassment

Following the second wave of the #MeToo movement, the Government of Denmark has enacted a series of initiatives aimed at preventing sexual harassment in the workplace and in society. The Ministry of Employment can refer the Group of Experts to the Tripartite Agreement on 4 March 2022 on the prevention of sexual harassment in the work place with 17 policies and initiatives aimed at combatting sexual harassment and sustaining the debate and awareness on the problem.

The 17 initiatives consist of both legislative amendments, strengthened cooperation between the Danish Social Partners, increased protection of apprentices and students as well as a continued focus on preventing sexual harassment within the national Working Environment Authority.

The 17 initiatives are:

Legislative amendments

- Clarification regarding the principles for the calculation of compensation in cases of sexual harassment.
- Possibility to seek compensation from the perpetrator within the Act on Equal Treatment (simplification of the right to redress).
- Clarification regarding the employer's responsibility to prevent sexual harassment in the work place.
- Clarification regarding credible victim statement as factual circumstances in cases of sexual harassment.
- Clarification regarding the employees' duties under the Working Environment Act.
- Clarification regarding the access for apprentices to cancel a training agreement due to sexual harassment.
- Access to continued training for apprentices when a case of sexual harassment has been filed.
- Clarification regarding the rules for revocation of approval of businesses to train apprentices due to sexual harassment

Please note that the legislative amendments were passed by the Danish Parliament on 23 March 2023 and will enter into force on 1 July 2023.

Other initiatives

- Joint recommendation from the Social Partners to increase the focus on sexual harassment at company level.
- The development of a Code of Conduct for Confidentiality Clauses by the Social Partners.
- Increased focus on sexual harassment in Workplace Assessments.

- Collection of best practices of the national Working Environment Authority's initiatives and best practices in general to prevent sexual harassment.
- An annual report of the national Working Environment Authority's decisions and guidance regarding sexual harassment and bullying.
- Fast track procedure for dealing with cases of sexual harassment.
- The establishment of a National Alliance for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment.

The majority of initiatives focus on making an immediate impact on combatting sexual harassment, including new legislation to clarify the rights of victims and the duties of employers, increased compensation for victims, and institutionalisation of anti-harassment precautions and training procedures and programs.

Other initiatives, like The Alliance on Preventing Sexual Harassment, aims at raising awareness and at promoting a cultural change in society. The Alliance was established in 2022 and the goal of the Alliance is to further the development of lasting cultural changes by maintaining the focus on prevention of sexual harassment, fostering anti-harassment initiatives in the workplace, in education, in cultural life, in sports etc., as well as sharing knowledge and experiences on how to prevent sexual harassment.

The Alliance is based on the fundamental understanding that sexual harassment is rooted in the lack of gender equality and the need to break down gender stereotypes and negative social norms.

A link to the press release and a Danish version of the Tripartite Agreement can be found here: [Trepartsaftale om seksuel chikane skal fremme en sund kultur på arbejdspladser \(bm.dk\) Notat \(bm.dk\)](#)

Please also note that in the Finance Act for 2021, the national Working Environment Authority was granted 10 million DKK annually in 2021 and 2022 to tackle sexual harassment and increase the psycho-social working environment efforts.

The protection of ethnic minorities

Since 2021, The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration has received permanent funding through the Finance Act concerning measures to prevent, detect and handle honour-based violence and abuse against ethnic minorities, including women. Recent initiatives include:

1) Security advisors

Recent initiatives include a group of so-called "security advisors" who offer free support and advice to primarily professionals and - in special cases - citizens about honour-based violence and abuse and about re-educational journeys. The security advisors are based in four municipalities (Copenhagen, Aarhus, Aalborg and Odense), but cover all municipalities in their respective regions. The advisors can provide specialised help and advice in specific cases, e.g. risk assessment using the risk assessment method PATRIARCH, ensuring the safety and security of the citizen, coordinating with relevant authorities and other actors, follow-up on cases etc.

2) New legislation

In 2022, there was a political agreement to support new legislation (forthcoming) with the aim of helping vulnerable children and families earlier and better than today. If passed, the legislation is expected to make it mandatory for all municipalities to have an action plan to prevent, detect and handle honour-based violence and abuse. The proposed legislation is also

expected to make it mandatory to carry out a risk assessment in connection with an investigation of the child's needs, before the parents are involved in cases concerning honour-based violence and abuse.

3) National coordination

The Danish efforts to prevent honour-based violence and abuse cut across sectors and authorities both nationally and locally. To ensure coherence in efforts and knowledge sharing, The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration operates a number of networks.

- **National coordination group across authorities.** The network consists of state and national actors, primarily national agencies. The network supports a common professional understanding of honour-based violence and abuse and contributes to knowledge sharing of initiatives and legislation across public authorities. The network will meet twice in 2023.
- **Network meetings for municipal professionals.** The network is aimed at municipal case managers and social workers who deal with honour-based violence and abuse. There are two networks in Denmark. Each network meets twice a year.
- **Leadership network on honour-based violence and abuse.** The leadership network was established in 2021 for the country's four largest municipalities, Copenhagen, Aarhus, Aalborg and Odense. The aim of the network is to share the challenges they face in the effort to prevent and handle honour-based violence and abuse, but also to share best practice. The agency uses this information to help create a better basis for policymaking and to help other municipalities in their efforts. There will be two meetings in 2023.
- **The specialised network.** Specialised network/workshops for researchers and specialised professionals dealing with honour-based violence and abuse. Thematic workshops are held where relevant researchers and professionals are invited from time to time. The network will meet once in 2023.

Systematic detection of violence, abuse and treatment of pregnant women and new parents

As part of the National Action Plan to Combat Intimate Partner Violence and Intimate Partner Killings regional outpatient clinics will be able to apply for funds to work with early and systematic detection of violence, abuse and treatment of pregnant women and new parents. The effort must pay special attention to women with non-Western background who constitute a particularly vulnerable group. The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration is responsible for training healthcare staff concerning honour-based violence and abuse.

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.**

On 1 April 2019, a new provision was introduced in the Danish Criminal Code. The provision was introduced as section 243 and covers psychological violence. Pursuant to this, the person who belongs to or is closely connected to someone else's household, or who has previously had such relation to the household, and who repeatedly over a period of time subjects the other person to grossly degrading, harassing or abusive treatment that is capable of unduly controlling the other person, shall be punished with a fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years for psychological violence. Section 243 is similar to article 33 of the Istanbul Convention, which however is not mentioned in the preparatory work, as section 245 (2) (assault in a particularly brutal manner), section 266 (threats) of the Danish Criminal Code already complies with article 33 of the Istanbul Convention. Therefore, the Danish Ministry of Justice did not find

it necessary to give a more detailed account of the Convention in the preparatory work, cf. the annotated overview of consultation responses on the bill to amend the Penal Code ([link](#)).

Additionally, as of 1 January 2021, a new definition of rape was introduced in the Danish Criminal Law. According to section 216 (1), a person is now held accountable for rape if they engage in sexual intercourse with someone without their consent. Prior to the amendment, the section referred to violence, threat of violence, or other illegal coercion, as well as situations where a person engaged in sexual intercourse with someone who was unable to resist. In the bill's preparatory works, article 36 of the Istanbul Convention is mentioned, and it is stated that the Ministry of Justice believes the proposed amendment aligns with the principles of the Istanbul Convention.

Furthermore, as mentioned under the answer to question 1, Denmark has since 2002 had action plans for the prevention of violence against women and violence in intimate relationships. These action plans complement the permanent measures already in place in social services, the healthcare system and in the judicial system.

The action plan underlines the fact that women more often are the victims of partner violence, including in the following sentence: *“Every year, approximately 38,000 women and 19,000 men are victims of intimate-partner violence, and the numbers for psychological violence are estimated to be twice as high”*. (page 7)

On 3 March 2023, political negotiations were concluded regarding financing 14 initiatives in a new National Action Plan to Combat Intimate Partner Violence and Intimate Partner Killings. 136,1 million DKK have been allocated to these initiatives. On 27 June 2023 the consolidated Action Plan, consisting of 26 initiatives was launched. This national action plan underlines that women are more exposed to partner violence and partner killings than men are. The national action plan includes data to underline this point. Data on domestic violence includes a focus on physical, psychological, sexual and economical violence.

The national action plan includes the following introduction, translated to English below: ([Handlingsplan mod partnervold og partnerdrab 2023-2026 \(digmin.dk\)](#) page 7):

“Far too many women and men are exposed to violence from a partner or ex-partner. Too many children grow up witnessing domestic violence. Women are particularly exposed. Far more women are exposed to psychological violence. Women are more often exposed to life threatening physical violence. And far too many women are killed each year by their partner or ex-partner. These are cases of murder that can be prevented by strengthening the efforts to combat intimate partner violence.”

The National Action Plan is largely based on and references Jane Monckton-Smiths research on intimate partner femicide (Intimate Partner Femicide: using Foucauldian analysis to track an eight-stage relationship progression to homicide).

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

¹The 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

As mentioned under the answer to question 2, psychological violence was criminalized on the 1 April 2019. Since then, all the present procedures and actions to protect children from violence and abuse now also include the criminalized psychological violence. This includes e.g. the duty to report neglect or degrading treatment of children, cf. section 154 of the Danish Consolidation Act on Social Services and the investigation in the Children's House. Which means, that from 1 April 2019 children are legally equally protected against psychological and physical violence.

The national action plans mentioned in the answer to questions 1 and 2 complement the permanent measures already in place in social services, the healthcare system and in the judicial system. In the development of these action plans, civil society organisations, including those representing women's rights and empowerment, are invited to take part in the dialogue and to share their suggestions and input. The current action plan is based on this input and dialogue. Furthermore, the civil society organisations representing women's rights, have also had a direct dialogue with the political parties negotiating the financing of 14 initiatives in the new National Action Plan to Combat Intimate Partner Violence and Intimate Partner Killings. Finally, the implementation of the action plan will be made in cooperation with relevant actors in the field of combatting violence against women.

The police guidelines for handling intimate partner violence, rape, stalking and honour-related crime are gender neutral in the sense that all victims – regardless of their gender or characteristics – have equal access to the relevant protective measures when reporting a crime to the police.

Please also see the answer to question 1 regarding the protection of ethnic minorities with regard to honour-based violence.

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.

Partner violence and killing

Since 2002, Denmark has had national action plans for the prevention of violence against women and violence in intimate relationships. These national action plans complement the permanent measures already in place in social services, the healthcare system and in the judicial system. The national action plans are used to highlight specific areas and target groups, to test new efforts to prevent violence in intimate relationships, and to consolidate knowledge and prevention efforts. The responsibility for the action plans lies with an inter-ministerial working group for the prevention of violence against women and violence in intimate relationships. The working group relies on input from experts and civil society organisations for new knowledge that can be used to further develop efforts in the area. The national action plans also secure funding for a large number of specific projects run by non-government

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.

organisations, and the plans are therefore developed in collaboration with stakeholders who have relevant experience and knowledge in the area.

The national action plans include budgetary commitments from the rate adjustment pool agreements and annual financial acts. The last national action plan covered the period 2019-2022 and an English version is found here: [Link](#).

On 3 March 2023 political negotiations were concluded regarding financing 14 initiatives in a National Action Plan to Combat Intimate Partner Violence and Intimate Partner Killingsto cover the period 2023-2026. 136,1 million DKK have been allocated to these initiatives. As part of the political agreement regarding the Finance Act for 2023, the parties to the agreement further allocated 19,6 million DKK in 2024, 36,2 million DKK in 2025 and 2026 and 36 million DKK permanently from 2027 to the National Action Plan to Combat Intimate Partner Violence and Intimate Partner (See the press release here: [Link](#)) The consolidated Action Plan was launched on 27 June 2023 and consists of 26 initiatives.

According to section 109 of the Consolidation Act on Social Services, Danish municipalities are obligated to offer temporary accommodation to women who have been subjected to violence, received threats of violence or who are experiencing equivalent crises in their family or in their relationship. These women are entitled to free counselling and a maximum of 10 hours of free psychological treatment. Children accompanying their mother during her stay in a shelter for battered women are entitled to a maximum of 10 hours of free psychological treatment. In 2021, the total public expenditure for section 109 was around 531 million DKK (in 2022 prices). To secure that all women who are victims of violence in close relations can find shelter and support, the capacity of shelters for battered women has been increased. The Government has thus funded 96 new permanent accommodations at women's shelters across the country as part of the Finance Act of 2020. The funds to establish the shelters are not included in the above total expenditure.

In the weeks following the outbreak of covid-19 and the consequent restrictions, calls to the national hotline regarding temporary accommodation at shelters for battered women almost doubled. Consequently, the Danish government decided to fund approximately 55 temporary accommodations at shelters for battered women across the country. The extra accommodations were in place for four months. The government was in close dialogue with the sector and civil society organisations about the need for extra accommodations at the shelters and the location of them. Following new covid-19 restrictions in December 2020, the Danish government decided to fund approximately 25 accommodations at women's shelters for four months. In addition to the emergency shelters, all the parties of the Danish Parliament signed an agreement, which secured 15 million DKK to increase the capacity of ambulatory counselling and treatment programs for victims of violence in close relations as well as perpetrators.

The Finance Act for 2020 also allocated 48 million DKK in the period 2020-2023 and 18.7 million DKK in annual funds permanently thereafter to ambulatory counselling for people affected by violence in close relations.

In 2020, Denmark also allocated funds to extend the national unit against violence Live without Violence (Lev Uden Vold) to mid-2024. The unit receives 39.6 million DKK in the period 2021-2024 to fund its tasks regarding violence in close relations. Furthermore, Live without Violence is Denmark's national organisation that works to secure more and better assistance for people who experience violence in intimate relations. The unit was established in 2017 as part of the rate adjustment pool agreement for 2017 and consists of five of the central NGOs in the area of violence in close relations. The unit also operates the national hotline, which accepts calls

from victims and perpetrators of violence, their relatives and professionals seeking assistance and advice. The hotline provides assistance for all types of domestic violence and rape and is open 24/7.

As part of the national reserve for social, health and labour market measures for 2021-2024, Denmark allocated 24.3 million DKK in the period 2021-2024 to the initiative “Early intervention for victims of violence and perpetrators of partner violence”. The initiative consists of three components. First, the intervention-model to which there has been allocated 14.5 million DKK in 2020. The goal of the project is to provide an early and preventive contribution against violence in close relations. The model consists of a collaboration between the police, the municipality and a NGO. When the police respond to calls of domestic disturbances or violence they will attempt to motivate the persons involved into starting an ambulatory treatment program at the NGO in collaboration with the municipality. The model has previously been tested. The evaluation showed that the model helped secure an earlier response to violence in close relations.

Secondly, funds have been set aside for the Danish Authority of Social Services and Housing to offer training to public employees, in which they are taught to use tools to make a risk assessment of citizens' risk of being exposed to and committing violence. Thirdly, funds have been allocated to provide more information about how many women seek assistance at shelters for battered women to improve evaluations of the capacity at shelters. Furthermore, Denmark has allocated 3.6 million DKK to Save the Children and the Danish Women's Society so that they can strengthen their counselling efforts for victims of digital infringement. The goal is that victims of digital infringement always find that they are helped on to the right specialised counselling when they seek out one of the two organisations.

As part of the national reserve for social, health and labour market measures for 2022-2025, Denmark allocated 23.1 million DKK in the period 2022-2025 to the initiative “Early help for perpetrators of violence and families affected by violence”. The initiative consists of three components. First, the NGO Dialogue Against Violence (Dialog mod Vold), which offers free ambulatory treatment to perpetrators of violence in intimate relationships and their families, received 12 million DKK to strengthen and increase the capacity of their treatment. They also received 4.9 million DKK to offer digital counselling. Secondly, The National Unit, Live Without Violence (Lev Uden Vold) received 3.2 million DKK to their free ambulatory offer Let go of the violence (Slip Volden), which offers treatment to perpetrators of violence in intimate relations. Lastly, Live Without Violence received 3 million DKK to enter into partnerships with relevant frontline actors who in various ways come into contact with victims and perpetrators of violence in intimate relations, e.g. health personnel, job centres and the police. The purpose of the partnerships is to give the frontline actors the necessary tools to identify and refer victims of violence and perpetrators of violence to Live Without Violence (Lev Uden Vold), so that they can get the right help at an earlier stage.

As part of the adjustment pool agreement for 2019 (Satspuljen), it was decided to allocate state funds to a pilot project testing ambulatory counselling to young people (age 18-24) that experience partner violence. The initiative received 6 million DKK in the period 2019-2022.

As part of the rate adjustment pool of 2017, the Danish Parliament has allocated funds to an ongoing survey on violence in close relations. During a two-year period 2 million DKK are allocated for the survey. The survey is focused on women and men who are victims of violence in close relations and their accompanying children. Data is collected on a voluntary basis from women and men using women's shelters, men's shelters and social services providing specialised counselling or treatment on an outpatient basis. In connection with the survey,

research on pertinent topics with regard to violence against women and violence in close relations is conducted.

The government has reached an agreement on 136,1 million DKK in 2023-2026 to a new National Action Plan to Combat Intimate Partner Violence and Intimate Partner Killings.

As specified in the baseline report, the Danish police has been granted 95,8 million DKK in the *Financial framework for the Danish police and the Danish prosecution service 2021-2023* to strengthen the police's handling of cases of intimate partner violence, rape, stalking and honour related crimes. No further funding has been provided in this period, cf. the period of the economic agreement.¹

The Danish Correctional Services have taken the initiative to further strengthen the treatment effort towards perpetrators of intimate partner violence and partner killings. The initiative will run from 2024 until 2026. An annual budget of 5.0 million DKK has been allocated to secure relevant treatment for inmates convicted of intimate partner violence or partner killings. As part of the initiative, participation in relevant treatment will be included as a criterion in the assessment of parole.

Trafficking

The government launched a new national action plan to combat human trafficking. The action plan entails a strengthened effort for victims of human trafficking with the allocation of 118,2 million DKK in 2022-2025. This is a strengthening of the effort of more than 7 million DKK annually compared to the previous action plan for 2019-2021.

