



WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

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WAVE Fact sheet Women's Support Services in Europe October 2015

The 2014 WAVE Report (published 2015) provides an up-to-date overview of the availability of core specialized support services for women and their children in 46 European countries, including the 28 EU countries.¹ The focus of the report is on the provision of national women's helplines and women's shelters. Summary findings:

Only one third of European countries provide a 24/7 women's helpline

Table 1: Overview of National Women's Helplines in Europe

	Do you have a National Women's Helpline	Is the helpline free of charge	Is the helpline 24/7	Is the helpline free of charge and 24/7
YES	31 (67%)	27 (59%)	19 (41%)	16 (35%)
NO	15 (33%)	19 (41%)	27 (59%)	30 (65%)
TOTAL	46 (100%)	46 (100%)	46 (100%)	46 (100%)

Summary key findings on National Women's Helplines in Europe

- Only 16 out of 46 European countries provide a 24/7 helpline free of charge
- Hence, only 35% of European countries meet the standards set in the Istanbul Convention
- Only 8 of the EU28 Member States provide a 24/7 helpline free of charge; hence, only 29% of EU Member States meet the standards set in the Istanbul Convention.

More than 54.000 women's shelter places missing in Europe

According to the recommendation of the Council of Europe Task Force², 1 place should be provided in a women's shelter per 10,000 of population, accordingly an estimated 83,000 women's shelter places are needed in Europe. The 2014 WAVE Report indicates, however, that only about 28,000 shelter places exist. As a result, approximately 54,000 (66%) of recommended women's shelter places are still missing in Europe.

¹ WAVE (2015): 2014 WAVE Report on Specialized Women's Support Services and New Tools for Combatting Gender-Based Violence in Europe, Vienna. <http://www.wave-network.org/content/wave-publications>, 15 Dec 2015

² Council of Europe (2008): Recommendations of the Council of Europe Task Force to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, in: Council of Europe Explanatory Report to the Istanbul Convention (2011) regarding Article 23.

Disparities in service provision can be observed between EU and non-EU countries, as well as between old and new EU Member States. Among the 28.473 shelter places available in Europe, 23.797 shelter places (or 84%) are located in the EU. In the non-EU countries about 26.000 (87%) of shelter places are missing.

Within the European Union, 22.352 women’s shelter place are located in 15 old Member States, against 1.351 shelter places available in 13 new Member States; currently therefore, 44% of recommended shelter places are missing in old EU countries, and 87% of shelter places are missing in new EU countries.

Table 2: Overview of National Women’s Shelters in Europe

	Population Data	Number of Women’s Shelters	Women’s Shelter places (CoE Taskforce Recommendations)	Women’s Shelter Places Available	Women’s Shelter Places Missing	Percentage of Shelter Places Missing
Europe (46 Countries)	828.923.743 (100%)	1.748	82.892	28.124	54.892	67%
Non-EU (18)	325.668.523 (39%)	291	32.567	4.676	28.223	87%
EU All Member States (28)	503.255.220 (61%)	1.453	50.325	23.797	26.669	53%
EU New Member States ³ (13)	105.776.854 (21% of EU)	102	10.576	1.445	9.176	87%
EU Old Member States ⁴ (15)	397.478.366 (79% of EU)	1.351	39.748	22.352	17.493	44%

Summary key findings on Women’s Shelters in Europe

- About 1.748 women’s shelters are available in Europe, providing
- About 28.473 shelter places for women and children survivors of violence
- About 54.000 (66%) of recommended shelter places are still missing in Europe
- 84% of existing women’s shelters places are located in EU28 Member States.
- 53% of recommended shelter places are still missing in the European Union
- **Very concerning:** 87% of recommended shelter places are missing in the new EU Member States!

Overall, WAVE findings highlight the crucial need for specialized women’s support services in Europe. WAVE calls for greater state accountability, emphasizing their responsibility to prevent acts of violence against women, and to guarantee effective support to victims.

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³ EU members since 2004
⁴ EU members before 2004