



WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

WAVE Network and European Info Centre against Violence

Bacherplatz 10/6 | 1050 Vienna | Austria

Phone: +43 (0) 1 5482720 | Fax: +43 (0) 1 5482720 27

E-mail: office@wave-network.org | www.wave-network.org

ZVR: 601608559

Press Release

Prevention and Support Standards for Women and Survivors of Violence:

WAVE Releases Publication of Handbook on the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention

The WAVE Handbook “Prevention and Support Standards for Women and Survivors of Violence: A Handbook for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention” (2017) aims to provide an overview of the key legal developments and practical advances, which the ratification of the Istanbul Convention has enabled. The Handbook offers a solid legal framework for the protection and support of women and their children who have experienced abuse.

Vienna – 26 February 2018 - As of January 2018, 28 States have ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). Nonetheless, there are still many countries that encounter various difficulties in effectively contributing to the elimination of violence against women and girls in Europe. Unfortunately, there continues to be a lack of comprehension amongst practitioners working in the violence against women sector, as well as the general public, about the Istanbul Convention’s specific remit and the requirements of its implementation. Therefore, WAVE developed a descriptive and elaborative handbook in 2017 to provide information on the prevalence of violence against women and domestic violence in Europe, and offer legal and funding recommendations for policymakers to effectively implement the Convention.

The Handbook is divided into two sections referring to the legal framework of the Istanbul Convention and the specific requirements for its implementation. Part A of the Handbook provides a solid introduction to the framework of the Istanbul Convention and its human rights based approach on non-discrimination and inclusiveness. Problems and challenges in providing support for women survivors of violence and their children are explored in the Handbook, and recommendations for policy makers to counteract discrimination and ensure inclusivity are provided. Furthermore, the importance of the promotion of gender equality through gender-sensitive policies is exemplified by good practices and further recommendations for policy makers and government officials. Part B offers a more in-depth overview of its specific requirements e.g. the need for adequate government funding for specialist service provision and key elements of making support services for women affected by violence empowering. Furthermore, it addresses existing challenges in the collaboration between NGOs and their respective European governments, as well as the importance of appropriate risk assessment of the safety risks women survivors of violence and their children face.

The general structure of the Handbook includes references to the relevant Articles of the Istanbul Convention and a discussion of the legal background. Considerations for implementation, as well as challenges, are elaborated upon. These then provide the framework for more practical examples and recommendations for policymakers on how to work towards the elimination of violence against women and their children in Europe more effectively.

The online version of the Handbook can be accessed here: http://files.wave-network.org/trainingmanuals/WAVE_Handbook_2017.pdf

For additional information, please contact:

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Phone: +43 (0) 1 548 272 0 Fax: +43 (0) 1 548 272 027

E-mail: office@wave-network.org