Alliance on Preventing Sexual Harassment

Regarding the Alliance on Preventing Sexual Harassment, which was part of the agreement between the social partners and the government regarding combatting sexual harassment, 5,3 million DKK have been allocated to activities to support its purpose.

The protection of ethnic minorities

In 2021, the Danish efforts to prevent honour-based violence and abuse went from temporary funding to permanent funding through the Finance Act. The total funding for The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration was therefore raised by approximately 14 million DKK (2023-level). The Danish efforts have four main focal points:

- Strategic and organisational counselling on the prevention and handling of honour-based violence and control. Counselling municipalities, police, healthcare workers, NGO's and other authorities.
- Upgrading of qualifications. The Agency offers courses to frontline staff and managers in municipalities, other authorities and civil society with the goal of enabling the participants to prevent, detect and handle honour-based violence and abuse. As part of the Agencies course activities, a corps of six to eight personal narrators who have personal experiences with honour-based violence and abuse/social coercion has been established. The narrators tell course participants about their personal experiences and talk about how the authorities could have provided them with better help.
- National coordination.
- A national team of security advisors provides counselling to professionals and - in special cases - citizens in cases of honour-based violence and abuse. The security advisors assist with coordination across authorities and provide advice concerning security.

In addition to the permanent funding, two political agreements have currently allocated additional funding for the following initiatives:

1. Initiatives to help vulnerable ethnic minority children and families affected by social coercion or honour-based violence and abuse. The Agency is offering courses in family training programs to frontline professionals as well as a counselling service targeted at municipal professionals and leaders with the goal of providing better help for vulnerable ethnic minority children and their families. Also, the initiative includes the establishment of an outgoing response team, which provides support to local authorities concerning case management of ethnic minority children and their families. The funding is 4.9 million DKK in 2023.
2. Upgrading of qualifications. The Agency offers courses to frontline staff working with local employment efforts. The goal is to enable the participants to prevent, detect and handle honour-based violence and abuse. The funding is 1.1 million DKK in 2023.
3. Shelter aimed at ethnic minority LGBT+ people. The funding is 5.4 million DKK in 2023.
4. Coordination unit against involuntary stays abroad. The unit assists relevant authorities with guidance on options for action in specific cases of re-education journeys and other involuntary stays abroad, including information and assessment of specific cases, knowledge of specific options for action and relevant measures, as well as security assessments. The funding is 1.8 million DKK in 2023.
5. Funding of a number of organisations that work to help women who experience honour-based violence and abuse.
 - RED Counselling: 8.3 million DKK in 2023.
 - Sisters against violence and control: 2.0 million DKK in 2023.
 - Danner: 0.8 million DKK in 2023.
 - Sabaah: 1.8 million DKK in 2023.
 - Neighbourhood Mothers: 1.8 million DKK in 2023.
6. Early and systematic detection of violence, abuse and treatment of pregnant women and new parents. 15.4 million DKK is reserved for the application pool in 2024.
7. Security advisors. Funding of the continuation and expansion of the security advisors, who offer free support and advice to both professionals and citizens about honour-based violence and abuse and re-educational journeys. The funding is 6.2 million DKK in 2023. Upgrading and administrative support of the security advisors. The funding is 0.2 million DKK in 2023.
8. Funding of RED Centre's efforts to develop and carry out a data-informed practice at RED Safehouse. The funding: is 0.5 million DKK in 2023.
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.**

Please see the answer provided to question 4.

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.**

Partner violence and killings

Since 2004, the Institute for Public Health has periodically investigated the extent of violence in intimate relationships in Denmark. With the latest action plan funds were set aside for a new study, which was published in 2022. It elucidates, among other things, the occurrence of physical partner violence and for the first time for this study also the occurrence of psychological partner violence. The survey estimates that 5.5 per cent of women (approx. 118,000) and 4.0 per cent of men (approx. 83,000) over the age of 16 have been exposed to physical and/or psychological partner violence in 2021. On 3 March 2023, political negotiations were concluded regarding financing 14 initiatives in a new National Action Plan to Combat Intimate Partner Violence and Intimate Partner Killings, including financing a new study of the development of the extent of violence in 2025.

In another large-scale study conducted by VIVE an independent research and analysis centre operating under the Ministry of the Interior and Health, it is estimated that around 82,000 women (between 74,000 and 89,000) and 43,000 men (between 37,000 and 50,000) aged 16-64 annually are exposed to physical, psychological, sexual and/or financial violence by a current or former partner. The survey was conducted in 2020.

In 2022, VIVE has also published a study on the Danish population's knowledge of intimate partner violence. The study shows how many men and women that have experienced partner violence, how many have witnessed it, how many that have spoken to authorities about it, what the barriers for acting as a bystander etc. The most common barriers for people not to act, when they witness partner violence is e.g. the assumption that others are taking care of it, that they don't know what to do, and they are unsure of what they are witnessing. The study shows that about 2/3 of Danish citizens are willing to act directly in a situation, if they witness a man perpetrating violence towards a woman. The study can be found here: [Danskernes kendskab til partnervold \(vive.dk\)](https://www.vive.dk/danskernes-kendskab-til-partnervold)

Sexual harassment

The National Research Centre for Working Environment (Det Nationale Forskningscenter for Arbejdsmiljø – NFA) is an agency under the auspices of the Ministry of Employment, which regularly surveys incidences of sexual harassment in the Danish work places. In 2021, the Research Centre further developed the questionnaire they had been using to research sexual harassment, and added more questions. From December 2021 until January 2022 the questionnaire was sent to around 40,000 persons within 36 industries. The study shows that sexual harassment is most prevalent within sectors like elder care and the hospitality industries.

Sexual harassment is also regularly researched in other areas, including by the Ministry of Children and Education, with questions regarding sexual harassment in the Danish school system.

The Alliance on Preventing Sexual Harassment is also planning on carrying out a survey on sexual harassment and bystanders willingness to step in. The survey is expected to include data collection categories such as type of violence, sex and age of the victim and the perpetrator, and the relationship between the two and where the harassment took place.

Furthermore, the following initiatives under the Ministry of Employment can be highlighted:

- Collection of best practices of the national Working Environment Authority's initiatives and best practices in general to prevent sexual harassment.
- An annual report of the national Working Environment Authority's decisions and guidance regarding sexual harassment and bullying.

The national crime victim survey

As mentioned in GREVIO's baseline evaluation report, a national crime victim survey (CVS) has been conducted annually by the Research Division at the Ministry of Justice in Denmark since 2015. The current CVS includes questions on exposure to violence, including domestic violence, rape/attempted rape, and other sexual offences. Additionally, these are followed up by a large number of sub-questions concerning the characteristics of the victim, the perpetrator, and the offence.

Since the adoption of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report in 2016, the following adjustments have been made to the CVS regarding violence against women and domestic violence:

- In 2019, questions on sexual offences other than rape/attempted rape were added to the questionnaire. The prevalence of sexual offences other than rape/attempted rape concerns the percentage of the population that reported having been exposed to unwanted intimate touch (on one's own body or somebody else's body), oral sex, forwarding or threats of forwarding messages, videos or images of sexual character or similar sexual abuse within the past 12 months. The prevalence of sexual offences other than rape/attempted rape is examined for female and male victims respectively and for different age groups. The sub-questions concern the age of the perpetrator, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, the type of abuse, the victim's experience of the seriousness of the abuse, whether the latest incident was reported to the police, and if so whether it was reported by the victim or someone else.
- In 2020, questions on psychological violence were added to the questionnaire. The prevalence of psychological violence concerns the percentage of the population that reported that a person who belongs to or is closely related to their household has repeatedly over a period of time exposed them to grossly degrading, harassing or offensive treatment in order to control them. The prevalence of psychological violence is examined for women and men respectively and for different age groups. The sub-questions concern the time of the 'event' (e.g., if the violence occurred within the previous 12 months), the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, the victim's experience of the seriousness of the violence, whether the incident/s was/were reported to the police, and if so whether it was reported by the victim or someone else.

- In 2021, Denmark adopted a consent-based rape legislation and the formulation of the question on exposure to rape/attempted rape was changed according to the new legal definition.
- In 2023, a question concerning the sex of the perpetrator of rape/attempted rape was added to the questionnaire.
- In 2023, questions on physical violence committed by an intimate partner were added to the questionnaire as a supplement to the question on the unspecified type of violence committed by an intimate partner. The prevalence of physical violence committed by an intimate partner concerns the percentage of the population that reported that a current or a former partner intentionally has pushed, beaten, kicked, or in any other way subjected the respondent to physical violence within the previous 12 months. The prevalence of physical violence committed by an intimate partner can be examined for women and men respectively and for different age groups. The sub-questions concern the victim's experience of the seriousness of the violence, whether the incident/-s was/were reported to the police, and if so whether it was reported by the victim or someone else.

Data from the shelters for battered women

Since 1 January 2017, The Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing and Senior Citizens, together with Statistics Denmark, has collected comparable data from the shelters for battered women in annual statistics. The statistics include data about when and for how long the women and children stay at the shelters. Furthermore, the names and the social security number of the women and their children are registered.

In addition to the annual statistics regarding women staying at a shelter for battered women, The Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing and Senior Citizens, together with Statistics Denmark, has since 1 July 2021 collected data on inquiries made to shelters for battered women. The statistics includes data on citizens who contact a shelter for guidance or requests for a stay at one of the shelters etc. The statistics include data on the type of request, and outcome of the query. Furthermore, the social security number of the person seeking aid at a shelter is recorded. With the social security number, it is possible to identify age in both statistics. However, the citizens can choose to remain anonymous in both statistics and therefore refuse to register with a social security number.

It is possible for strict statistical purposes to link the social security-registered data from the women's shelters to other social security-registered data collected by Statistics Denmark. This enables researchers, the government and others to perform analyses on e.g. the characteristics of the women such as educational background, medical history, whether they receive other interventions concerning the Act on Social Services etc.

The Danish Authority of Social Services and Housing publishes a biennial report containing gender-specific target group analyses, analyses of violence-specific data and in-depth analyses combining violence-specific data. The report is based on a survey that contains information about i.e. the type of violence the victim has experienced. As with the annual statistics regarding women staying at a shelter for battered women it is possible to link the social security-registered data to other social security number -registered data collected by Statistics Denmark and

perform analyses on e.g. the characteristics of the respondents. Main results from the survey are published on the Board's website. Upon request from the Danish government, further analysis of the data can be acquired. The report is called "Survey on Violence in Close Relations" (UVNR: "Undersøgelse om vold i nære relationer"). The first report was published on the website of The National Board of Social Services in 2022.²

The Director of Public Prosecutions

The Danish National Police is responsible for the data-processing program POLSAS and the Criminal Register, and it is from these data registers that the prosecution authorities draw their data.

It is not possible to provide accurate data on the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator. Data on domestic violence includes cases where the victim and the perpetrator had the same address at the time of the reported violence regardless of the gender of the victim.

The Danish National Police

The Danish National Police and Statistics Denmark are working on a data collection project that will enable the collection of data on relations between victims and perpetrators based on administrative data from the police data systems and other sources.

The project will generate a new type of data on crime, which will make it possible to document the extent of different types of relationship between the victim and the perpetrator for different types of crime (e.g. violence), including data about the age and the nationality of the victims and perpetrators.

The development of the new statistic on the different relations between victims and offender is expected to be completed in 2023. The new statistic will enable Statistics Denmark to publish statistics on the different relations between victim and perpetrator on a yearly basis going forward.

Furthermore, Denmark is committed to the work carried out in relation to the EIGE-project to establish the Gender Statistics Database with the aim of supporting the collection of comparative data on the prevalence of violence against women across Europe.

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;**
- 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.**

Violation of emergency barring or protection orders are punishable by a fine or imprisonment for up to 2 years, according to section 21 of the act on protection orders, restraining and removal orders. For the numbers, please see table 9-11 to the answer to question 57.

Statistics Denmark collect data on notifications of concern for children from the Danish municipalities. One of the information, which is collected, is the cause for which the notification

² The National Board of Social Services, 2022, 'Survey on Violence in Close Relations'. ISBN: 978-87-94371-02-5

of concern is reported. High level of conflicts and violence between adults is one of these causes. Statistics Denmark also collect data about children and young people's placement outside of their own home. Information about cause of placement outside the home is collected when children and young people are placed outside the home.

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.

In Denmark, municipalities are obligated to use the Children's Houses when investigating cases regarding children exposed to violence or children suspected of being exposed to violence which involve several sectors, e.g. the police and/or the hospital service. The National Board of Social Services gathers data on the children. Among other things, data on gender, age and the type of violence are gathered and summarized in reports published every year on the Board's website. The latest report was published 23 February 2023.

Please also see the answer provided to question 6.

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:

- a. addressing harmful gender stereotypes and prejudices, customs and traditions based on the idea of the inferiority of women;**
- b. addressing the heightened exposure to gender-based violence by women and girls at risk of intersectional discrimination;**
- 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.**

Since 2002, Denmark has had action plans for the prevention of violence against women and violence in intimate relationships. On 27 June 2023 a new National Action Plan to Combat Intimate Partner Violence and Intimate Partner Killings was launched. The Action Plan consists of 26 initiatives, including an information campaign to spread knowledge about intimate partner violence, including the facts regarding women being more exposed, how to help a person exposed to violence in one's own network, and where knowledge and help can be found. The campaign will contribute to more Danes taking action and helping when they see or learn about violence in close relationships.

Together with a number of organisations, including Break the silence (Bryd Tavsheden), the Minister for Gender Equality hosts an annual creative campaign/competition in schools aimed at preventing violence by inspiring reflection and discussions among young people aged between 13 and 20. The contestants use film, music, prose and pictures to create a creative product that illustrates intimate-partner violence based on a specific theme. Through the competition young people learn about intimate-partner violence and reflect on their own and other's boundaries.

The Alliance on Preventing Sexual Harassment is also planning on carrying out a campaign focusing on preventing sexual harassment amongst youth, where young women are most exposed. The campaign is expected to be launched in 2023.

In Denmark, there has also been a political focus on strengthening the rights of the child through the political agreement called The Children First (Børnene Først) ([link](#)). The agreement includes a variety of different initiatives to secure better and earlier help for disadvantaged children and their families.

For example, the agreement aims to secure that all children know about their rights as established in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, no matter their background, through the establishment of rights schools in the most vulnerable residential areas. This includes art. 19: "*States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse,*

neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.”

Furthermore, in connection with the introduction of the new provision on rape (for more information about the consent-based rape legislation, please see the answer to question 2) in the Danish Criminal Code as elaborated under question 7 (2), a campaign called “Sex? Only with consent” (Sex? Kun med samtykke) was published. The campaign ran until spring 2021 and targeted young people aged 18-30 years and consisted of a film. In addition to this, the campaign included three short film with recognisable situations that show the many ways in which consent can be given or refused. The campaign was launched on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Tinder, as well as on a campaign website that gathered all the materials and provided information about the new provision and where rape victims could seek help. At the same time, a new hotline for rape victims opened at Live Without Violence (Lev Uden Vold).

Also, the project “Is it Stalking?” (Er det Stalking?) was an information and prevention project targeting the general population and professionals. The project was conducted by the interest organisation Danish Stalking Center (Dansk Stalking Center) from 2020 to 2022 with support from the Victim Fund (Offerfonden³). Through initiatives such as an outdoor campaign, an engaging social media campaign, a professional conference, expert webinars, and an edited handbook for professionals, the project aimed to fulfill its objective of increasing knowledge about stalking. This way, more people would be able to recognize stalking and reach out or intervene when stalking occurs.

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;**
- b. **address some or all the forms of gender-based violence against women and girls covered by the Istanbul Convention;**
- c. **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;**
- d. **ensure that teaching material used in school does not convey negative gender stereotypes of women and men of all ages;**
- e. **offer tailored interventions aimed at preventing gender-based violence and empowering all girls, including those at risk of intersectional discrimination.**

Examples of promising educational programs, materials, or initiatives for use in formal education in the field of daycare facilities

Since 2004, all Danish ECEC (early childhood education and care) settings have had to support children's learning based on a pedagogical curriculum for ECEC.

³ “Offerfonden” was established by the Danish Parliament in January 1, 2014, with the purpose of providing grants for projects and activities that can generally enhance knowledge about or support efforts for victims of crimes, traffic victims, and related groups.

In Denmark, the ECEC curriculum is based on the Danish [Act on ECEC](#). It elaborates the central requirements to the ECEC practice. In other words, it establishes a framework of what municipalities and ECEC facilities are responsible for in their provision.

Educating children and young people 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 is not a specific focus in the Danish ECEC curriculum or the pedagogical foundation (such as gender equality being in the Swedish curriculum).

However, on emu.dk/dagtilbud, there is a number of inspirational materials regarding equality, perspectives on children, and education, which may be relevant to refer to. However, these materials have significantly broader formulations than what is specifically addressed in the topic, and they are inspirational materials and not mandatory teaching materials.

In [the ECEC curriculum](#) the following is stated about gender equality and democracy:

"Formation, equality, and democracy should be integrated into the daily pedagogical practice, so that children feel involved and have a day in everyday life and activities regardless of background, gender, age, and culture."

Furthermore, it states: "The communities of children at the ECEC should also create room for children to establish friendships across age, gender and culture, and prevent bullying."

Particular emphasis is placed on gender equality and mutual respect.

The pedagogical curriculum should be prepared on the basis of "the common pedagogical foundation." The pedagogical foundation consists of a series of key elements which should characterize the understanding and approach to working with children's wellbeing, learning, development and formation in Danish ECEC. See the [ECEC curriculum](#), page 14 for an elaboration on this.

As part of the common pedagogical foundation regarding perspectives on children in ECEC facilities, it is stated, among other things: "The view of the child in Danish ECEC is based on the assumption that being a child is valuable in itself. Danish ECEC therefore safeguards children's right to be a child, to be different and to develop at a different pace." Guidance material etc. can be found [here](#).

This also speaks towards personal integrity and mutual respect.

In addition, there is also a focus on co-influence and children's perspectives in ECEC facilities as part of the common pedagogical foundation. It emphasizes involving children and following their initiatives to give them co-influence, which can also contribute to equality, personal integrity, and mutual respect. Guidance material on this topic can be found [here](#).

