



COMPILATION OF COUNTRY PROFILES

JULY 2016



INTRODUCTION

This compilation of country profiles is a reflection of the data and information gathered throughout the research that was carried out for the WAVE Report 2015. The main methodological tool used during this data collection process represented an extensive questionnaire that sought to provide a comprehensive picture of specialist support services for women and children survivors of violence existing in 46 countries. In addition to this, issues such as government policies for funding of women's support services, campaigning, training and prevention activities are also addressed.

Since funding for women's support services is subject to many constraints, is it often the case that shelters or helplines may stop being operational within a certain timeframe. On the other hand, new services can also be established. We therefore ask our readers to keep in mind that the actual number of women's support services from the countries included in this data collection process will invariably change with time.

Hence, in certain instances numbers on specialist supports services from the WAVE Report 2015 do not exactly coincide with data presented in this compilation, as more recent updates were made to the latter.

Lastly, we wish to express our gratitude to all WAVE members who dedicated their time and efforts for this research to be carried out.

WAVE Team, July 2016

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ALBANIA

Basic Information

Population: 2,895,947

Female population: 1,435,984

Member of Council of Europe: yes

Member of European Union: no

CEDAW ratified: yes, in 1994

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: yes, in 2003

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2011); ratified: yes (2013)

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/COUNTRY_REPORT_2012.pdf)

Gender Equality Index: 0.318, for further information see: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/albania>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2010:

Violence against women

26. The Committee recognizes the progress made by the Government in combating violence against women, including domestic violence and violence outside domestic relationships, such as rape and other forms of sexual violence, stalking and sexual harassment through, inter alia, the enactment of the Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations, the adoption of the National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence 2007-2010, the opening of the first Government-run shelter for victims of domestic violence and the establishment of a referral system for cases of domestic violence. The Committee remains concerned, however, about the continued high prevalence of violence against women in Albania. It is particularly concerned that domestic violence is not appropriately sanctioned and criminalized, and that marital rape is not defined as a specific offence under the new Penal Code. It is also particularly concerned about the high rate of suicide among female victims of domestic violence, about gaps in the Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations and its implementation and the lack of statistical data.

27. In accordance with its general recommendation No. 19 and its recommendations contained in its previous concluding observations (see A/58/38, para. 73), the Committee urges the State party to continue to put emphasis on comprehensive measures to address violence against women in the family and in society. The Committee calls upon the State party to amend, without delay, the Penal Code so as to establish marital rape as a specific criminal offence, to appropriately sanction and criminalize acts of domestic violence and to ensure that all cases of violence against women are swiftly prosecuted and punished. The Committee further recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure that female victims of violence have immediate protection, including the possibility of expelling the perpetrator from the home, effective recourse to a shelter and access to free legal aid and psychosocial counselling. The Committee urges the State party to adopt measures to prevent suicides by victims of domestic violence. It recommends ensuring that public officials, especially law enforcement officials, members of the judiciary, health-care providers and social workers, are fully sensitized to all forms of

violence against women. The Committee calls on the State party to systematize data collection on violence against women, including domestic violence. It recommends that structures be established to help female victims of violence to rebuild their lives, including through the creation of job opportunities. The Committee invites the State party to further pursue, in collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders, including women's and other civil society organizations, awareness-raising campaigns through the media and public education programmes to make such violence socially unacceptable, and to continue seeking international assistance towards this end.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.¹ The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's shelters, centres, helplines, national women's networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning, and training.

Women's Helplines

National Women's Helpline

The national women's helpline in Albania is called Counsel Line for Women and Girls (Linja e Keshillimit per gradhe vajza, tel. no.: 00355 4 22 33 408). The helpline is run by a women's NGO, namely the Counselling Centre for Women and Girls. The aforementioned NGO was first established in 1996. The Counselling Centre for Women and Girls was among the first women's NGOs established in Albania and the model used was very similar to the standards required by the Istanbul Convention, except for the fact that due to the limitation of funds, the line has never been available 24 hours a day. The helpline is also not operating free of charge and does not provide multi-lingual support.

The issue of ensuring a national helpline for women which is operating according to existing standards has been under discussion for years and negotiations between state institutions and CSO service providers have been taking place.

