Istanbul Convention

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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
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**

- **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"

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**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](https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210/signatures)
- Convention text and explanatory report: [https://rm.coe.int/1680462535](https://rm.coe.int/1680462535) (German)
HELP (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals)

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

Thanks a lot.