It may also be relevant to look towards Kokkedal Kommune, which has been working on gender equality since 2012. However, their purpose is to reduce inequality among children both in early childhood and in the long term regarding the education system and job market. Nevertheless, they have had a particular focus on gender equality. For more information please see [here](#).

When it comes to specifically gender-based violence, this is not a focus in the ECEC curriculum or the common pedagogical foundation, and it has not been possible to find information on this in the field of ECEC.

However, the NGO Children's Rights (Børns Vilkår) works to stop violence against children. For more information please see [here](#). However, this is not specifically directed towards girls and women, but towards all children of all ages.

Examples of promising educational programs, materials, or initiatives for use in formal education in the field of Vocational education training (VET)

The basic course 'samfundsfag' contains i.a. learning objectives on rights and duties in a democratic society and gender equality as a core area.

In the subject 'samfund og sundhed', there are learning objectives regarding respect for others' gender identity and sexuality, countering sexual harassment and understanding personal boundary setting.

The basic course 'erhvervsinformatik' contains i.a. competence area on digital empowerment, including understanding of security, ethics and consequences of digital technologies

On the learning platform emu.dk there are learning materials for teachers and school staff on preventing and managing conflicts among students, among other things as a result of gender.

In the basic subject psychology, stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination are part of the core subject area. On emu.dk there is i.a. teaching material for the psychology teaching in VET about the LGBTI area. The material provides both VET-students and teachers with knowledge of how to deal with problems related to sexual orientations and gender identities other than heterosexual, both in teaching at school and in companies.

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.**

The initiative "Early intervention for victims of violence and perpetrators of partner violence", which is a part of the national reserve for social, health and labour market measures for 2021-2024 offers training to public employees. From 2022 to 2024, the Danish Authority of Social Services and Housing offers training to public employees, in which they are taught to use tools to make a risk-assessment of citizens' risk of being exposed to and committing violence.

In ultimo 2019, the Director of Public Prosecutions developed an e-learning course on communication with victims. The course focuses on better communication with vulnerable victims of crime, for instance by adjusting communication to the specific victims' needs. The course is mandatory for all prosecutors in Denmark.

In order to strengthen the police and the prosecution services work process in cases of violence in close relationships, stalking, rape and honour-related crimes, a new e-learning course in trauma-informed practice has been introduced by the Director of Public Prosecution in 2022. The course provides the prosecutors with information on reaction patterns when traumatized victims are in contact with authorities and in situations where re-experience is necessary for

example during interrogation in court, all to ensure a greater understanding for the victims' situation.

The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration has a number of in-service training programs targeted at professionals from local authorities, the police, healthcare services, shelters and other professionals, who meet honour-based violence and abuse in their job. The programs train professionals and provide knowledge of best practices, theories, tools and methods to prevent, detect and handle honour-based violence and abuse. As part of some of the training programs, the participants are introduced to the different types of violence.

Also, some University Colleges in Denmark offer a module on honour-based violence and abuse and social coercion. The module is targeted at teachers and pedagogues and retrain the professionals to detect danger signals and prevent social coercion and honour-based violence and abuse when they meet children in schools and leisure facilities.

For an overview of training programs, see appendix table 2.

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.

The political agreement called The Children First (Børnene Først) mentioned under question 9, also includes the establishment of an advisory service in the Agency for International Recruitment and Integration to the municipalities on family-oriented initiatives for ethnic minority families. The counselling must include how the municipalities' existing family efforts can be organized and expanded to handle problems that may exist in some ethnic minority families into account – this includes e.g. negative social control and traditional gender roles - and which actions that must be added to handle these problems.

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.

The Finance Act for 2020 allocated 48 million DKK in the period 2020-2023 and 18.7 million DKK in annual funds permanently thereafter to ambulatory counselling for people affected by violence in close relations.

As part of the national reserve for social, health and labour market measures for 2021-2024, Denmark allocated 14.5 million DKK to the so-called "intervention-model". The goal of the project is to provide an early and preventive contribution against violence in close relations. The model consists of a collaboration between the police, the municipality and a NGO. When the police respond to calls of domestic disturbances or violence, they will attempt to motivate the persons involved into starting an ambulatory treatment program at the NGO in collaboration with the municipality. The model has previously been tested. The evaluation showed that the model helped secure an earlier response to violence in close relations.

Secondly, funds have been set aside for the Danish Authority of Social Services and Housing to offer training to public employees, in which they are taught to use tools to make a risk-assessment of citizens' risk of being exposed to and committing violence. Thirdly, funds have been allocated to provide more information about how many women seek assistance at shelters for battered women to improve evaluations of the capacity at shelters. Furthermore, Denmark

has allocated 3.6 million DKK to Save the Children and the Danish Women's Society, so that they can strengthen their counselling efforts for victims of digital infringement. The goal is that victims of digital infringement always find that they are helped on to the right specialised counselling when they seek out one of the two organisations.

As part of the national reserve for social, health and labour market measures for 2022-2025, Denmark allocated 23.1 million DKK in the period 2022-2025 to the initiative "Early help for perpetrators of violence and families affected by violence". The initiative consists of three components. First, the NGO Dialogue Against Violence (Dialog mod Vold), which offers free ambulatory treatment to perpetrators of violence in intimate relationships and their families, received 12 million DKK to strengthen and increase the capacity of their treatment. They also received 4.9 million DKK to offer digital counselling. Secondly, The National Unit, Live Without Violence (Lev Uden Vold) received 3.2 million DKK to their free ambulatory offer Let Go of the Violence (Slip Volden), which offers treatment to perpetrators of violence in intimate relations. Lastly, Live Without Violence received 3 million DKK to enter into partnerships with relevant frontline actors who in various ways come into contact with victims and perpetrators of violence in intimate relations, e.g. health personnel, job centres and the police. The purpose of the partnerships is to give the frontline actors the necessary tools to identify and refer victims of violence and perpetrators of violence to Live Without Violence, so that they can get the right help at an earlier stage.

As part of the adjustment pool agreement for 2019 (Satspuljen), it was decided to allocate state funds to a pilot project testing ambulatory counselling to young people (age 18-24) that experience partner violence. The initiative received 6 million DKK in the period 2019-2022.

As part of the agreement to fund 136,1 million DKK in 2023-2026 to a new National Action Plan to Combat Intimate Partner Violence and Intimate Partner Killings, the NGO Dialogue Against Violence (Dialog mod Vold), which offers free ambulatory treatment to perpetrators of violence in intimate relationships and their families, receives 39,7 million DKK in 2023-2026. This will increase the number of perpetrators, who can attain counselling. Furthermore, the Action Plan strengthens the Prison and Probation Service opportunities to offer treatment for violent behavior for inmates who have been convicted for intimate partner violence or intimate partner killing and strengthens the treatment program offered to perpetrators of stalking.

14. Please provide information on measures taken to:

- a. increase the number of men and boys attending perpetrator programmes for domestic and sexual violence;**
- b. ensure that the perpetrator programs apply standards of best practice;**
- c. ensure the safety of victims and co-operation with specialist support services for victims;**
- d. ensure that the outcomes of the programs are monitored and evaluated.**

Measures for increasing the number of men and boys attending perpetrator programs for domestic and sexual violence has been described under question 13 in which the "intervention-model" is described as well as the initiative "Early help for perpetrators of violence and families affected by violence".

Furthermore, as part of a new National Action Plan to Combat Intimate Partner Violence and Intimate Partner Killings, the NGO Dialogue Against Violence (Dialog mod Vold), which offers free ambulatory treatment to perpetrators of violence in intimate relationships and their families,

receives 39,7 million DKK in 2023-2026. This will increase the number of perpetrators, which can attain counselling.

As mentioned above in the answer provided under the section regarding article 16, question 13, Dialogue Against Violence (Dialog Mod Vold) receives 39,7 million DKK in 2023-2026 for their perpetrator program. The Danish Authority of Social Services and Housing ensures that the standards set up by Dialogue Against Violence are in line with the purpose of the allocation of funds.

Dialogue Against Violence has many years of experience with municipal cooperation in the treatment of families affected by violence. They can therefore offer treatment to citizens as well as training for staff in identifying problems of violence. The treatment at Dialogue against Violence can complement other contributions to families that can establish safety and provide support and care.

The Danish Authority of Social Services and Housing monitors the perpetrator program in regards to the allocation of funds. Dialogue against Violence draws up a development plan which describes the objectives set up as part of the allocation of funds and which activities they plan to carry out to achieve these objectives. Furthermore, each year Dialogue Against Violence reports the status of the development plan and whether the objectives have been attained to The Danish Authority of Social Services and Housing. The Danish Authority of Social Services and Housing approves the development plan and – on the basis of the report – assess whether the objectives have been achieved and initiates appropriate measures if the Dialogue against Violence is not achieving the objectives set up in the development plan.

In addition to the programs described above, the Danish Correction and Probation Service is in the process of implementing a cognitive programme (PREDOV) against violence in close relationships in three closed prisons. The program developed by The Swedish Correction and Probation Service have been accredited and evaluated to meet the standard of best practice.

The Danish Correction and Probation Service continuously monitor and evaluate program activity and outcomes.

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:

- a. **the state agencies involved in their functioning (law-enforcement agencies, judiciary, public prosecutor, local authorities, healthcare services, social services, educational institutions etc.);**
- b. **whether they involve specialist support services provided by civil society organisations, especially women's rights organisations;**
- 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;**
- d. **the financial and human resources dedicated to their implementation; and**
- e. **any available information on the evaluation of their outcome or impact.**

The state agencies involved in their functioning, including the financial and human resources dedicated to their implementation and information on the evaluation

In Denmark, the municipalities are obligated to offer support and counselling to women who take residence in a shelter for battered women. The counselling must support the individual elements of the services otherwise provided by the municipalities. The counselling is provided on issues regarding housing, finances, labour market, education, day-care facilities, health sector, etc. The counselling consists of several functions. Firstly, the counselling must be a continuous link, which creates contact with relevant authorities, and ensures that the authority or caseworker continues being in touch with the women until another authority or caseworker has taken control in relation to the woman and the children. Secondly, through the counselling, it must be ensured that the efforts of all authorities are followed up and that other necessary tasks are carried out. Thirdly, the counselling must be cross-sectoral with the possibility of ensuring close cooperation between the authorities, so that the woman is enabled to use the social system without being lost along the way. Finally, through the counselling, attention must be paid to being supportive in relation to the abused woman, including in relation to the need for treatment, to creating a network for the women, etc.

As part of the national reserve for social, health and labour market measures for 2021-2024, Denmark allocated 14.5 million DKK to the intervention-model. The goal of the project is to provide an early and preventive contribution against violence in close relations. The model consists of a collaboration between the police, municipalities and NGO's. When the police respond to calls of domestic disturbances or violence or the municipalities become aware of domestic violence, they will attempt to motivate the persons involved into starting an ambulatory treatment program at the NGO's. The model has previously been tested, and the evaluation showed that the model helped secure an earlier response to violence in close relations.

As part of the political agreement to fund 136,1 million DKK in 2023-2026 to a new National Action Plan to Combat Intimate Partner Violence and Intimate Partner Killings, a new partnership to combat violence in intimate relationships and intimate partner killings is to be established. The partnership will place violence in intimate relationships and domestic homicide on the agenda across the participating actors, act as an arena for knowledge sharing and help strengthen cooperation between relevant authorities and other actors with the aim of preventing violence in intimate relationships and domestic homicide.

The initiatives described above are yet to be evaluated.

At present, The Danish National Police is undergoing extensive organisational changes. These changes include, among other things, a specific goal of ensuring quality and development in the area of intimate partner violence, rape, stalking and honor related crime. All 12 police districts have established so-called specialised teams that handle cases within the areas mentioned above (see section 41 for a more detailed description of the specialised teams).

Whether they involve specialist support services provided by civil society Organisations, especially women's rights Organisations

Since 2017, the national unit against violence Live without Violence (Lev Uden Vold) have received 91.9 million DKK. Live without Violence is Denmark's national organisation that works to secure more and better assistance for people who experience violence in intimate relations. The unit also operates the national hotline, which accepts calls from victims and perpetrators of violence, their relatives and professionals seeking assistance and advice. The hotline provides assistance for all types of domestic violence and rape and is open 24/7. The unit also operates an overview of available rooms at all shelters for battered women. The women as well as

professionals can call Live Without Violence and obtain knowledge regarding available rooms. Live Without Violence consists of five of the central NGOs in the area of violence in close relations, including Danner, a prominent shelter for battered women as well as LOKK the National organization of Women's Shelters.

The Danish National Police has not implemented a national and formalized multi-agency cooperation model designed to protect and support victims of the forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention. The precise model for implementation of the co-operation is decided on a local basis within the police districts.

Examples of local cooperation projects include the following:

- The Partnership Against Violence (Partnerskab mod Vold) project is a partnership between the majority of the country's police districts and Live Without Violence (Lev Uden Vold). Live Without Violence is a Danish national organisation that works to ensure help for people who experience intimate partner violence. The purpose of the project is to establish and develop an initiative to prevent repeated of violence and prevent the escalation of intimate partner violence. Among other things, the project includes:
 - 1) A scheme whereby Live Without Violence on the basis of the citizen's consent, makes counselling calls to both the victims and perpetrators of violence. The police maintain regular contact with both perpetrators and victims, for example in connection with emergency calls concerning ongoing intimate partner violence or domestic violence or in connection with the reporting of violence. In this way the police act as a connecting link to the advice and counselling provided by Live Without Violence. This makes it possible to use police contact with the perpetrators and victims of violence as a foundation for early preventive work. Early detection and intervention can help to ensure that more people break free from violence and it can also help to prevent violence from escalating. Live Without Violence has found that the partnership also puts them in contact with a different target group than the citizens who contact their hotline directly without it going via the police. When contact is established through the police, perpetrators are given the option to participate in Live Without Violence treatment options, bypassing the Organisation's waiting list.
 - 2) Live Without Violence also offers a two-day training to individual police districts to better equip police districts for the handling of cases of intimate partner violence.
 - 3) Live Without Violence will undertake the final knowledge gathering and evaluation phases of the project. The project will run from February 2022 until June 2024.
- In January 2023, Copenhagen Police entered an expanded co-operation project lead by the Danish national Organisation Dialogue Against Violence along with Live without Violence as well as three other civil society organisations and three of the municipalities in the police district of Copenhagen. This expanded project serves as a multi-agency co-operation providing the possibility for the police and the municipalities to refer citizens experiencing intimate partner violence to specialist support services working with different target groups. The co-operation project enables law-enforcement officers and social services in Copenhagen to refer either male or female victims, male or female perpetrators, couples and pregnant women to specialist support services provided by civil society organisations. Copenhagen Police has allocated human resources to the co-operation project, both in terms of a division of employees screening for relevant citizens to refer to the specialist support services, as well as a project coordinator. All allocated human resources are

dedicated to the broad implementation of the project within the police district, by providing in-house training to relevant employees in contact with the project target group. The co-operation project extends to the end of 2024. Hereafter, information on the evaluation and outcome of the project will be available.

- The pilot project entitled Safe in Southeast Jutland (Tryk i Sydøstjylland) is a collaboration between the Southeast Jutland Police and Danish Stalking Centre. Its purpose is to develop and implement a cross-sector cooperation model that can lead to new preventive and safety promoting initiatives within and around the police district.

The project is between the Southeast Jutland Police, the seven municipalities in the police district and the Danish Stalking Centre. The project works to include the Prison and Probation Service and the health sector, e.g. medical practitioners, psychiatry and forensic psychiatry in the project.

The primary objectives of the project are to ensure that victims of stalking receive better help and support, to prevent the consequences of stalking and to stop stalking. Furthermore, the project also aims to bolster local prevention and safety promoting efforts through the interdisciplinary qualification of police, municipal and health-related initiatives. The project aims to achieve this through the development of action plans that focus on stopping perpetrators, building knowledge and providing training, as well as through interdisciplinary and cross-sector cooperation models. The project's activities include, among other things, training education across disciplines, sectors and authorities. This includes for instance a one-day course on digital stalking as well as a seminar on the psychology of stalking and perpetrator profiles. The objective is furthermore that results and experiences gained from the project may later be used as sources of knowledge and inspiration for other police districts and municipalities in their work related to stalking. The project runs until the end of 2024 and will then be externally evaluated.

- Bornholm Police has established a **partnership with the District Court of Bornholm** to counteract and prevent reluctance to testify in court among victims and witnesses. This partnership involves providing victims and witnesses with an opportunity to visit the court's premises, to talk through the trial process and to ask any questions they may have in that regard. This serves to demystify the process and create a greater sense of security around giving evidence at trial.
- The Central and West Jutland Police expects to enter into an **upcoming project on domestic violence against children** together with three municipalities. The project is anchored at Shelter for women and children in Holstebro. Shelter for women and children in Holstebro has applied for funding for a three-year model project aimed at young boys and girls. It will include: (1) The establishment of an outpatient counselling service for under-eighteens who are the victims or perpetrators of violence or sexual abuse, and (2) the development and anchoring of an educational program for upper primary and secondary classes about violence and its consequences, and about places where young people can receive help. Funding has not yet been granted to the project and it has therefore not yet commenced.

In addition to the police districts' local cooperation projects, it is generally the case that the police district's specialised teams (see section 42) dedicate an important share of their work to building relationships with various external organisations, authorities and civil-society actors in order to create a basis for an effective cross-sector collaboration.

