

Driebergen-Rijsenburg, 14-03-2023

Subject: Statement regarding the *Reply of the Netherlands to the reporting form on the recommendations of GREVIO from 2020*.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following the recommendations of GREVIO regarding the need for a more gender-sensitive approach to domestic violence, the Dutch government has indicated that it will implement this approach in the entire domestic violence system. Furthermore, the power imbalances between men and women are included as a possible explanation for the origination and continuity of gender-based violence. The Netherlands intends to include gender-aspects in future research in the hope to develop a more gender-sensitive approach to domestic violence.

Include good and thorough assessment as an integral part in the approach of domestic violence and child abuse

We believe that – aside from using a gender-neutral or gender-sensitive approach – it is especially important to investigate domestic violence thoroughly. Quality diagnostics, by means of a multidisciplinary assessment, is needed in order to accurately map out the different problems within a family and should be an integral part of the approach. The explanatory analysis ('Verklarende analyse' in Dutch) is a good example of this. Conducting a thorough assessment – including specifically asking about violence – will bring the various existing power (im)balances forward.

Make registration by the police of age, gender, type of violence and the relationship between victim and offender obligatory

Collecting the accurate data regarding domestic violence and/or child abuse calls for effective and quality diagnostics. The police has a critical role to play in this. They work together with other network partners such as Veilig Thuis (Safe Home) and are (often) the first people who get to see what is happening behind closed doors. However, the Dutch government has stated that – despite the recommendation from GREVIO on this topic - they do not intend to introduce an obligatory registration of age, gender, type of violence and relationship between victim and offender. The already existing pressure of maintaining records and the administrative burden within the police are given as the main reason for this. We believe that it is not possible to obtain this kind of data from alternative sources as

Bezoekadres

Hoofdstraat 65-67
3971 KD Driebergen

Postadres

Postbus 592
3700 AN Zeist

Contact

0343-536040
info@augeo.nl

the Dutch governments intends to do. This data is crucial for carrying out good diagnostics and with that to obtain the a gender-sensitive approach in the field of domestic violence.

Make trauma screening obligatory for children in a situation of domestic violence and/or child abuse

Part of quality diagnostics and the collecting of data is also carrying out (obligatory) trauma screening for children in a case of domestic violence and/or child abuse. Research of the Verwey-Jonker Institute shows that 32% of the children living in families with domestic violence are traumatized. Through screening it is possible to offer proper treatment in a timely manner and to collect relevant data for policy. Although the Dutch government has previously spoken on the intention to introduce obligatory trauma screening this is yet to be seen in practice. We advise to include substantive trauma screening in the national approach to gender-based violence in the Netherlands.

Yours faithfully,

Augeo

Partner organisation of the Dutch NGO Coalition for Children's Rights

Bezoekadres

Hoofdstraat 65-67
3971 KD Driebergen

Postadres

Postbus 592
3700 AN Zeist

Contact

0343-536040
info@augeo.nl