Other helplines for victims

Helplines in Albania have also been established at the municipal level as this is in line with provisions from the Law on Domestic Violence, however these are not available 24 hours a day, and only two of these are free of charge.²

There is also a domestic violence helpline established in 1996, run by an NGO. This is not operating 24/7 and calls are not free of charge. The children's helpline (no.: 116 111) exists since 2011, and is run by an

¹ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

² Counseling Line for Women and Girls and Community Development Center "Today for the Future"

NGO. Additionally, there is also a helpline for victims of human trafficking and another one for children (ALO 116), which is run by an NGO.

Women's Shelters

There are currently 9 women's shelters in Albania. Out of these 4 shelters are for victims of human trafficking. The last shelter was opened in 2015 and it is run by Caritas, a faith-based organisation. All in all the shelters provide for approximately 153 beds. No shelter was closed in the last 3 years, however these entities often face financial difficulties and they are forced to rely on foreign donors in order to carry out their activities.

Women's shelters only exist in major cities – in Tirana, the capital, and other main cities such as Elbasan or Vlora, hence there is limited geographical coverage and difficulties are often encountered in accessing services.

The accommodation period in the existing shelters dedicated to women and girls victims of violence is different: in some shelters it is less than a week, in some others is 3-6 months; in two national shelters is 7-12 months, while in another shelter there is no limit of stay.

According to providers declare there were no cases of women who could not be accommodated due to lack of space in shelters for the year 2014, however there have been 4 children who could not be offered a place because of lack of space.

6 of the aforementioned shelters are run by NGOs with a feminist/gender-specific approach. 2 are run by the state and 1 by a faith-based organisation. There is a set of accredited national standards developed by the Ministry of Social Welfare with the support of UNDP.³ Most of the shelters currently apply them.

All women's shelters provide 24/7 access, they also have security precautions and offer non-residential support. Shelters run by the state do not provide non-residential services, because their address is secret.

Most shelters have an age limit for boys – 14 years, however there is no age limit for girls. Access to women's shelters is ensured for the following groups: women with and without children (all), older women, women with disabilities, lesbian/transgender women, women from other provinces of the country, asylum seeking women, migrant women, minority ethnic women, and undocumented migrant women. Generally speaking, shelters in Albania have no restrictions as far as admission is concerned regarding ethnicity or sexual orientation, however such women rarely make requests for accommodation.

Domestic Violence Shelters and Other Shelters

Currently Albania has 5 domestic violence shelters. One is run by the state, 3 by NGOs and the remaining one is run by a faith-based organization. All shelters provide 24/7 access and immediate direct access in emergency situations. Most of these also have security precautions.

As far as funding is concerned, these shelters are primarily supported by donors or projects running for a limited period of time. This state of affairs is making shelters highly vulnerable, putting them in a

³ Council of Minister Decision nr. 505, date 13.7.2011 "For the approval of the standards of the social services for the victims of domestic violence in the shelters run by the state or not. Directive Nr. 13, date 17.12.2012 For the Implementation of the standards of for the social services for the victims of domestic violence in the shelters run by the state or not.

position of constantly being on the lookout for new potential donors. Furthermore, given that there is a limited number of shelters available only in bigger cities, they are often overwhelmed and struggling financially.

In Albania there are no second stage/transitional housing programmes for women survivors of violence and their children.

Women's Centres

Albania has 5 women's centres run by women's NGOs that are available in major cities only. A regional crisis centre for victims of domestic violence serving predominantly women with a gender-specific approach exists in the capital city, Tirana. All centres provide the following services: information and advice, counselling, advocacy, practical support, empowering support specialist support for children, risk assessment and safety planning, and legal advice. Most centres provide multi-agency support for survivors. Some centres cooperate with services working with perpetrators. Some centres also offer legal representation, court accompaniment and support regarding social rights such as income, work or housing. None of the centres provide multi-lingual support and specialist support for black/minority ethnic/ migrant and asylum seeking women, or floating /mobile support. Furthermore, none of the centres support the participation of survivors in policy development and evaluation, nor do they support survivors to organize themselves.