The country's police districts therefore work with various relevant authorities, organisations, NGOs, counselling services etc. Examples of these include:

- **The Danish Prosecution Service**
- **The Municipalities of Denmark**
- **The Health Sector**
- **The Prison and Probation Services**
- **Departments of Forensic Medicine**
- Children's Houses (**Børnehusene**) are used in cases concerning assault where there is a need for a cross-sector approach between the municipality, the police and/or the hospital service. The relevant authorities coordinate via the children's house so that the child or young person in question does not have to repeat their account of the abuse in several different places. The child or young person meets with professionals who are experienced in talking to children and young people about abuse, such as the police, social workers or psychologists.
- Live Without Violence (**Lev Uden Vold**) is a national organisation in Denmark that works to help citizens who are victims of domestic violence. Among other things, Live Without Violence operates a national hotline that provides advice and guidance to both victims and perpetrators of rape and violence, as well as relatives and professionals.
- Dialogue Against Violence (**Dialog Mod Vold**) offers treatment to perpetrators of violence. They offer counselling with a psychologist whose objective is to stop the violent behaviour and help build new patterns of behaviour. Where appropriate, help is also offered to address the impact of violence on both partners and children.
- **Danner** is a private organisation that works both nationally and internationally to stop violence against women and children. Danner provides both outpatient counselling and accommodation in crisis shelters. Danner's knowledge centre has specialised knowledge on gender-based violence and runs projects that empower female victims of violence and promote equality in society.
- Mothers' Aid (**Mødrehjælpen**) offers, among other things, an initiative named Out of the Shadow of Violence (Ud af Voldens Skygge) which is for women and children who have lived with domestic violence. This service offers treatment and counselling to help process the consequences and effects of violence. Mothers' Aid adopts a gender-based

perspective on domestic violence and a focus on the fact that women and girls have a need for special protection and help.

- Help Victims of Violence (**Hjælp Voldsofre**) is a nationwide, volunteer and independent association that works to help victims who have been subjected to crimes against the person such as violence, robbery, rape and other forms of sexual abuse. The association offers help through counselling and guidance as well as psychological support and legal aid, among other things.
- Tell Someone (**Sig Det Til Nogen**) is a counselling service for women who have been the victim of violence. It provides social counselling, psychological counselling and group sessions.
- **Danish Stalking Centre** is an autonomous and independent interest organisation whose purpose is to prevent and stop stalking, to provide information about stalking and to undertake advocacy in an effort to improve conditions for the area of stalking prevention and support. Danish Stalking Centre offers help and advice to those affected by stalking.
- The Exit Circle – Ways Out of Psychological Violence (**Exitcirklen – Veje Ud Af Psykisk Vold**) is a nationwide initiative that offers therapy and conversation groups to men and women who have been a victim of psychological violence and negative social control.
- Till Death Do Us Part (**Til Døden Os Skiller**) is an initiative under the Exit Circle which targets women from a Muslim cultural background who have been denied the right to an Islamic divorce and are kept in a marriage against their will.
- RED Centre Against Honour-Related Conflicts (**RED-Centre mod Æresrelaterede Konflikter**) runs, among other initiatives, **RED counselling**, which is a nationwide service that provides advice on honour-related conflicts and negative social control. The counselling is aimed at young people, parents and professionals who either personally experience or work with honour-related conflicts or negative social control. **RED Safehouse** runs two secure and sheltered accommodation facilities for young people fleeing honour-related conflicts. RED Centre runs RED+, a shelter and counselling service for ethnic minority LGBT+ people who experience honour based violence.
- Security Consultants (**Sikkerhedskonsulenterne**) at the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration (SIRI) provides advice on concrete cases to both professionals and citizens in relation to honour-related conflicts, negative social control and re-education trips, etc.
- Centre for Victims of Rape (**Centre for Voldtægtsofre**) is an interdisciplinary treatment provision for people who have been the victim of rape, attempted rape or other assaults. There are nine centres and they are all attached to hospitals in the country. The centres are staffed by doctors, nurses, psychologists and social workers.

- Victims Counselling in Denmark (**Offerrådgivningen**) offers help to citizens who have been the victim of any kind of crime or accident. Each police district has its own local department of this service.
- National Organisation of Women's Shelters in Denmark (**Landsorganisationen for Danmarks kvindekrisecentre**) represents more than 50 **women's shelters**. The National Organisation of Women's Shelters aims to unify, support and strengthen the efforts at the women's shelters. The organisation supports with professional knowledge about violence and prevention, and also works for a better political framework, so that the women's shelters have the best conditions to help women exposed to violence and their children.

In addition to the above mentioned, the police districts also cooperate with the country's many shelters and crisis centres. One police district reports, for example, that officers make regular visits to such centres and shelters every month in order both to speak about safety and case processing and to take reports on incidents. It is the assessment of the police district that the permanent presence of regular officers helps to raise trust and confidence among both residents and staff, and this is deemed to have a positive influence on the propensity to report crimes.

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

As provided under question 15 (a), the municipalities are obligated to offer support and the Danish municipalities are according to the Consolidation Act on Social Services obligated to offer temporary accommodation to women who have been subjected to violence, received threats of violence or who are experiencing equivalent crises in their family or their relationship. The gender-specific approach at the shelters prioritizes the safety of women exposed to violence, and thus has is a victim-centred approach.

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.

Please see the answer to question 15.

It is noted that the creation of the specialised teams is based on the Financial Framework for the Danish Police and the Danish Prosecution Service 2021–2023.

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.

The municipalities have been legally obligated to use a Children's House since 1 October 2013. There are five Children's houses in Denmark located in each of the five Regions of Denmark, which is equipped with special facilities for interviewing child victims and witnesses of abuse or other crimes. Furthermore, some of the Children's Houses have more than one location, which means that there are five main Children's Houses and four subdivisions connected to these. By having several small subdivisions located on a larger area, it ensures the shortest possible

distance to the children in order to avoid that the children have to travel long distances when they need to be interviewed in a Children's House.

The political agreement *The Children First (Børnene Først)* from May 2021 contains a broad spectrum of initiatives for children who are socially vulnerable. As a part of the agreement it was decided to do an annual follow-up with the municipalities with the least cases in the Children's Houses. It was also decided to conduct a study about, what is behind the regional differences in the use of the Children's Houses. In addition, the model for financing responsibility will be changed to secure, that the economy in the municipalities isn't an obstacle.

When the police handle cases concerning violence against women, a contact person is assigned to the victim, unless the victim declines this. This way, the victim knows who to contact with questions at any point during the case process, from initial report to the final decision of the court.

The contact person is appointed pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order No. 1108 of 21 September 2007 on the Police and the Prosecution Service's Obligation to Guide and Inform Victims in Criminal Cases and to Appoint a Contact Person for Victims.

The police must also appoint a contact person to victims in cases where a support attorney may be appointed pursuant to Section 741 a (1) of the Danish Administration of Justice Act and in certain other cases concerning violations of the Danish Criminal Code, unless the victim declines this. A contact person may also be appointed to the victim in other cases in the event that, with consideration to the nature of the case, it is deemed that the victim may have a need for further guidance from the police or the prosecution service. In addition to the need to appoint a contact person for victims in criminal proceedings, there may also be a need to appoint a contact person to the victim in certain administrative cases concerning restraining orders, exclusion orders and expulsion, even if there are no parallel criminal proceedings.

The contact person appointed to the victim will generally be the primary investigator on the case.

Among other things, the contact person must provide guidance and information on the legal position of the victim, including their right to have a support attorney appointed, the progress of the case and its expected development, as well as safeguards relating to court appearances. Moreover, the contact person must inform the victim about significant developments and changes in the case, including arrests, pre-trial detention or if the investigations prolonged.

The Danish National Police has issued national guidelines concerning the contact person scheme. The guidelines describe inter alia in which cases and at what time a contact person must be appointed, who should be the contact person and which tasks are assigned to the contact person, including the interface with a support attorney.

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 municipalities in Denmark are obligated to offer help and support to battered women and their children. Firstly, the Danish Act on Social Services contains a general obligation for the

municipalities to ensure that everybody is given the opportunity to obtain free counselling. This includes women who are victims of violence in intimate relations. Furthermore, the municipalities are obligated to offer support and counselling to women who take residence in a shelter for battered women. The counselling shall support the individual elements of the services otherwise provided by the municipalities. The counselling is provided on issues regarding housing, finances, labour market, education, day-care facilities, health sector, etc. The counselling consists of several functions. Firstly, the counselling must be a continuous link, which creates contact with relevant authorities, and ensures that the authority or caseworker continues being in touch with the women until another authority or caseworker has taken control in relation to the woman and the children. Secondly, through the counselling, it must be ensured that the efforts of all authorities are followed up and that other necessary tasks are carried out. Thirdly, the counselling must be cross-sectoral with the possibility of ensuring close cooperation between the authorities, so that the woman is enabled to use the social system without being lost along the way. Finally, through the counselling, attention must be paid to being supportive in relation to the abused woman, also in relation to the need for treatment and the need for creating a network for the women. Since 2020, the municipalities are obligated to offer a maximum of 10 hours of free psychological treatment to all women who come to stay in a women's shelter. The sessions are offered both during and after the stay at a shelter. The treatment helps to secure the necessary counselling that allows the women to cope with their experience and rebuild a life for themselves and their children.

In addition to the help provided by the Act on Social Services, Denmark funds several NGO's which provide treatment for female victims of intimate violence. The Finance Act for 2020 also allocated 48 million DKK in the period 2020-2023 and 18.7 million DKK in annual funds permanently thereafter to ambulatory counselling for people affected by violence in close relations.

Since 2017, the national unit against violence Live without Violence (Lev Uden Vold) have received 91.9 million DKK. Live Without Violence is Denmark's national organisation that works to secure more and better assistance for people who experience violence in intimate relations. The unit also operates the national hotline, which accepts calls from victims and perpetrators of violence, their relatives and professionals seeking assistance and advice. The hotline provides assistance for all types of domestic violence and rape and is open 24/7.

As part of the national reserve for social, health and labour market measures for 2021-2024, Denmark allocated 14.5 million DKK to the so-called "intervention-model". The goal of the project is to provide an early and preventive contribution against violence in close relations. The model consists of a collaboration between the police, the municipality and a NGO. When the police respond to calls of domestic disturbances or violence, they will attempt to motivate the persons involved into starting an ambulatory treatment program at the NGO in collaboration with the municipality. The model has previously been tested, and the evaluation showed that the model helped secure an earlier response to violence in close relations.

Affordable and permanent housing

In Denmark, the Danish social housing sector ensures adequate proper housing conditions for everyone. The social housing sector is regulated by the Act of social housing etc. The target group of social housing is primarily people with a relatively low income including women with children in socially vulnerable situations.

It applies to all citizens with legal residence in Denmark, regardless of income, social, religious, ethnic or national background that they can register on the waiting list for social housing or, if they are in urgent need, can address the municipality for help. The municipality can dispose of up to 25 percent of the available general family housing, which they can offer socially vulnerable citizens.

The total number of social housing units in Denmark is approximately 640,000, which amounts to approximately 21 per cent of the total number of dwellings.

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?**

Any person who learns that a child or young person under 18 years of age is being exposed to neglect or degrading treatment, including violence, by their parents or other caregivers or is living under conditions endangering their health or development has a duty to notify the municipality. Hence, this duty applies to all adults in Denmark.

In addition, there is a special duty of notification for persons performing public functions or holding public offices, including private persons, organisations, or institutions part of the public service delivery in the Danish municipalities. They shall notify the municipal council if, in the exercise of their duties, if they learn or have grounds to assume that: (i) a child or young person under 18 years of age may need special support; (ii) a child may need special support immediately after being born because of the circumstances of the expecting parents; (iii) a child or young person under 18 years of age may need special support due to the child's or young person's unlawful absence from school or failure to meet the compulsory education requirement; or (iv) a child or young person under 18 years of age has been exposed to assault.

For persons performing public functions or holding public offices, it is a criminal offence it is a criminal offence not to fulfil the duty to report to the authorities in cases of violence against a child.

If the municipal council has reason to assume that a child or young person needs special support, - including cases of abuse - the municipal council must conduct a child protection examination in order to clarify the needs of the child or young person, in accordance with section 50 of the Act on Social Services.

20. **Do such protocols detail the procedure to:**
- a. **identify victims through screening;**
 - b. **provide treatment for all the medical needs of victims in a supportive manner;**
 - c. **collect forensic evidence and documentation;**
 - d. **ensure that a clear message of support is conveyed to the victim;**
 - e. **refer to the appropriate specialist support services that form part of a multi-agency co-operation structure; and**
 - 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, the duty to report includes cases, where children may have been exposed to domestic violence or other forms of gender-based violence.

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.**

Both in the hospital emergency units and in the regional centres for victims of rape and sexual assault, a doctor will do a medical examination and provide immediate care if the patient has injuries that need immediate attention. The examination is voluntary but often essential for an eventual trial. The doctor's description of the injuries can be used as evidence in a trial or claim for compensation. The staff performing the examination are trained to do the examination. The examination and procedure of securing evidence of violence and assault often include photos of visual evidence, microbiological tests, securing forensic evidence on clothes, etc.

The evidence is kept for three months after the examination in case the patient wants to report the assault to the police.

The Ministry of the Interior and Health of Denmark has launched an initiative which aims to track down violence against pregnant person and new mothers/parents and to provide support to this group. The task of tracking down and supporting the pregnant persons and new mothers/parents exposed to violence will be carried out by midwives, nurses and health workers whose qualifications will be upgraded with this initiative. The initiative is a part of the National Action Plan to Combat Intimate Partner Violence and Intimate Partner Killings.

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.**

All foreign national women who are under the provision of the Danish Immigration Service have access to health care services on an equal footing irrespective of the grounds listed.

In Denmark, a translator is provided free of charge to non-Danish-speaking residents that has been in Denmark less than three years, or residents that are from the German minority in Denmark, residents from Greenland or the Faroe Islands, children and residents that has lost the ability to learn Danish due to mental or somatic conditions. For residents that are not fulfilling these requirements, a fee will be charged to the service of translation. The medical staff has the authority to decide whether a translator is necessary for the patient to consent to the examination or treatment.

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.**

Closed reception facilities for asylum-seekers

Denmark does not have closed reception facilities for asylum-seekers.

Care and identification of victims of violence in institutions for persons with disabilities

According to The Danish Institute for Human Rights, people with disabilities, especially mental disabilities, are overrepresented among victims of rape and other sexual assaults. The overrepresentation is even greater regarding the group of people with disabilities who live in housing units.

In 2012, the Danish Authority of Social Services and Housing developed the handbook "Sexuality on the agenda", which aims to gather knowledge about professional approaches to other people's sexuality in a preventive perspective. The handbook summarizes current legislation in the area and is still frequently used by care workers.

As part of the Danish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe 2017/2018, the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs, Housing and Senior Citizenship put focus on the detection, prevention and handling of instances of assault against children and adolescents with disabilities. In this connection, the ministry produced an English summary of the handbook and produced subtitled versions of three related animated videos.

As a part of their quality assessment The Social Supervision assess whether the facilities for people with disabilities prevent violence and abuse, including whether the educational efforts of the facilities ensure that no violence or abuse occurs.

Care and identification of victims of violence amongst elderly residents in nursing homes

In Denmark, there are different measures in place to facilitate the identification and care of victims of violence against elderly residents in nursing homes. These measures primarily aim to ensure their safety and protection needs. It is important to note that the exact measures may vary depending on the specific nursing home and can be subject to change over time.

Below are some of the initiatives that take place:

- Education and awareness: The staff in nursing homes are trained to identify signs of discomfort in the elderly residents that may, for example, indicate violence and abuse. They learn to be attentive to physical injuries, signs of anxiety or fear, changes in behaviour, or other signs that may indicate violence.
- Creating a safe environment: Nursing homes work to create a safe and supportive environment for all residents. The staff at nursing homes focus on establishing a caring and respectful atmosphere where residents feel secure and trust the staff.
- Provision of support resources: Nursing homes work to provide access to appropriate support and assistance for elderly residents who are victims of violence. This may include referral to social workers, psychologists, domestic violence centres, or other relevant services that can offer counselling, support and protection.
- Confidentiality and privacy: Staff members are trained to handle information about violence and abuse with confidentiality and respect for the elderly residents' privacy. This may involve ensuring confidential conversations, avoiding unnecessary disclosure of information, and handling the case in a discreet manner.
- Collaboration with relevant authorities: Nursing homes collaborate with relevant authorities such as municipal authorities, and the police. This ensures that clear procedures and channels are established to report and handle suspicion of violence and

abuse. Additionally, a whistle-blower system allows citizens, relatives, or employees at nursing homes to file a report with the Danish Patient Safety Authority (Styrelsen for Patientsikkerhed) if they have concerns regarding whether a nursing home provides the necessary quality of assistance, care and support for the elderly, or if there are concerns about patient safety at the facility in general.

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.**

Please see the answer to question 22 for information on the translation service provided in the Danish health care system.

Informed consent

According to section 15 (1) of the Danish Health Act, no treatment may be initiated or continued without the patient's informed consent unless required by law or by section 17-19. The patient may at any time withdraw their consent in accordance to paragraph 1, cf. Section 15 (2).

Informed consent contains both a right to receive information about the offered medical treatment and a right for the patient to either consent to or refuse the suggested treatment based on information given by a healthcare professional.

The healthcare professional must provide the information necessary for the patient to make an autonomous decision and to ensure that the patient adequately understands the information provided. This should, for example, include information about the disease process, benefits and burdens of recommended treatment and consequences of refusal of treatment. The full list of information provided for the patient is listed in section 16 of the Danish Health Act.

The information should be ongoing and provide an understandable description of the disease, the examination, and the intended treatment. The information should be provided in a considerate manner and be adapted to fit the recipient's individual preconditions with regard to age, maturity, experience etc., cf. section 16 (3).

The healthcare professional, who is responsible for the treatment, must make sure that informed consent is obtained, cf. section 21 (1), No. 1.

A patient who has reached the age of 15 can give informed consent to treatment themselves. Holders of the parental authority must, however, receive information and be included in the minor's decision, cf. section 17 (1).

The health care staff is responsible for making sure that the patient understands the information. Therefore, the doctor responsible for the treatment will assess whether there is a need for an interpreter in connection with treatment.

In Denmark, the Regional Council offers translation assistance (services) for patients who need translation assistance in connection with treatment at general practitioners and medical specialists and treatment at public hospitals, cf. section 50 (1).

The determining factor when assessing whether there is need for an interpreter is whether the patient is able to understand the information. The patient cannot decline an interpreter if the doctor finds that an interpreter is required.

Sterilisation

Section 105 stipulates that anyone above the age of 18 can be sterilised. However, sterilisation of a person between the age of 18 and 25 may only be carried out 6 months after an offer of treatment has been made (with some exceptions). Sterilisation of a person under the age of 18 must not be permitted unless very special circumstances warrant it, cf. section 107 (3).

