

Istanbul Convention

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28.01.2020

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This training session is funded under the 'Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020' of the European Commission.

Overview

- ▶ **Violence against women**
- ▶ **The Istanbul Convention**
Council of Europe Convention
- ▶ **Content of the Istanbul Convention**
- ▶ **GREVIO**
Group of experts to monitor compliance with the Convention



Violence against women

- ▶ every third woman worldwide
- ▶ in all walks of life
no geographical or ethnic boundaries
at any age
- ▶ serious short and long-term consequences for the victims
- ▶ costs of gender-based violence against women: EU-wide approx. 225 billion € annually

Council of Europe – Conseil de l'Europe – Council of Europe

The image shows the Council of Europe logo, which consists of a blue circle with twelve yellow stars. The logo is centered on a blue background that features a faint map of Europe. Surrounding the logo are the words 'HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW' in white capital letters on the left, and 'DROITS DE L'HOMME, DÉMOCRATIE ET ÉTAT DE DROIT' in white capital letters on the right. Above the logo, the words 'COUNCIL OF EUROPE' are written in white capital letters, and below the logo, the words 'CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE' are written in white capital letters. The background also contains a faint, repeating pattern of the names of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe in various languages.



The Council of Europe

- ▶ The Council of Europe States have not surrendered sovereignty
- ▶ They conclude contracts with each other = conventions in which they commit themselves to each other.

Istanbul Convention Konvention

- ▶ **Of 47 Council of Europe countries**
 - almost all states have signed the Convention (except Azerbaijan and Russia)
 - 34 states ratified the convention
- ▶ **EU and IC:**

The EU has signed the Convention
"on the road to ratification"

Istanbul Convention

- ▶ **holistic, comprehensive, coordinated approach**
- ▶ **Violence against women is defined as:**
 - ▶ Human Rights Violation
 - ▶ Discrimination
 - ▶ gender-specific violent acts that result in "physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm"

Purpose of the Convention

- ▶ Protecting women from violence
- ▶ Prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women
- ▶ Not only the states and state institutions/persons themselves are obliged to comply,
- ▶ the state must **also** prevent, punish, compensate for **violence by third parties, e.g. private individuals.**

The IC demands:

Data collection and research

Cooperation between state and non-state actors

Preventive measures:

Offender programmes

Publicity campaigns, education system, training

The IC demands:

Protection and support

Women's advice centres, women's shelters,
telephone hotline
easily accessible, non-discriminatory, in
sufficient numbers and distributed in an
appropriate geographical area

Substantive law

Art. 31 IC: Consideration of violent incidents in
visitation and custody decisions of the Family
Court

Art. 36 IC: Sex offences
Criminal liability for non-consensual sexual acts

Investigations, criminal prosecution

effective investigations without unjustified delay

victim-centred approach to criminal proceedings

Protective measures

- ▶ Risk analyses
- ▶ Urgent protection orders
Prohibitions of contact and proximity

GREVIO

- ▶ **Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence**
- ▶ **Task:** Observation and monitoring of the implementation of the Convention in the member states
- ▶ 15 members in a personal capacity, are **independent and impartial**

GREVIO's working method

- ▶ Government report on the measures taken under the Istanbul Convention
- ▶ Shadow report by NGO's
- ▶ Country visits by GREVIO members
- ▶ Draft report – possibility of "peer review"
- ▶ Final report

Result of the check:

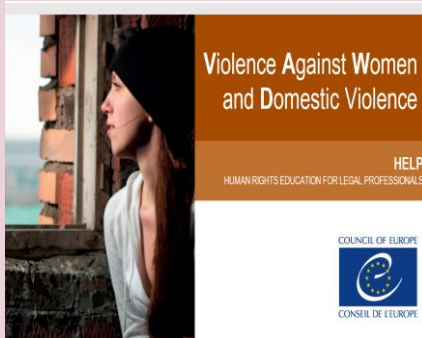
- ▶ Final report published on the Internet
- ▶ Discussion of the report in the national parliament
- ▶ and in the Committee of Ministers of the CoE
- ▶ No "real" sanction
- ▶ still effective

for gleaning

- ▶ Status of signatures and ratifications:
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210/signatures>
- ▶ Convention text and explanatory report:
<https://rm.coe.int/1680462535> (German)
or
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/text-of-the-convention> (engl.)

HELP (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals)

HELP training on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
(online training)



Thanks a lot.