



THE RELEVANCE OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION IN UKRAINE TODAY

**Council of Europe Convention
on preventing and combating
violence against women
and domestic violence**



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WHAT WILL THE
ISTANBUL
CONVENTION
MEAN FOR
ALL OF US WHEN IT IS
FULLY APPLIED?

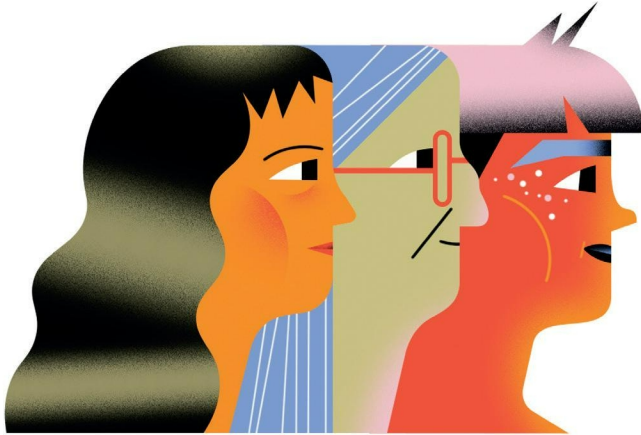
The Istanbul Convention seeks to ensure that there is no violence against women and girls in Europe, and beyond.

The Istanbul Convention applies in peacetime and during armed conflict.

On 18 July 2022 Ukraine ratified the Istanbul Convention.

With ratification of the convention, Ukraine agreed to put in place nationwide, effective, comprehensive and coordinated policies and laws to end violence against women and girls.

If the Istanbul Convention is fully applied in Ukraine, what will this mean for everyone?



FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Gender stereotypes are eradicated and discrimination against women and girls is no longer accepted, both in public and private life.

All state actions to end violence against women and domestic violence are focused on the needs and safety of victims.

Law enforcement agencies immediately respond to victims' requests for help and take appropriate action to ensure that offenders don't cause more harm.

The prosecution services and judiciary work with full consideration of the needs and rights of victims and understand how gender inequalities are the root of violence against women. In this way, legal proceedings empower victims to obtain justice.

A sufficient number of shelters, accessible counselling centres, 24/7 support hotlines and rape crisis or sexual violence referral centres are created.



All forms of violence against women and domestic violence are criminalised and duly punished. This includes physical violence, sexual violence including rape, psychological violence, stalking, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, forced abortion and forced sterilisation.

The protection of victims is prioritised with the help of emergency barring orders, restraining and protection orders. Professionals assess and manage the risks to women and child victims in order to prevent further violence against them.

Necessary measures are taken to promote real equality between women and men, including through empowerment for all women and girls in all their diversity.

Culture, customs, religion, tradition, or so-called "honour" are not considered justification for any acts of violence against women.



FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS WHO ARE MIGRANTS, REFUGEES OR ASYLUM-SEEKERS

The experiences of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and men are different. Women and girls face violence that is specific to them because they are women. Women may in particular face sexual violence, human trafficking, forced marriage and other kinds of exploitation in their countries of origin, during movement, and in destination countries.

Laws and policies that address the situation of women and girls on the move specifically focus on their protection and empowerment, as their experience and needs are different to that of men.

Migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking girls are aware of their rights and of existing remedies in case of gender-based violence.

The state recognises violence against women as a form of persecution when determining the needs of women for international protection, and does not return asylum seeking women and girls to a country where they would be in likely danger of further gender-based persecution.



FOR CHILDREN

Exposing children to physical, sexual or psychological abuse has a severe impact on them. It causes fear, trauma and negatively affects their development.

Children exposed to all forms of violence against women receive age-appropriate support and protection, and their rights and needs are always taken into account.



FOR MEN AND BOYS

Men and boys actively contribute to the prevention of all forms of violence against women in society.

Men and boys benefit from gender equality and ending gender stereotypes that harm them, too.



FOR SOCIETY

With the Istanbul Convention in place, combating violence against women is no longer a matter of goodwill, but a legal obligation of the state.

Comprehensive laws, policies and resources are allocated to ensure zero tolerance for violence against women.

Forbidding all forms of violence against women sends a strong political signal that violence against women and domestic violence are unacceptable in the country.



FOR THE ECONOMY

Violence against women is acknowledged as a significant financial burden on the state's economy, as it depletes the resources of public health care institutions, social services and the justice system.

For example, violence against women costs Danish society €70 million each year, and the UK reports losses of over £37 billion.

Preventing violence against women costs our societies less.



FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Comprehensive policies ensure that professionals join forces to better protect and empower victims, to prevent more violence and to end impunity of perpetrators.

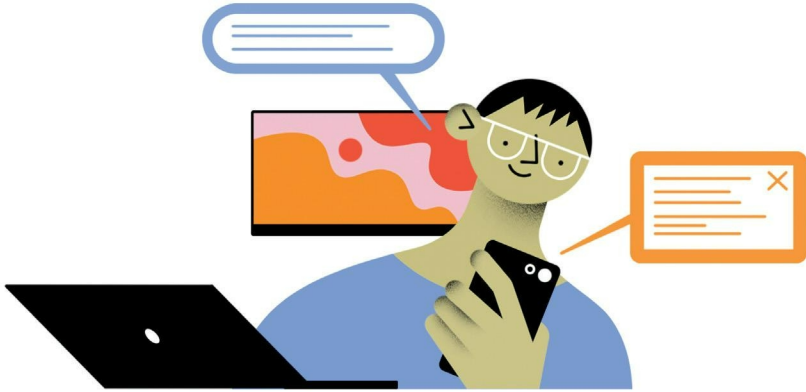


FOR NGOs

The role of NGOs and civil society in combatting violence against women and domestic violence is amply recognised.

Women's rights NGOs that work to fight violence against women and domestic violence are given access to sustainable funding to do their work.

Governments establish effective co-operation with NGOs.



FOR BUSINESS AND MEDIA

Media and the private sector develop self-regulatory standards challenging attitudes that can justify violence against women.

Public institutions, media and the private sector co-operate to oppose all forms of violence against women.



FOR RESEARCHERS, CIVIL SERVANTS AND EDUCATORS

Researchers on violence against women have access to sustainable funding, and state authorities collect national data in order to understand and respond to all forms of violence against women.

Educational materials and programmes challenge gender stereotypes, raise awareness about violence against women and promote gender equality, non-violent conflict resolution and the right to personal integrity.

In sports, space and opportunities are provided to foster gender equality as a way to prevent violence against women and domestic violence.