A request for sterilisation must be made by the person on whom the sterilisation is to be performed, cf. section 109.

Section 110 stipulates that if the person who has requested the sterilisation, due to mental illness, impaired mental development, severely weakened health or for some other reason permanently, or for a longer period of time is unable to understand the impact of the procedure, the regional Abortion and Sterilisation Council can upon request of a specially appointed guardian allow sterilisation when the circumstances warrant it.

Section 111 stipulates that if the person on whom the procedure is to be performed is under 18 years old and unmarried, or if the person in question is mentally ill or have impaired mental development or it is otherwise due to the applicant's mental state including weak giftedness, that the person requests sterilisation on their own, the regional Abortion and Sterilisation Council can allow sterilisation upon request of the person concerned and the holder of parental authority or a specially appointed guardian.

A regional Abortion and Sterilisation Council's decisions can be appealed to the Abortion Appeals Board, cf. section 108 (2).

Section 113 stipulates that the person on whom the sterilisation is to be performed must receive guidance by a doctor regarding the nature and direct consequences of the procedure and about the risk associated with the procedure.

Abortion

A pregnant person can have the pregnancy terminated without permission if the procedure can be carried out before the end of the 12th week of pregnancy and the pregnant person, after the regulations in section 100 have been adhered to, maintains the wish for termination of the pregnancy, cf. section 92.

After the 12-week limit a pregnant person can apply for permission (from a regional Abortion and Sterilisation Council) to have an abortion on medical, ethical, foetal-medical or social grounds, cf. section 94. After the 12-week limit a pregnant person has the right to an abortion – without special permission from a Council – if an abortion is necessary in order to save the woman's life or prevent serious damage to her health, cf. section 93.

Section 100 (3) stipulates that the pregnant person must receive guidance by a doctor about the nature and direct consequences of the procedure as well as information about the risk associated with the procedure.

A request for termination of pregnancy must be made by the pregnant person themselves, cf. section 98 (1). If the pregnant person due to mental illness, impaired mental development, severely weakened health or for some other reason is unable to understand the impact of the abortion procedure, the regional Abortion and Sterilisation Council can under certain

circumstances, permit an abortion at the request of a specially appointed guardian, cf. section 98 (2).

If the pregnant person is under 18 years old and unmarried, her parents or a legal guardian must (also) consent to the request for abortion, cf. section 99 (1). The pregnant person can lodge an application to the regional Abortion and Sterilisation Council to be permitted an abortion without obtaining parental consent or in spite of the parents' refusal, cf. Section 99 (2) and (3).

A regional Abortion and Sterilisation Council's decisions can be appealed to the Abortion Appeals Board, cf. section 97 (2).

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**
- b. **medical support**
- c. **short- and long-term psychological counselling**
- d. **trauma care**
- e. **legal counselling**
- f. **outreach services**
- g. **telephone helpline**
- h. **other forms of support (e.g. socio-economic empowerment programmes, online assistance platforms etc.)**

The Danish municipalities are according to the Consolidation Act on Social Services obligated to offer temporary accommodation to women who have been subjected to violence, received threats of violence or who are experiencing equivalent crises in their family or relationship. This obligation of accommodation and counselling is described in section 109 of the Consolidation Act on Social Services. The women are entitled to free counselling and a maximum of 10 hours of free psychological treatment. Children accompanying their mother during her stay in a shelter for battered women are entitled to a maximum of 10 hours of free psychological treatment.

The national unit against violence Live without Violence (Lev Uden Vold) provide free legal advisory services in the areas of intimate partner violence and domestic violence. Live without Violence (Lev Uden Vold) operates the national hotline, which accepts calls from victims and perpetrators of violence, their relatives and professionals seeking assistance and advice. The hotline provides assistance for all types of domestic violence and rape and is open 24/7.

As part of the national reserve for social, health and labour market measures for 2021-2024, Denmark allocated 14.5 million DKK to the so-called "intervention-model". The goal of the project is to provide an early and preventive contribution against violence in close relations. The model consists of a collaboration between the police, the municipality and a NGO. When the police respond to calls of domestic disturbances or violence, they will attempt to motivate the persons involved into starting an ambulatory treatment program at the NGO in collaboration with the municipality. The model has previously been tested. The evaluation showed that the model helped secure an earlier response to violence in close relations.

The website the Child Portal (Børneportalen) is operated by the National Council for Children, which is an independent state institution. The website provides guidance to children and young people on how to reach relevant authorities in order to receive help and assistance.

As part of the national reserve for social, health and labour market measures for 2023-2026, Denmark allocated 0.8 million DKK to the website the Child Portal (Børneportalen). The funds must be used to keep the website's content up-to-date and to create advertising e.g. through video production, collaborations and campaigns, including on social media (So-Me).

The free phone line the Children's Phone (Børnetelefonen) is operated by the NGO Children's Welfare. The NGO has expanded with a new youth counselling service called "HEARD" / (HØRT) on So-Me. The phone service and So-Me service offer advice to children and young persons and is able to provide advice on contact to relevant authorities. In November 2021, the opening hours of the phone line were extended, which means that the phones are also open every night between 11 pm and 7 am.

As a part of the national reserve for social, health and labour market measures for 2023-2026, Denmark allocated 2.5 million DKK to the phone line and So-Me service. The funds must be used to ensure counselling at night.

A national Working Environment Authority's Hotline regarding sexual harassment and bullying is open for anyone and you can contact the Hotline anonymously to get advice and guidance regarding sexual harassment and other violations in the workplace. The Hotline is open Mondays-Thursdays from 8 am until 3 pm and Fridays from 8 am until 2 pm.

The Danish health care system provides specialist support from the regional Centres for Victims of Rape, Regional Centres for Sexual Assault (please also see the answer for question 21). Victims of rape and sexual assault are one of the groups that can get a referral from the GP to counselling from a psychologist through the Danish health care system with a public subsidy, making the cost of the treatment cheaper than otherwise.

All regions in Denmark have shelters for women seeking help after experiencing assault. A list for shelters for women in all regions can be found under "Kvindekrisecentre" at levudenvold.dk.

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?

Children accompanying their mother during her stay in a shelter for battered women are entitled to a maximum of 10 hours of free psychological treatment.

The municipalities have since 1 October 2013 been legally obligated to use a Children's House. Children's Houses are being used as a part of the child protection examination in cases where there is knowledge of or suspicion that a child or young person aged 0-17 have been the victim of sexual assault, violence or abuse, and there is a need to involve the police or health care system. In the Children's Houses, the municipalities, the police and the hospital service coordinate their efforts to help the children exposed to violence.

The political agreement the Children First (Børnene Først) from May 2021 contains a broad spectrum of initiatives for children who are socially vulnerable. As a part of the agreement it was decided to do an annual follow-up with the municipalities with the least cases in the Children's

Houses. It was also decided to conduct a study about what is behind the regional differences in the use of the Children's Houses. In addition, the model for financing responsibility will be changed to secure that the economy in the municipalities isn't an obstacle.

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?

Asylum seeking women and other foreign national women who are under the provision of the Danish Immigration Service have access to accommodation in crisis centres based on an individual assessment of their needs. Furthermore, they have access to counselling and assistance from social workers and health care professionals in reception facilities.

The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration provides financial support to five NGOs, targeted vulnerable ethnic minorities with yearly stipends, allocated through the Finance Act. These organisations are:

1. **Neighbourhood Mothers**, a community-based organisation primarily consisting of – and managed by – ethnic minority women. The setup of the organisation is peer-to-peer support and guidance in the local communities. All members of Neighbourhood Mothers are volunteers that offer support and guidance in their local areas of residence, especially to isolated and vulnerable women. A large part of the Neighbourhood Mothers have ethnic minority background themselves, and they are all specifically trained in recognizing cases of honour-based violence and abuse, enabling them to refer the women to the proper authorities.
2. **SABA AH**, which aims to improve the conditions of LGBT+ people with ethnic minority background. SABA AH offers guidance and counselling and acts as spokesperson for its target group in the social as well as political arena.
3. **RED Safehouse**, RED+ and RED Counselling (Previously named Ethnic Youth) are specialised in cases of honour-based violence and abuse. RED safehouse offers refuge to young women and men with ethnic minority background who are victims of honour-based violence and abuse. RED+ is a shelter for ethnic minority LGBT+ between the ages of 16-30, who face honour-based violence and abuse. RED's counselling unit offers anonymous counselling and support to parents and individuals (young and adults) on honour-based violence and abuse.
4. **Danner** is a woman's organisation and shelter for women. Danner's initiative 'Tell someone – Migrants' offer women at risk of violence with a migrant background counselling on experiences with violence, legal counselling, as well as the opportunity to participate in psychological counselling and group counselling. Danner's aftercare program aims to support women exposed to violence with migrant background in maintaining the choice to break away from the violence and re-establish a sustainable everyday life after staying at a shelter. At the same time, Danner help the women into the type of housing that suits their individual needs.
5. **Sisters against violence and control**. The goal of the organisation is to support women who want to break free from control and oppression. The organisation seeks out and

educates women from vulnerable residential areas in democratic education, sexuality, equality, rights, forms of violence and social control. The educated women subsequently use the acquired knowledge and their own personal stories to support and inspire other vulnerable women to break cultural taboos about psychological and physical violence.

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

All of the above-mentioned services are available.

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

The health system

The health system has an essential role in preventing, detecting and treating health consequences of violence, not only in relation to women, but to all human beings including children. As described in previous contributions to GREVIO, healthcare in Denmark is provided by the regions. In addition to the general health system (hospitals, general practitioners, midwives and health nurses etc.), there is a range of specialised units.

In Denmark, nine regional centres across the country provide treatment against the consequences of sexual violence. Some of them are separate centres, e.g. Centre for Sexual Assaults at Rigshospitalet in The Capital Region (Centre for seksuelle overgreb, Rigshospitalet.dk) and provide treatment for both adults and children; others are connected to the Emergency Room or the department of gynaecology.

In 2021 the Danish public hospitals had 2.844 annual contacts to women, where the reason for their contact to the health system was violence. In total 2.682 individual women contacted the Danish public hospitals in 2021 due to violence. This shows that there were women who contacted the health system due to violence more than once.

In 2022 the Danish public hospitals had 3.031 annual contacts to women due to violence and in total 2.856 individual women contacted the Danish public hospitals due to violence in 2022.

Shelters for battered women

On 31 of December 2022 there were 74 shelters for battered women in Denmark with a combined capacity of around 869 rooms/beds. In 2021, around 2,600 women and 2,250 accompanying children stayed at a shelter for battered women. The number of women seeking help at one of the shelters has increased over the last couple of years, from roughly 2,060 in 2018 to 2,600 in 2021. Data on women seeking aid in the last six months of 2021 is available

upon request for research and statistical purposes from Statistics Denmark. Data on women seeking aid from 2022 has not yet been published.

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.**

Please see the answer for question 21.

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).**

The regions

All regions in Denmark provide treatment to victims of sexual violence. Please see the answer for question 21 for further information. There are no access criteria to the regional centres for victims of sexual assault. A victim of sexual assault does not need a referral from another health care professional to seek help from the centres. The centres treat two groups of victims: victims who have experienced assault within the last month and victims where the assault has happened more than one month ago. The centres offer counselling among other types of treatment.

The municipalities

The municipalities have since 1 October 2013 been legally obligated to use a Children's House. Children's Houses are being used as a part of the child protection examination in cases where there is knowledge of or suspicion that a child or young person aged 0-17 have been the victim of sexual assault, violence or abuse, and there is a need to involve the police or health care system. In the Children's Houses, the municipalities, the police and the hospital service coordinate their efforts to help the children exposed to violence.

The political agreement the Children First (Børnene Først) from May 2021 contains a broad spectrum of initiatives for children who are socially vulnerable. As a part of the agreement it was decided to do an annual follow-up with the municipalities with the least cases in the Children's Houses. It was also decided to conduct a study about what is behind the regional differences in the use of the Children's Houses. In addition, the model for financing responsibility will be changed to secure, that the economy in the municipalities isn't an obstacle.

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;**
 - b. **acknowledge the harm that witnessing violence by one parent against the other has on a child;**
 - c. **ensure that custody with the non-violent parent is preferred over foster-care;**

- 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;**
- 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.**

The Family Law Agency

All cases on custody, the child's residence and visitation is first processed in an administrative authority: The Family Law Agency. All cases concerning parental responsibility are screened, based on the parents' information, in order to place the cases in the right case-handling-tracks, one of which is a track for complex cases with risk factors as violence, abuse and mental illness.

The Agency investigate all complex cases and can make interim decisions on custody, residence and visitation. The final decision is always made by the Family Court.

In the Act on Parental Responsibility art. 4 it is emphasized that in all decisions, the Agency and the Family Court must focus on ensuring the child's well-being and protect the child from violence or other treatment that exposes the child to harm or danger, including witnessing violence. It also appears directly from the act, art. 4 a, that if a parent is sentenced to imprisonment for a serious crime, e.g. abuse of children, gross violence and manslaughter, a decision cannot be made on custody, residence and access, unless it is for the best of the child

The Family Court Act

There are 24 jurisdictions in Denmark, each having its own district court. Each jurisdiction also has a family law court division which deals with family and divorce cases. In addition to this it should be noted that all judges in the Court of Denmark are legal judges and generalists which means they can handle all types of cases.

In first instance cases and in the two Higher Courts, the court can decide that two experts shall participate in the case if expertise could be of importance for the case. As an example, the judge that handles a family law case can decide that a child expert shall participate in the case to advise on the child's needs.

As mentioned above, the processes related to family law cases about parental responsibility, divorce, child support, all start in the Danish Agency of Family Law before they are brought before the family court, if necessary. If the parents disagree after the process in the Agency of Family Law, and the Agency of Family Law is unable to settle their dispute, the Agency of Family Law will forward the case to the family court. In addition to this, it shall be noted that the Agency of Family Law is not competent in decision-making in complicated family cases. In these family cases, the Agency of Family Law is responsible of looking into the matter of the case but is it the family court that is the competent authority in settling the dispute. This is stated in the Family Court Act section 32.

In addition to this, it should be noted that with the adoption of the Family Court Act in 2019, there has been an increased focus on protecting children from violence. It is not elaborated in the proceedings what is meant by violence. It is therefore assumed that it is violence in the form of what is already criminalized by criminal law at any time.

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;
- 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;
- c. are informed of the unfoundedness of notions of "parental alienation"⁴ or analogous concepts that are used to overshadow the violence and control exerted by perpetrators of domestic violence over women and their children.

The Family Law Agency

For the handling of cases concerning violence The Family Law Agency has developed a professional guideline. The guideline sets a framework for the Agency's work with cases where there is concern about violence between the parents or against the child.

The guideline has been prepared with the involvement of stakeholders in the field - amongst others: Save the Children and Dialogue against violence.

The understanding of the significance of violence for the family is an integral part of the Agency's method descriptions and workflows, and the work is ongoing to strengthen the work with cases where there is concern about violence, including in relation to the employees' knowledge of violence issues.

An advisory board for the Agency of Family Law has been established which must contribute to assure the quality of case processing at the Agency. On the board are several representatives with special knowledge of violence.

A Child Unit is set up within the Agency to protect the child. The Unit is the child's own entrance to the system. The Child Unit provides a contact person for the child to support the child throughout the process, both in the Agency and in court. The child's perspective must always be taken into account in a case on custody, residence or visitation, thus the Family Law Agency can hear the child during the Agency's handling of the case.

The family law court division

Please refer to the answer to question 32 regarding the family law court division and the Family Court Act.

⁴ 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.**

The Family Law Agency

There is a formalized cooperation between the Agency and municipal social services, which pursuant to the Act on Social Services are tasked with ensuring children’s welfare. Thus, it follows directly from the law, that the Agency of Family Law in complex cases with violence, abuse or mental illness must contact the Social Services to clarify if there are a case on the family. The authorities can exchange information and the Agency can conduct cross-sectorial meetings with the Social Services. The purpose is for the parents not to disclose their cases to several authorities and for the authorities to work together to find holistic solutions for the family.

The family law court division

Please refer to the answer to question 32 regarding the family law court division and the Family Court Act.

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;**
- b. **eliminate the risk for the child to witness or experience violence;**
- c. **ensure that the responsible personnel are trained and that the facilities are suited to enable safe supervised visitation.**

The Act on Parental Responsibility/The Act on the Family Law Agency

Please see the answer to question 32.

The Family Law Agency can make interim decisions on visitation. The final decision is made by the Family Court. As a condition for an interim decision on visitation, the Family Law Agency can decide that the visitation must be supervised. The supervised visitation is conducted at the Agency by experienced employees from the Child Unit, see answer to question 33.

It appears from the law that a party in a family law case, for instance a mother in a custody case, is not obliged to attend a meeting at the Family Law Agency with the other parent, if the other parent has exposed the parent or the child to violent behaviour or violent behaviour is suspected.

The family law court division

Please refer to the answer to question 32 regarding the family law court division and the Family Court Act.

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.**

The Act on Parental Responsibility

It appears directly from the Act on Parental Responsibility art. 4 a that if a parent is sentenced to imprisonment for a serious crime, e.g. abuse of children, gross violence and manslaughter a decision cannot be made on custody, residence and access, unless it is for the best of the child.

The Act on Social Service

The Danish Act on Social Service contains section 71 (4) which ensures that where it is known or assumed that any person with whom the child or young person is to have visitation has committed an assault on a child or young person, the Children and Young Persons Committee shall, unless special circumstances dictate otherwise, decide, for a specified period, to break off that person's contact with the child or young person by way of visitation or contact by letter, email or telephone or decide that the right of visitation may only be exercised in the presence of a municipal representative.

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.

There are no provisions in Danish law on mandatory alternative dispute resolution.

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.

Voluntary alternative dispute resolution processes (conflict council) exist in Denmark. Conflict council is a meeting between the victim and the perpetrator. It is voluntary for both parties to participate in the meeting, and the meetings take place with a mediator. The conflict council is based on the principle of restorative justice, a supplement to the existing criminal law, which aims to rebuild the relationship rather than focusing on guilt and punishment. The Conflict Council has no influence on the criminal case and sentencing. Conflict councils give the parties involved the opportunity to talk about the incident. The council exists to create security for victims, dialogue between the parties, and to target efforts for possible reconciliation or planning for future handling of conflicts.

When a case is found suitable for a Conflict Council, the victim and perpetrator are contacted to consider mediation between the parties. If both parties agree to participate, the case is forwarded to the district's mediator. The perpetrator must always be contacted first to avoid the risk of the victim suffering additional trauma. The victim and perpetrator are informed that the offer is voluntary and that they will be able to change their mind during the process. They are also informed that in a conflict council the focus is not on guilt or punishment. It is about having a constructive conversation about the human feelings that the incident has caused in both the victim and the perpetrator.

Conflict Councils have no influence on the criminal justice process for the victim. The Conflict Council is a supplement to punishment and is established alongside the criminal case. When a victim and a perpetrator participate in a mediation, it does not influence the investigation and prosecution, as mediation can only be established if the perpetrator admits or partially admits to the charge.

In addition, it should be mentioned that in the more complex criminal cases, the case manager, the public prosecutor's office, the management secretariat or external (*detention centres*) are contacted. This happens when it has to be assessed whether the mediation can be started in parallel with the criminal case or after the sentencing, in order to ensure the legal progress of the process.

The mediators are educated as conflict mediators. Education is offered by the Danish National Police. During the course the mediators learn to handle several different emotional situations that can arise in a mediation. They learn how to approach a criminal case objectively, without prejudice and to create a safe space.

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.

Section 10 (2) of act no. 766 of 7. August 2019 states that the Agency of Family Law can summon the parties of family law proceedings to participate in a meeting together. This is not the case if one of the parties or a child has been the victim of violent behaviour by the other party or if there are suspicions hereof. In cases where one or both parties have shown violent behaviour, a meeting with participation from both parties can be arranged, if the victim of the violent behaviour agrees to it. Section 10 (2) is a general procedural rule for the Agency of Family Law.

Section 452 (6) of act no. 1655 of 25. December 2022 (the Danish Procedural Code) states that the conciliation procedure in chapter 27 of the Danish Procedural Code (according to which the conciliation procedure can be attempted in all civil procedural cases (except enforcement and probate cases)) can only take place in the family court, if there are special circumstances to the case.

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 also described in item 4 (article 8) there have been allocated 95.8 million DKK to strengthen the police's handling of cases of intimate partner violence, rape, stalking and honour related crime as a result of the Financial framework for the Danish police and the Danish prosecution service 2021-2023.

The dedicated financial resources were earmarked for the establishment of specialised teams in each police district that deal specifically with cases of violence against women, stalking, sexual assault and honour related crimes. The allocation of dedicated resources indicates a political and societal focus on violence in intimate relationships, and Danish Police is increasing its focus on violence in intimate relationships, most notably on cases of violence against women, including the digital manifestations hereof. However, it is not possible to specify the number of human resources dedicated to this area, as it is part of the police's overall portfolio. The human resources are flexible and reflect the caseload at any given point in time. Finally, Danish National Police has undergone an organisational restructuring by which the department dedicated to cybercrime (National Cyber Crime Centre, NC3) – including digital forms of sexual violence, harassment and stalking – has been placed in the newly established Special Crime Unit (NSK).

Please see question 42 for a more comprehensive description of the specialised teams.

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?

Police interviews with victims must be undertaken in a private context. This also applies to any initial interviews undertaken in connection with a victim's report. If the circumstances require it, such an initial interview can be conducted in a private office, a patrol car or another place that is not a part of the public space. The actual interrogation must be conducted at the police station. Special (video) interrogation rooms have been set up at the police stations and these are used for interrogations in relevant cases, including cases involving particularly vulnerable victims.

Please see question 1 for a more about the special interrogation rooms.

In all cases, it is possible to make a report by calling the police or by going to a police station. In certain cases, victims can also report a crime online. There is information for victims on the police website www.politi.dk/anmeld-kriminalitet about how to make a report. The information is divided into subpages for different categories of crime. There are subpages on violence, psychological violence and domestic violence, sexual offences, threats, stalking and digital sexual offences. Victims can find other relevant details on these subpages, such as information about how the police will deal with the case and the victim's right to a support attorney.

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

In December 2020, the Danish Government reached an agreement with parties in the Parliament on the financial framework of the Danish police and the Prosecution Service, which added more resources to the Danish police and the Prosecution Service. The agreement also ensured the establishment of specialised teams in all police districts. The specialised teams consist of specially trained members of the police, the national intelligence as well as the

prosecution services. The purpose of the specialised teams is to supply various departments of the police and the prosecution services with knowledge on how to handle cases relating to offences committed in close relations, e.g. domestic violence, rape and other sexual offences and cases regarding stalking.

By 2021, all Danish police districts had set up interdisciplinary specialised teams for cases relating to domestic violence, rape, stalking and honour-related crimes.

The police districts have recruited a number of civilian so-called key persons to the interdisciplinary specialised teams. The role of these key persons, among other things, is to provide colleagues in the various departments with knowledge about domestic and intimate partner violence and rape, and to provide support to investigators and prevention officers in their casework and case processing. The majority of these key persons are qualified psychologists, social workers or criminologists.

The key persons also participate in the handling of individual cases, for example by taking responsibility for the screening and coordination of cases internally within the police district and continuously referring both victims and perpetrators to the relevant external aid and assistance organisations.

The specialised teams work, among other things, to optimize case procedures within the police district so that the police encounter with victims in cases relating to intimate partner violence and rape, for example, is based on knowledge about trauma reactions, with focus placed on protective measures that can provide support to the victim after the crime.

The specialised teams also help disseminate knowledge about victim trauma reactions, perpetrator patterns of behaviour and dynamics of violence, etc.

For example, the specialised team at one police district, in conjunction with the local office of the prosecution service, held a presentation for the district's courts at which chief justices, judges, court-appointed lawyers and prosecutors were in attendance to discuss trauma reactions and related issues. The specialised team has also held presentations on the subjects of intimate partner violence, the consent-based rape provision, digital sexual offences and similar topics at five of the district's largest educational institutions. The aim was to help young people enhance their understanding of violence dynamics, legislation, reporting channels and so on, and to influence stereotypes and attitudes. The specialised team also made themselves available for individual discussions and counselling, and to provide information on how to make reports to the police.

Reference is also made to the reply to question 11 about e-learning courses.

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.

The agreement on the financial framework of the Danish police and Prosecution Service sets out general goals for the Danish police and the prosecution service with regards to the

prioritization of all cases relating to violent crimes and sexual offences. According to the agreement, such cases should be handled within certain time limits:

- 1) At least 50 percent of the cases must be handled within 85 days from reported crime until charges has been brought.
- 2) The case administration (from reported crime until charges has been brought) must be under 170 days in at least 70 percent of the cases.

All emergency barring orders must lead into actual protection orders within reasonable time or maximum of 60 days according to a common goal set up by the police and prosecution services.

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.**

The police always encourage the reporting of criminal offences to the police.

At the actual meeting with the citizen, the police will try to support the victim in the best possible way, for example by advising the citizen on the progression of the case going forward and by referring them to help organisations, etc. The police are conscious that the victim's encounter with the police may be decisive in whether women wish to make a report and to whether or not the report is maintained.

As previously mentioned under question 1, the Financial Framework for the Danish Police and Prosecution Service 2021–2023 sets out that both redoubled continuous and further training, as well as the development of a technical catalogue on trauma-informed practice, among other things, shall ensure the broader dissemination of knowledge about victim trauma reactions and vulnerability.

The uptake and spread of trauma-informed practice within the police may, among other things, help to improve police encounters and interactions with citizens affected by crises and trauma, prevent secondary victimisation, increase the propensity to report crimes and prevent victim drop-out.

The handbook on trauma-informed practice in the police contains a section on the initial encounter between the police and people affected by crises and trauma. Among other things, it is stated here that in connection with the receipt of a report or an inquiry about intimate partner violence, honour-related conflicts and crimes, stalking or rape, it is important to be conscious that persons subjected to such forms of violent actions may have difficulties reporting the incident, either because the perpetrator is a current or former partner or a family member of the victim, or because the victim is experiencing feelings of shame as a result of having been subjected to the incident in question.

It is also stated that it is important for the victim to feel that the police recognize the severity of the case when they file their report, and that the victim is met with a sense of inclusiveness and respect. This can be achieved by identifying the victim's reasons for reporting the incident and their needs for other types of support or protective measures, and equally it is also important to ask initially about the incident on the basis of knowledge of case types and dynamics. Furthermore, it is essential that the police are able to help inform the victim as to what authorities and organisations can provide additional support in the process. By ensuring a good start in the contact between the victim and the police, it is possible to ensure that the victim feels heard and recognized, and thus to prevent the victim from losing their courage and withdrawing their report or wishing not to participate in the investigation of the case. It is particularly important in cases concerning intimate partner violence or honour-related cases concerning violence or threats to give the victim the opportunity to speak freely with the police without being overheard by their partner or other family members.

The handbook on trauma-informed practice also contains sections on crisis and trauma reactions, the importance of the interrogation to the mental processing of the incident, and the prevention of secondary victimization in the encounter between the victim and the police, among other things.

As mentioned under question 41, the police website contains a number of subpages which, among other things, address the reporting of sexual offences, stalking, psychological violence, domestic violence and honour-related violence. For example, the website contains detailed information on how the police will respond when a citizen reports a rape. The purpose of this is to ensure high levels of transparency in the process and thus to reassure citizens and encourage them to make their report to the police. The website also covers the concerns and anxieties that citizens may have when making a report to the police and it makes efforts to address such concerns. For example, it contains a list of six good reasons to always contact the police even if the victim is in doubt as to whether a rape has occurred or if they are concerned about the potential consequences of making a report.

The police districts also take action locally in order to increase the propensity of citizens to report crime. For example, the police districts conduct daily screenings of police registrations in order to ensure that relevant cases are followed up on, such as cases of intimate partner violence.

In 2023, Copenhagen Police has also initiated an academic project which seeks to examine the propensity to report cases of psychological violence among victims, in order to learn more about the factors that might have an impact on the victims and their cooperation with the police. The project results will serve as background information in future police training.

Finally, the Financial Framework for the Danish Police and Prosecution Service 2021–2023 sets out that an investigation shall be undertaken into the scope of and reasons why citizens, such as young people and victims of intimate partner violence, refrain from reporting crimes. Against this background, the Ministry of Justice has conducted an investigation into the propensity to report in cases relating to violence and sexual offences. The investigation considers the scope of and the reasons why citizens refrain from reporting violence, psychological violence, rape/attempted rape and other sexual offences, and it seeks to uncover whether negative social control constitutes a reason for not reporting such crimes. The investigation is based on

information from the national crime victim survey in 2019-2021 and interviews with police employees, primarily staff from the specialized teams at the police districts who handle cases relating to domestic violence, rape, stalking and honour-related crimes.

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.

The National Police has published a number of national guidelines which provide guidance for police casework. These include:

- Guidelines on handling cases of honour-related crimes and conflicts
- Guidelines on handling cases of psychological violence
- Guidelines on handling cases of harassment, persecution and stalking
- Guidelines on handling cases concerning rape or rape-like situations
- National standards for homicide investigations
- Handbook on trauma-informed practice
- Guidelines on special address protection
- Guidelines on the use and distribution of panic alarms
- Guidelines for using the risk assessment tools: SARA: SV (Spousal Assault Risk Assessment), SAM (Stalking Assessment and Management) and PATRIARK (Assessment of Honour Based Violence).

Among other things, these guidelines contain police guidance on the taking of reports, investigation, securing of evidence, interrogation, guiding the victim and assessing any immediate needs for help and protection the victim may have, etc.

Where relevant, they also contain a description of the specific characteristics that are relevant in relation to the specific case type as well as examples of the relevant criminal offences. The guidelines on handling cases of honour-related crimes and conflicts contain a number of examples of criminal offences that may be committed in honour-related cases such as female genital mutilation, forced marriage, re-education trips and psychological violence.

The guidelines also describe the investigative actions to be taken by the police in addition to the victim interview. These actions will depend on exactly which criminal offences are being investigated. In case of for example rape, the police must initiate a forensic medical investigation of the victim and they must secure the crime scene.

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.

The handbook on trauma-informed practice, as mentioned under question 7 (1), in the police contains a section on victim drop-out. It is stated here that there can be many reasons why a victim decides to withdraw from a case. Research shows that these reasons typically relate to

either case characteristics, negative experiences with the system (for example, during interrogation or a lack of confidence in the police to solve the case) or psychological stress, sometimes in the form of crisis reactions. In addition, some victims may withdraw because they did not want to file a report in the first place and it was somebody else who reported the incident on their behalf, or because they cannot escape, are afraid of, or have received threats from the perpetrator or others in their network. A Danish study based on data from the East Jutland Police (exclusively regarding cases of rape) has shown a correlation between how psychologically distressed the victim has been after the assault and their propensity to withdraw from the case. The greater the levels of distress, the higher the likelihood of victim drop-out.

The handbook also states that some of the single most important factors in relation to the propensity of victims to withdraw include the initial encounter between the police and the victim and the relationship between the police investigator and the victim. The investigator's ability to establish contact and form a relationship with the victim is therefore crucial in terms of keeping the victim in the process and it is crucial not to underestimate the importance that the investigator's actions and approach will have for the victim, who is often in an extremely vulnerable situation.

The handbook on trauma-informed practice also includes a section on establishing contact and interrogation techniques, which takes account of the above issues concerning victim drop-out.

Please also refer to answer to question 17 where the contact person scheme is described. The contact person scheme also seeks to prevent victim drop-out by appointing a contact person for the victim.

In this context, it may also be mentioned that the Prosecution Service guidelines (Rigsadvokatmeddelelsen) contains a section on crimes against the person in intimate relationships, which states that it is particularly important for the police to document the victim's injuries and other pieces of objectively verifiable evidence, if possible by taking photographs, and by describing them extensively and accurately in the police report. This is to be able to prosecute the perpetrator in cases where the victim does not wish to participate.

In connection with this, it should be emphasized that section 742 (2) of the Danish Administration of Justice Act states that the police must initiate an investigation, following a report or on their own initiative, when there is a reasonable suspicion that an offence subject to public prosecution has been committed. Such cases do not require the victim to report the incident or to maintain their report.

Individual police districts have also implemented local initiatives to improve the handling of these cases and they have entered into local collaborations with women's shelters and NGO's (see question 15 on local police district partnerships).

Examples of local initiatives include a unit for trauma-informed practice established by the Southeast Jutland Police, which aims to improve victim encounters with the police. All reports of intimate partner violence are screened by the unit for vulnerable victims who are at risk of withdrawing their report, and the unit provides guidance on how to treat the victim on the basis of its knowledge on crisis and trauma reactions.

Among other things, the specialised team at the South Zealand and Lolland-Falster Police works systematically to identify and contact women who may be in a violent relationship by undertaking daily reviews of police registrations and following up on concerning incidents of

domestic disturbances, assaults, etc. The specialised team also makes contact with shelters in the police district in order to inform the residents of their rights and the protections available to them. The team provides training to all departments in the police district on trauma-informed practice and considerations in citizen encounters with the police.

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.⁵

No legislative measures have been taken since the last Evaluation Report.

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;**
- b. **the filing for separation/divorce by the victim or the break-up of the relationship;**
- c. **pregnancy;**
- d. **previous acts of violence;**
- e. **the prior issue of a restrictive measure;**
- f. **threats made by the perpetrator to take away common children;**
- g. **acts of sexual violence;**
- h. **threats to kill the victim and her children;**
- i. **threat of suicide;**
- j. **coercive and controlling behaviour.**

The Danish Police use the evidence-based risk assessment tools; SARA:SV (Spousal Assault Risk Assessment), SAM (Stalking Assessment and Management) and PATRIARK (Assessment of Honour Based Violence). The risk assessment tools are used to assess the risk of violence including the risk of repeated and/or deadly violence in cases regarding stalking, intimate partner violence and honour related violence.

According to the guidelines published by the National police it is mandatory for the Danish police to conduct a risk assessment in cases involving intimate partner violence, stalking and honour-related violence in the following situations:

- the victim has been a victim of serious physical violence or death threats
- the victim has been a victim of serious psychological violence/abuse
- the victim has been a victim of persistent harassment
- the victim has been a victim of coercion and/or captivity

⁵ 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.

Furthermore, it is recommended to conduct a risk assessment when:

- The perpetrator has a serious mental disorder.
- When there is an ongoing case related to visitation or custody over children.

The need for a risk assessment is always based on an overall assessment of the specific case. A risk assessment can therefore also be made based on a discretionary assessment by the police.

Within the evidence-based risk assessment tools used by the Danish Police, the risk factors listed above are generally relevant risk factors but which specific combination of risk factors that are most important depends on the type of risk (i.e. stalking, intimate partner violence or honour-based violence). Pregnancy is not explicitly assessed in the risk assessment tool used by the Danish police.

The Danish National Police provides in-service training in the use of the evidence-based risk assessment tools; SARA:SV (Spousal Assault Risk Assessment), SAM (Stalking Assessment and Management) and PATRIARK (Assessment of Honour Based Violence).

As part of the national reserve for social, health and labour market measures for 2021-2024, Denmark allocated 3.692.549 DKK to dissemination of the risk assessment tool "Spousal Assault Risk Assessment version 3" (SARA-V3) courses aimed at educating front workers in relevant sectors who are in contact with victims or perpetrators of violence in close relations in the use of SARA-V3. The courses are free of charge for participants. The purpose of the risk assessment tool is to identify and prevent violence in the future and the escalation of violence. As part of the research needed to make a qualified assessment a multitude of different factors are analysed. Among other things previous acts of violence, social, behaviour and health problems of the perpetrator, threat of harm towards the victim or the perpetrator him or herself are considered.

PATRIARCH is a risk assessment method used in honour-based cases. In Denmark, PATRIARCH has mainly been used by the police, but during the last couple of years it has been translated into the practice of social workers.

The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration has carried out courses in the PATRIARCH method for the last 4-5 years. In 2022, the courses were carried out six times. The participants (108 in 2022) have mainly been professionals from shelters, from the municipalities and NGOs. In 2023, it is expected that there will be held another six-seven courses potentially with up to 180 participants.

The elements d, e, f, g, h, i, j in the questionnaire are considered as red flags in the risk assessment in a direct way. For example, the element of h is covered by the section in PATRIARCH called 'K2: threats'. Other sections are used to assess whether or not the situation is in fact honour related, is 'intimidation', physical violence, serious honour related violence and escalation of honour related violence. The element of a (firearms) could be covered by the section 'other' when assessing the risk factors of the perpetrator. The elements of b and c could be covered by the sections concerning the victim's vulnerability factors or when describing the psychosocial wellbeing of the victim. By that, if any of the given elements were present in a given situation it would very likely be taken into consideration when using the PATRIARCH method and therefore be part of the risk assessment.

Training of the police

The Agency's training of the police involves knowledge of honour-based violence, abuse and crimes, as well as the special dynamics and warning signs of honour-based cases. This includes knowledge of detection and handling both in terms of preventing and investigating honour-based violence, abuse and crimes. The participants are also presented with tools that can contribute to a more systematic screening of whether honour may be at stake in a case. In addition, the police and prosecution present current cases with a learning perspective.

Security advisors

The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration has established and is financing a national team of security advisors. The consultants provide advice to professionals and citizens in cases of honour-based violence and abuse. The security advisors can in some cases assist with coordination across authorities and provide advice concerning security.

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.

No formalized national model of co-operation exists, where the police and other relevant actors coordinate the use of risk assessment tools. Consequently, there is some variation across police districts in how they cooperate with relevant local social authorities, support services etc. Some cooperate primarily on a case-by-case basis, while others have more formalized cooperation structures. Cooperation can for example entail, contacting relevant authorities and informing them of the assessed risk of further violence, and of which safety measures the police have taken. The police can also refer a woman to a shelter. The local police have a good knowledge of and cooperation with local shelters and other support services for women.

The Danish National Police recommends that the police districts include relevant information from other authorities and NGO's in the risk assessments.

When conducting risk assessments, the results are not directly shared with other authorities or NGO's due to confidentiality concerns, but the measures that are taken, following a risk assessment, are done so in cooperation with other relevant actors. The police often take the risk assessment as starting point, before engaging in a dialogue with relevant social authorities or women's support services and before deciding which measures to carry out in order to ensure the safety of a woman and her children. The risk assessment tools are used to analyse and assess the risk in relevant cases, in order to provide relevant risk management. Relevant authorities and support services are addressed individually in management plans, when necessary.

In cases that require a focused effort in order to prevent future or repeated violence, police investigators cooperate with social and specialised authorities and the risk assessment and the safety of the victim is the focal point of the cooperation. The police will typically provide safety guidance to professionals around the victim and draw up safety plans for the victim, where measures such as restraining orders or issuing an alarm are considered. When children are involved, the above mentioned steps will be adjusted to take this into consideration, and safety plans will also include contact to authorities specialised in dealing with children.

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.**

A number of initiatives have been implemented in the field of the Danish Ministry of Justice to strengthen efforts against partner killings through better data collection, increased knowledge and a strengthening of the cooperation between relevant authorities and other actors. The initiatives are not limited to cases of gender-based killings of women but have a wider focus area, including in relation to partner killings.

Firstly, as part of the multiannual financial framework of the Danish police and the Prosecution Service for 2021-2023, specialised teams have been established in all police districts. The purpose of the specialised teams is to optimize case procedures and strengthen knowledge on the handling of cases relating to offences committed in close relations, e.g. domestic violence, rape and other sexual offences and cases regarding stalking in various departments of the police and the prosecution services with, cf. also the answer to question 42 for a more comprehensive description of the specialised teams.

Secondly, since 1 January 2023 a mandatory and systematic case evaluation of all homicide investigations, including partner killings, has been initiated in all police districts. The case evaluation contributes to a general strengthening of the police's homicide investigations by identifying learning points from the various phases of the investigation. The learning points are expected to strengthen the investigation in the local police districts and it is the intention to disseminate best practice on a national level.

Thirdly, the Special Crime Unit (NSK) monitors all homicides in Denmark. The monitoring was established on 1 January 2023 and takes place, among other things, via a homicide database, which contains data from 1 January 2020 onwards.

Fourthly, in 2023, the Danish Ministry of Justice will conduct a study into homicides committed in Denmark in 2017-2021. The study includes information on the characteristics of homicides, including the gender of the victim and the perpetrator (if known), the relationship between the two, and the supposed motive. The study also includes a separate analysis of intimate partner killings.

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 courtordered protection order in order to ensure that gaps in the protection do not arise;**
- 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;**
- c. **children are specifically included in contact bans issued under the emergency barring order;**
- d. **any exceptions to contact bans are made and in which circumstances.**

Pursuant to section 741 (e) of the Administration of Justice Act, the police and the prosecution service inform the victims of i.a. violence of their legal position, the expected progression of and important steps in the case. The information includes information on the victim's right to seek compensation.

Furthermore, according to section 741 (b) of the Administration of Justice Act, the police must inform the victim of the possibility of attaining a support attorney. This information must be given prior to the police's first interview of the victim and must be repeated in connection with the second police interview.

According to section 741 (a) of the Administration of Justice Act, support attorneys are assigned to victims of i.a. violence by the court during criminal proceedings unless the victim has declined an attorney. All police districts have a list of attorneys who can be contacted when a support attorney is to be appointed. A support attorney's tasks can include explaining the procedures, informing the victim about access to psychological and social support and the right to compensation, assisting the victim in court, handling the compensation claim. Support attorneys are assigned free of charge for the victim unless the legal expense is covered by a legal expense insurance or other insurance.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has issued general guidelines to the prosecutors and to the police on how to inform victims about support services and the legal measures that are available. According to these guidelines, the prosecutor has the obligation to inform and guide the victim about the case. The information and guidance should be given regularly and includes information about the court case, witness rights and duty, getting help throughout the process and the possibility of getting a support attorney.

Further, a victim of violence can be assigned a contact person within the police, if the police considers that the person in question might have to give evidence in court. The contact person will often be a police officer and gives guidance and information on the rights of the victim of violence and the legal process.

Finally, the Danish police and the Director of Public Prosecutions have published a folder for victims of crime. The folder is available in Danish and English. The folder contains an overview of the process after a victim has reported a crime and information about options for getting help and support. The folder is handed out to all victims being questioned by the police. Furthermore, the folder is available at www.politi.dk and www.anklagemyndigheden.dk.

If protection orders are issued under section 2, part 2 of the Danish Law on protection orders (and emergency barring orders), children and other close relatives are included in contact bans. This is the case if a person is under suspicion of homicide, robbery, deprivation of liberty, violence, psychological violence, arson, rape or attempted any of these criminal acts and the victim or close relatives of the victim should not tolerate such contact because of the seriousness of the suspected crime.

If protection orders are issued under section 2, part 1 of the Danish Law on protection orders (and emergency barring orders), children are not included in contact bans. This is the case if a person is under suspicion of invasion of privacy and if it is suspected that it will happen again.

Please also see the answer to question 43.

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

Please see the answer to question 51.

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;**
- b. **children are specifically included in protection orders;**
- c. **any exceptions to contact bans are made and, if so, in which circumstances these may be made.**

On 1 January 2022, a stalking provision was introduced as section 242 in the Danish Criminal Code. The new provision entails that anyone who systematically and persistently contacts, pursues or otherwise harasses another person in a way that violates another person's privacy shall be punished with a fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years for stalking. Prior to this, act no. 112 of 3 February 2012 about restraining orders, residence bans and expulsion applied. The law enables that restraining orders in case of stalking can be issued, and it defines stalking as systematic and continuous harassment or persecution and stalking is to be considered an aggravating circumstance in cases of violation of restriction orders and bans. The new provision entails that perpetrators of stalking now can be penalised even if they have not already been granted a restraining order, which was not previously the case. Section 242 is similar to article 53 of the Istanbul Convention.

With regard to children, please see the answer to question 51.

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

In connection with an inquiry/report to the police or later in the process, there may be a need to implement a number of protection precautions/ protection orders to ensure that the victim is not exposed to further assault or to prevent the situation from escalating.

The police make an initial assessment of whether there is an urgent need to implement protection precautions/protection orders. For this purpose, the National Police recommends that the police districts use a mini-checklist consisting of selected risk factors that can be used to make a quick and structured assessment of the victim's urgent need for help and protection. Depending on the nature and circumstances of the case, the police can e.g. make use of the following protection precautions/protection orders:

- **Panic alarms**

Victims can, after a concrete assessment, be issued with a panic alarm. When the panic alarm is activated, the call goes directly to the emergency center with a GPS position.

- **Apps**

Victims can be advised to download and use relevant apps, including:

- The Guardian Angel app (Skytsengel app'en)
The Guardian Angel app is developed by the Danish Stalking Center. The app is targeted at people exposed to harassment, persecution, stalking or other unwanted contact. It has two main functions: An alarm and a log. The alarm function can create increased security, as the victim can call a helper connected to the App via a single click. The log can be used to document stalking or other unwanted incidents. The contents of the log can easily be shared with the police, when there is a need for documentation of the unwanted incidents – e.g. the log can be shared with the police in the event of a request for a restraining order, or report of criminal law offences, e.g. psychological violence. Citizens can be referred to the app if they report stalking, or if they for other reasons feel unsafe in their everyday life and need to document unwanted incidents.
- The MÆRK app
The MÆRK app is an app from the Ministry of Immigration and Integration's. The purpose of the app is to provide information on honour-related conflicts. The app includes, among other things, information about honour-related conflicts and crimes and telephone numbers, addresses and maps that can point the way to relevant help. There are built-in settings that allows the app to be blocked with a PIN code or the screen to go black by using a "panic button".

- **Moving to another address or staying at a crisis centre/safe house**

In the more serious cases, victims can move to another address or take residence in a crisis centre/safe house. The police provide help and guidance in this regard.

- **Technical and tactical security of the home**

Some victims fear being approached by the perpetrator at their residence. Here, the police can advise on options for securing the home both technically and tactically. E.g. the view from the victim's residence can be improved by installing lights and removing/trimming hedges and other vegetation. Access to the home can be restricted through e.g. additional securing of doors, locks and windows, etc.

- **Protection orders and emergency barring orders**

A protection order or emergency barring order can limit the perpetrators' ability to carry out further violations against the victim.

- **Special address protection**

Special address protection implies that a person can be registered as having no permanent residence in the municipality. In this way, the citizen's address is protected, and it becomes difficult for family, networks and others to seek out the person concerned.

- **Digital protection**

A simple and effective advice for digital protection is to get a new phone and get rid of the old one in order to avoid tracking. The Danish National Cyber Crime Center (NC3) has issued guidelines on the prevention of digital stalking. The guidelines can be used by the

police in cases where a person is at risk of being stalked, harassed and controlled using digital devices (e.g. computer, tablet or telephone). The guidelines focus specifically on the victim's safety, and the possibility of staying hidden, without the whereabouts being revealed via the victim's own IT devices. The guidelines also describe how the victim can avoid misuse of his personal access to e.g. bank accounts, but also activities on the internet such as social media etc.

- **Treatment/counselling**

The police refer victims (and perpetrators) to relevant specialist counselling and treatment services. See question 15.

Article 56: Measures of protection

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

- 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);**
- the protection of the privacy and the image of the victim (paragraph 1 f);**
- 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);**
- the provision of appropriate support services for victims so that their rights and interests are duly presented and taken into account (paragraph 1 e).**

In Denmark, the notification of victims is stipulated in:

- The Danish Administration of Justice Act, subsection 741 g (Consolidated act no. 1655 of 25 December 2022),
- Government order no. 1134 and 13 October 2017 on "Order on the notification at exit and release, etc. as well as by participation in television or radio programmes or portrait interviews" (unofficial translation), and
- Circular letter of 19 January 2022 on the Scheme of notification of the injured party on the convicted person's first unaccompanied leave and release etc. and on the convicted person's participation in TV or radio programmes or portrait interviews.

A request of notification must be approved by the police commissioner of the place/region where the criminal case has been processed. Notification may be refused, if essential consideration must be shown for the convicted person. Notification takes place upon the convicted person's first unaccompanied leave from the prison, release, parole, pardon, escape and can also apply to situations where the convicted person participates in television or radio programmes or portrait interviews.

Notification takes place by the Prison and Probation Service.

In cases where an offender has been sentenced to unconditional imprisonment due to serious violation of the Criminal Code, where violence, threats or other personal crime or a sexual offense was committed, the victim is upon request informed of the convicted offender's first unaccompanied exit, release and on possible evasion, if the convicted offender has been in

custody before judgment and the offender has not been released between the judgment and execution of the sentence, cf. section 741 (g) of the Administration of Justice Act.

The victim is also informed upon request, if the offender during imprisonment and in the institution's area with the institution's knowledge participates in the recordings for a television or radio program produced for broadcast in Denmark, in which the person in question has a prominent role; or in a portrait interview in a Danish newspaper. The same applies to participation in the recording of such a television or radio program or interview outside the institution's area, in cases where the institution has granted permission to exit with knowledge about this. Victims of violence can find more information on the prosecution services [website](#).

According to section 856 of the Administration of Justice Act, the presiding judge may decide that the defendant should not be present while the victim is questioned, if the defendant's presence will prevent an unreserved statement from the witness. If the court decides that the name, occupation and address of a witness, including the victim, must not be disclosed to the defendant, the court may also decide that the defendant must leave the court room during the witness testimony. The decision may be made prior to a trial hearing upon request from the prosecution service, the legal assistant of the victim, the defence or a witness, including the victim.

The rules regarding door closure in section 29 (a) of the Administration of Justice Act also ensure respect for the victims' right to safety, privacy and confidentiality during court proceedings.

During the court proceedings the court can decide that the proceedings will not be open to the public if the victim is considered to be in danger. Section 29 (1) of the Administration of Justice Act further provides for the possibility to hold court proceedings in camera if the hearing in public will cause somebody to be unnecessarily aggrieved. Moreover, the court can decide that the victim's identity may not be made public.

On 1 January 2022 an amendment to the law entered into force according to which the victim in cases of rape or sexual activity other than sexual intercourse must be offered a video recording of the first interview with the police according to section 745 e of the Administration of Justice Act.

If prosecution services decide to press charges, the video must be played in court in the presence of the victim and the victim must confirm the testimony given to the police. There will also be an opportunity to ask the victim supplementary questions in the courtroom.

Pursuant to section 741 (e) of the Administration of Justice Act, the police and the prosecution service inform the victims of i.a. violence of their legal position, the expected progression of and important steps in the case. The information includes information on the victim's right to seek compensation.

Furthermore, according to section 741 (b) of the Administration of Justice Act, the police must inform the victim of the possibility of attaining a support attorney. This information must be given

prior to the police's first interview of the victim and must be repeated in connection with the second police interview.

According to section 741 (a) of the Administration of Justice Act, support attorneys are assigned to victims of i.a. violence by the court during criminal proceedings unless the victim has declined an attorney. All police districts have a list of attorneys who can be contacted when a support attorney is to be appointed. A support attorney's tasks can include explaining the procedures, informing the victim about access to psychological and social support and the right to compensation, assisting the victim in court, handling the compensation claim. Support attorneys are assigned free of charge for the victim unless the legal expense is covered by a legal expense insurance or other insurance.

In the guidelines from the Director of Public Prosecutions, in the section on guidance of the injured person (*vejledning af forurettede*), general guidelines to the prosecutors and to the police on how to inform victims about support services and legal measures available to them are set. The prosecutor has to inform and guide the victim about the case. The information and guidance should be given regularly and includes information about the court case, witness rights and duty, getting help throughout the process and the possibility of getting a support attorney.

Further, a victim of violence can be assigned a contact person within the police, if the police considers that the person in question might have to give evidence in court. The contact person will often be a police officer and gives guidance and information on the rights of the victim of violence and the legal process.

Finally, the Danish police and the Director of Public Prosecutions have published a folder for victims of crime. The folder is available in Danish and English. The folder contains an overview of the process after a victim has reported a crime and information about options for getting help and support. The folder is handed out to all victims being questioned by the police, and is available at www.politi.dk, and www.anklagemyndigheden.dk.

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);**
- b. **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;**
- d. **innovative approaches to primary prevention, for example new target audiences and means of communication, public/private partnerships etc.**
- e. **emerging trends related to access to asylum and international protection for women victims of violence against women.**

As specified in Article 11, a national crime victim survey (CVS) is conducted annually by the Danish Ministry of Justice. Since the adoption of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report in 2016, several adjustments have been made to the CVS regarding violence against women and domestic violence (see Article 11 for a description). The crime victim survey conducted in 2021 shows the following results:

- Violence

Of those asked in 2021, a total of 1.1 per cent indicated that they had been victims of violence within the past year. This proportion does not differ significantly from 2020, but it is statistically significantly lower than in the previous 10-year period (2011-2020). There are more male than female victims of violence in general, but the majority of victims of violence by a present or former intimate partner are women. From 2005-2021, 7 per cent of the total number of victims of violence reported that the violence was committed by a current or former intimate partner. In 85 per cent of the reported cases, the victim is a woman.

- Rape or attempted rape

Questions on rape/attempted rape were added to the CVS in 2008. As from 2021, the question on rape/attempted rape was changed to ensure that the wording of the question is consistent with the new consent-based rape legislation. Of those asked in 2021, 3.4 per cent of the female respondents reported that they had been victims of rape or attempted rape within the past five years. This proportion is statistically significantly higher than in 2020 and the previous 10-year period (2011-2020). The relatively high proportions of women in 2021 and 2022, who have been victims of rape/attempted, is probably closely related to the change in the wording of the question, and a possibly change in the public's perception of rape.

In 2021, well over three-fourths of the female victims of rape/attempted rape reported that the incident took place in a private home. There seems to be a trend towards an increase in the proportion of victims who indicate that the offender was a (former) friend, but the analysis is based on relatively few responses. In 2008-2021, more than one-third (36 pct.) of the total number of female victims of rape/attempted rape reported that the abuse was committed by a current or former intimate partner.

- Psychological abuse

Questions on psychological abuse committed by a person closely related to the household were added to the CVS in 2020. In 2021, a total of 2.5 per cent of the respondents reported that they had been victims of psychological abuse within the past year. For women alone, the share was 3 per cent. Approximately half of the female victims of psychological abuse were victimized by a current or former intimate partner. In the majority of the other half, the perpetrator was a child, parent, grandparent or another member of the family.

- Other sexual assaults

Questions on sexual offences other than rape/attempted rape were added to the questionnaire in 2019. This category of offenses includes having been exposed to unwanted intimate touch (on one's own body or somebody else's body), unwanted oral sex, forwarding or threats of forwarding messages, videos or images of sexual character or similar sexual abuse within the past 12 months. In 2021, 1.1 per cent of the respondents reported that they had been victims of sexual assaults other than rape/attempted rape within the past year. For women alone, the share was 2 per cent. In 7 per cent of the reported cases for all victims, the perpetrator was a current or former intimate partner. The numbers are too small to calculate the share among female victims only.

A new study among women in shelters shows that over half of the women surveyed experienced new episodes of violence during their shelter stay. Shelters have also pointed out that there is a problem with digital violations, including digital stalking of women while staying at the shelters. Stalkerware or spyware is used as a tool to carry out digital violations, including digital harassment, in violent relationships and in cases of stalking. Stalkerware typically works as a hidden background program that is installed on another person's phone or computer without their knowledge. The programs constantly collect and share data such as location information, messages, calls, images and passwords with the person who installed the program. The development of stalkerware and the way you can monitor others takes place at great speed and can be difficult to navigate. On 3 March 2023, political negotiations were concluded regarding financing 14 initiatives in a new National Action Plan to Combat Intimate Partner Violence and Intimate Partner Killings including financing the development and maintenance of a national guide on digital security and stalkerware by the Danish Stalking Centre.

The Director of Public Prosecutions have issued guidelines for notifying victims about the perpetrator's release or escape to ensure effective application of the rules. The guidelines also contain information on the possibilities to be assigned a contact person at the police and information on support attorneys etc.

The Director of Public Prosecutions and the National Police have also produced a folder with information for victims, which can be found in both Danish and English.

The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration is in the early stages of looking into problems with honour-based violence and abuse online.

On 30 January 2023, the Danish Refugee Appeals Board decided to change the Danish practice regarding asylum claims for women and girls from Afghanistan and grant them refugee status. In the decision reference is made to EUAA's Country Guidance on Afghanistan, published 24 January 2023, which concludes that "the accumulation of various measures introduced by the Taliban, which affect the rights and freedoms of women and girls in Afghanistan, amounts to persecution".

On this basis, provided the applicant is not encompassed by the grounds for exclusion listed in section 10 of the Danish Aliens Act, women and girls from Afghanistan are as a rule granted asylum in accordance with section 7; subsection 1 of the Danish Aliens Act.

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:

- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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 table below shows the number of cases of physical violence, psychological violence and sexual violence reported to the police with a female victim in 2021 and 2022[#]

Type	2021	2022
Physical violence*	5031	6063
Psychological violence**	381	1571
Sexual violence***	2136	2465
Total	7548	10099

*The category of physical violence consists of cases of violence against witnesses and their family, simple violence, aggregated violence, violence with bodily harm, violence with serious bodily harm, deadly violence.

** The category psychological violence consists of cases of coercive control and stalking.

*** The category sexual violence consists of cases of rape.

Dynamic data from POLSAS, extracted on 24th of March 2023.

The table below shows the number of cases of physical violence, psychological violence and sexual violence reported to the police where the police has charged someone with the crime in 2021 and 2022[#]

Type	2021	2022
Physical violence*	3619	4123
Psychological violence**	190	1162
Sexual violence***	1656	1869
Total	5465	7154

*The category of physical violence consists of cases of violence against witnesses and their family, simple violence, aggregated violence, violence with bodily harm, violence with serious bodily harm, deadly violence.

** The category psychological violence consists of cases of coercive control and stalking.

*** The category sexual violence consists of cases of rape.

Dynamic data from POLSAS, extracted on 24th of March 2023.

At present, Danish police is not able to deliver reliable data on the prevalence of domestic violence.

The Police of Denmark is focused on developing and supporting methods for identifying cases of intimate partner violence and domestic violence reported to the police. Danish police have policies and systems in place that enable and facilitate the use of so-called “search keys” to tag and track instances of intimate partner violence and domestic violence. However, as there are no system-based procedures that make the use of these search keys mandatory, data based on search keys is primarily suitable for analytical purposes. Data based on search keys is deemed not sufficiently reliable for statistical purposes.

As mentioned above (article 11) a new statistic on the different relations between victim and offender is in development and expected to be made available in 2023. This data will provide a more reliable picture of the prevalence of domestic violence in Denmark.

Table 1: Number of prosecutions on all forms of violence against women in 2021, 2022 and 2023 (violence, rape and sexual activity other than sexual intercourse):

	2021	2022	2023
Prosecutions	2.512	3.133	623

Table 2: Number of prosecutions on psychological violence against women in 2021, 2022 and 2023:

	2021	2022	2023
Prosecutions	44	59	30

Table 3: Number of final convictions and sanctions imposed upon all forms of violence against women in 2021, 2022 and 2023 (violence, rape and sexual activity other than sexual intercourse):

	2021	2022	2023
Dismissal:	527	515	87
Warnings	2	-	-
Conditional sentences	571	607	103
Conditional sentences and fine	21	27	1
Partly conditional sentences	86	99	18
Convictions	903	1.462	233
Convictions/warrant – Section 68-70 in the criminal code	307	376	37
Fines	5	9	2
Dismissal of all charges (section 722, part 1, number 7 in the administration of Justice Act)	8	25	3
Default judgement	-	1	1
Total convictions	1.903	2.606	398
Total	2.430	3.121	485

Table 4: Number of final convictions and sanctions imposed upon psychological violence against women in 2021, 2022 and 2023:

	2021	2022	2023
Dismissal:	25	21	5
Conditional sentences	2	3	-
Partly conditional sentences	1	-	-
Convictions	16	22	2
Convictions/warrant – Section 68-70 in the criminal code	2	-	-
Total convictions	21	25	2
Total	46	46	7

Table 5: Number of prosecutions on domestic violence in 2021, 2022 and 2023 (violence, rape and sexual activity other than sexual intercourse):

	2021	2022	2023
Prosecutions	277	372	112

Table 6: Number of prosecutions on domestic violence (psychological violence) in 2021, 2022 and 2023:

	2021	2022	2023
Prosecutions	274	366	101

Table 7: Number of final convictions and sanctions imposed upon domestic violence in 2021, 2022 and 2023 (violence, rape and sexual activity other than sexual intercourse):

	2021	2022	2023
Dismissal:	96	80	7
Conditional sentences	121	117	18
Conditional sentences and fine	2	1	-
Partly conditional sentences	5	5	-
Convictions	55	91	20
Convictions/warrant – Section 68-70 in the criminal code	9	9	2
Fines	-	1	-
Dismissal of all charges (section 722, part 1, number 7 in the administration of Justice Act)	4	5	1
Total convictions	196	229	41
Total	292	309	48

Table 8: Number of final convictions and sanctions imposed upon domestic violence (psychological violence) in 2021, 2022 and 2023:

	2021	2022	2023
Dismissal:	95	79	5
Conditional sentences	121	117	18

Conditional sentences and fine	2	1	-
Partly conditional sentences	5	5	-
Convictions	54	90	16
Convictions/warrant – Section 68-70 in the criminal code	9	9	1
Fines	-	1	-
Dismissal of all charges (section 722, part 1, number 7 in the administration of Justice Act)	4	5	1
Total convictions	195	228	36
Total	290	307	41

Table 9: Number of emergency barring orders issued by the competent authorities:

	2021	2022	2023
Emergency barring orders	13	22	5

Table 10: Number of protection orders issued:

	2021	2022	2023
Protection orders	483	517	91

Table 11: Number of breaches of protection orders and the number of sanctions imposed as a result of such breaches:

	2021	2022	2023
Protection orders	5.046	7.327	219

Table 12: Number of final convictions and sanctions imposed upon stalking:

	2021	2022	2023
Convictions	-	16	6
Convictions/warrant – Section 68-70 in the criminal code	-	1	-
Conditional sentences	-	-	1
Total		17	7

Notes to table 1-12: The data is retrieved from the police case management system POLSAS.

POLSAS is a journalizing system and not a statistics program. Please note that for all the above statistics there is a backlog in updating data. Therefore the data is not necessarily final and can be due to changes over time and due to corrections or delayed updates of the data in POLSAS, new convictions etc.

The definition of “all forms of violence against women” in table 1 and 2 includes all cases of violation of Section 123 and Sections 244-246 of the Danish criminal code where the victim is female regardless of the age of the victim.

The definition of “domestic violence” in table 3 and 4 includes all cases where the victim and the perpetrator had the same address at the time of the reported violence regardless of the sex of the victim.

Please note in table 11 that a few cases contained many breaches of protection orders in 2022.

The data has been updated on March 11th 2023.

APPENDIX

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.

Professionals	Do they benefit from initial training on violence against women and domestic violence?	Is this training mandatory?	Are training efforts supported by guidelines and protocols?	Who funds the training?	Please describe the content and the duration of the training
Students at the Police Basic Education	Yes, in relation to victims in general, including violence against women and domestic violence	Yes	Yes	Danish National Police College	Human rights, hate crime, handling and guiding victims in general and with a special focus on vulnerable victims such as victims of violence against women and domestic violence. Risk assessment tools on mental illness and domestic violence, assault and stalking as well as psykological violence is a part of the education too. The topic is dealt with in several parts of the teaching throughout the basic education, which lasts two years and four months

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 professionals trained	Is this training mandatory?	Frequency	Training efforts supported by guidelines and protocols	Please describe the content and duration of the training
<p>Course name: Basic knowledge for honor-based violence and abuse and social coercion.</p> <p>Target group: Municipal employees, social workers in vulnerable housing areas, teachers, pedagogues.</p> <p>Physical courses are targeted at municipal resource staff.</p>	A total of: 105 at the online courses and 60 the physical courses.	No	Three online and two physical courses.	Some municipalities have action plans to support the effort to prevent and handle honor-based violence and abuse	<p>Knowledge of honor-based violence and abuse, the different categories of violence e.g. physical, emotional and financial abuse. Knowledge of specific topics like religious marriages and honor-based abuse.</p> <p>Duration: Two days.</p>
<p>Name of the module: Pedagogical work related to negative social control</p> <p>Target group: Teachers and educators in school, day care and leisure facilities and professionals who work educationally in other contexts.</p>	17 participants in the spring course 2023.	No	The course is offered every semester. It is established if there are enough participants for a class.	Some municipalities have action plans to support the effort to prevent and handle honor-based violence and abuse	<p>The module contains knowledge from research and development work on honor-based violence and abuse, group and family dynamics as well as social coercion. The module provides insight into relevant conventions, legislation, municipal strategies and local initiatives regarding prevention of honor-based violence and abuse. Participants gain knowledge about dilemmas, discourses and perspectives on gender, sexuality and cultural diversity, which is important to pedagogical and didactic practice.</p> <p>Duration: 6-7 teaching days of 6 hours. The module ends with an oral exam based on a written synopsis.</p>

<p>Course name: Network meetings on honor-based violence and abuse.</p> <p>Target group: municipal employees</p>			Bi-annually	Some municipalities have action plans to support the effort to prevent and handle honor-based violence and abuse	<p>At the network meetings, the participants are presented with the latest knowledge in the field of honor-based violence and abuse and have the opportunity to share best practice and discuss challenges with colleagues from other municipalities.</p> <p>Duration: 1 day.</p>
<p>Course name: Leader network meetings on honor-based violence and abuse.</p> <p>Target group: Municipal leaders from the four biggest municipalities in Denmark.</p>			Bi-annually	All four municipalities have action plans to support the effort to prevent and handle honor-based violence and abuse	<p>At the network meetings, the participants are presented with the latest knowledge in the field of honor-based violence and abuse and have the opportunity to share best practice and discuss challenges with colleagues from other municipalities.</p> <p>Duration: One and a half day.</p>
<p>Name of course: "Get trained in the risk assessment tool PATRIARCH-V2."</p> <p>Target group: e.g. municipal employees and employees at shelters.</p>	120 participants are expected.	No	Four times.	Some municipalities have action plans to support the use of risk assessments. Shelters for victims of honor-based violence and abuse also have guidelines for risk assessment.	<p>The course gives the participants knowledge of the risk assessment tool PATRIARCH-V2, which consists of a manual and an assessment form that helps professionals carry out a structured, methodical and professional assessment and qualifies which measures, Which actions should be taken in a case.</p> <p>The course teaches participants to use PATRI-ARCH-V2. The participants gain knowledge of which information must be collected in order to carry out a risk assessment. The participants learn to uncover the nature of the honor-based conflict, the risk factors of the perpetrator and the vulnerability factors of the victim in order to be able to carry out a risk assessment, an identification of likely scenarios for honor-based violence and a development of scenario-based risk management.</p>
<p>Course name: "Upgrade your skills from PATRIARCH to the new PATRIARCH-V2.</p>	60	No	Twice	Some municipalities have action plans to support the use of risk assessments. Shelters for victims of	Same as above.

<p>Target group: Certified users of PATRIARCH e.g. municipal employees and employees at shelters</p>				<p>honor-based violence and abuse also have guidelines for risk assessment.</p>	
<p>Course name: The Incredible Years© for minority ethnic families</p> <p>Target group: Municipal frontline workers.</p>	20	No	One-day course and a follow-up day	<p>Some municipalities have action plans to support the effort to prevent and handle honor-based violence and abuse.</p>	<p>The participants gain knowledge of how The Incredible Years© principles and themes can be adapted to ethnic minority families. The Agency has previously tested The Incredible Years© program on parents with ethnic minority background in four municipalities with good results. It is the experiences from this that are rolled out in the workshop with the subsequent offer of local implementation.</p> <p>A 2-day workshop on the parent-training program The Incredible Years.</p>
<p>Target group: Agency of Family Law</p>	?	No	Three times in 2023.		<p>The participants are trained to detect and deal with honor-based violence and abuse. They gain knowledge of the phenomena, dynamics, signs, forms of sanctions, forms of violence, etc. The course enables the participants to detect, react and handle the honor-based violence and abuse when they meet it at the Agency of Family Law.</p> <p>Duration: 2 days in 2023 and half a day in 2022.</p>
<p>Course name: Social coercion in a social housing context</p> <p>Target group: Employees from vulnerable residential areas, housing organisations and other actors who work locally with and have an interest in preventing social coercion among residents in</p>	50		Once in 2023	<p>Some municipalities have action plans to support the effort to prevent and handle honor-based violence and abuse</p>	<p>The participants gain knowledge of what it entails to work preventively with social coercion among residents in vulnerable residential areas.</p> <p>Duration:1 day</p>

vulnerable residential areas.					
Course name: Honor-based violence and abuse for the shelters Target group: Shelters	70	No	Once in 2023		The participants gain knowledge about honor-based violence and abuse as well as applicable rules for withdrawing residence permits issued to family-reunited foreigners. Duration:1 day
Course name: Ideas to strengthen cooperation between municipality and civil actors on integration efforts in vulnerable residential areas Target group: Municipal professionals and leaders, volunteers and associations.	30	No	Once in 2023	Some municipalities have action plans to support the use of risk assessments.	The participants are presented with a manual for how municipalities can cooperate with civil society to create well-functioning and resilient local communities, which can, among other things, help to prevent honor-based violence and abuse. The course gives participants knowledge of the benefits of cooperation between municipalities and civil society in the field of integration, and honor-based violence and abuse as a part hereof. Duration:1 day.
Course name: Involuntary stays abroad. What do we know about the background and the target group? Target group: Municipal employees and managers, social housing employees as well other professionals in touch with the target group.	50	No	Twice in 2023	Some municipalities have action plans to support the effort to prevent and handle honor-based violence and abuse.	The course gives the participants knowledge about re-education trips and involuntary stays abroad and the extent in Denmark and Norway. The participants get an insight into how the authorities work to prevent re-education trips for children and youth and involuntary stays abroad for people over 18, and how the authorities work together to support citizens who are abroad. Duration: 1 day.
Course name: Honor-based violence, abuse and crimes. Target group: Police	170	No	Bi-annually – Each time with at different topic		Honor-based crimes

Course name: Network meetings for the police	50	No	Once in 2023.		Honor-based crimes
Course name: "Become empowered to detect and deal with negativity social control in the field of employment integration effort Target group: Municipal professionals working with vulnerable unemployed ethnic minority women and integration, e.g. social workers, employment or business consultants, mentors, coordinating case managers etc.	120	No	Four times in 2023	Some municipalities have action plans to support the effort to prevent and handle honor-based violence and abuse.	On the course, participants are introduced to dialogue-based tools that help to identify whether negative social control constitutes a barrier to non-Western women's employment. They also receive guidance on shopping and assistance options and knowledge of relevant legislation, which can be a support in working with the women. Duration: 1 day
Police officers	62	The training is not mandatory. According to a special agreement with the Danish parliament 125 police officers will be trained during the period 2021 to 2023	Five courses are held in the period 2021 to 2023	The National Danish Police College in collaboration with several police districts have developed a diploma-like specialist training called Violence and trauma In complex cases. The Danish women's rights organisation "Danner", The Danish Stalking Centre, and the Danish Agency for international Recruitment and Integration have been involved in the design and implementation of the training.	The education includes among other things teaching within phenomenon knowledge, typology, vulnerable victims, hypothesis-driven investigation, and the psychology behind questioning, legal perspectives and screening work within the case categories. The overall purpose is to strengthen the police's efforts towards victims of violence in close relationships, stalking, rape as well as honor-related conflicts and crimes through further training in handling the different areas of cases, as well as in trauma-informed practice and the preparation of a professional catalog of these issues. The training takes place over 4 study sessions of 3 days and up to 6 self-study days.