Women's Networks

Albania has the following three women's networks: The Network against Gender Based Violence and Trafficking (member organizations: Refleksione Association, Tirana Gender Alliance for Development Centre, Tirana, The shelter for women and girls, Tirana, Counselling Centre for Women and Girls, Tirana and the Centre for Legal Civic Initiatives, Tirana), the National Coalition of Anti-Trafficking Shelters in Albania (member organizations: "Different & Equal" organization, Tirana, "Vatra", Psycho-social Center, Vlora, "Tjeter Vizion" association, Elbasan and the National Reception Center, Tirana) and the Albanian Women Empowerment Network – AWEN (member organizations: Gender Alliance for Development Centre, Tirana, Counselling Centre for Women and Girls, Tirana, the Association for women and girls with social problems, Durrës, the Association Me Women, Pogradec, the association Agritra Vizion, Peshkopi, the Association Woman to Woman, Shkodër, the Association Women Forum, Elbasan, "Vatra", Psycho-social Center, Vlora and Jona Association, Sarandë). The first women's network is not a legal entity, the other however are. AWEN also has a national office and two paid staff members. During this two last years AWEN has been one of the main actors together with other civil society organizations on lobbying and advocating on women human rights issues. None of the three women's networks receive government funding.

Policy and Funding

The most recent action plan in Albania covering the issue of violence against women is the "National Strategy on Gender Equality, Reduction of Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence and its Action

Plan, covering the period 2011 - 2015. UNDP and the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth are currently drafting the new national strategy for 2016-2020.

The following forms of violence are covered by the National Strategy and its Action Plan: violence within the family or domestic violence, killings in the name of 'honour'. Rape and sexual assault are only addressed by the penal code.

The second *"National Strategy on Gender Equality, Reduction of Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence and its Action Plan"*⁴ (2011 – 2015) is a revised strategy based on the analysis of two main issues: achievement of gender equality and reduction of gender-based and domestic violence. Its objectives are re-prioritized, resulting in a more limited number of strategic priorities as compared to the previous strategy. The vision enshrined in the strategy is: *"Aspire for a society where gender equality is respected and valued, learned, supported and encouraged, where gender-based violence of any form is not tolerated, but punished, where victims of violence are supported and protected, and where equality in opportunities and treatment is a reality for all, irrespective of their gender"*. Eventually, four priorities were laid down: 1) Strengthen the institutional and legal mechanism; 2) Increase women's participation in decision-making; 3) Ensure economic empowerment of girls and women. 4) Increase awareness towards gender based violence, legal and administrative protection and support by providing services for victims of violence and abusers. Furthermore, the Strategy is accompanied by an Action Plan with clear, concrete, measurable and applicable objectives. The first National Strategy on Gender Equality and against Domestic Violence and its Action Plan (2007-2010) were approved in 2007.

An important document is also the *"National Action Plan for the Involvement of Men and Boys as Partners of Women and Girls for Gender Equality and the Prevention of Gender-Based and Domestic Violence (2014-2019)"*⁵. The purpose of this plan is to reduce violence against women and promote gender equality by engaging men and boys in partnership with women and girls as allies, role models and agents of change. The National Strategy on Combating Human's Trafficking and its Action Plan 2014 -2017 is also currently in place⁶.

There is a coordinating body, i.e. the National Council on Gender Equality (NCGE), in charge of implementing policies and measures to prevent violence against women (VAW). The body is part of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth.⁷ Three women's NGOs with gender expertise are involved in the work of the coordinating body, including monitoring and evaluation. It holds occasional meeting, however it cannot monitor and coordinate all activities undertaken by the Ministries. The NCGE is also entrusted with the evaluation and monitoring of the national strategy. Monitoring and evaluation reports have been published, and are available in Albanian. The Action Plan has clearly set the outcomes the government is required to achieve. These have been met by the government.

Women's NGOs also conduct an evaluation of the national strategy.⁸

⁴ Approved by Council of Ministers' Decision no.573, date 16.6.2011. See: http://www.dsdc.gov.al/previewdoc.php?file_id=1617

⁵ Supported by UN Women and UNDP, in collaboration with UNFPA and the Government of Albania

⁶ As approved with CoM Decision no. 816 dated 26.11.2014. The original name is: *Strategjia e Luftës Kundër Trafikimit të Personave dhe Plani i Veprimit 2014 – 2017*

⁷ Responsible person: Blendi Klosi, address : Ministria e Mireqenies Sociale dhe Rinise, Rr. Kavajes, Tirane

⁸ A copy of their report is available here: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/ngos/GADC_Albania_46.pdf

The NCGE has been in place since 2009. Following its restructuring in the wake of the 2013 parliamentary elections, it now has nine deputy ministers, three CSO representatives and is chaired by the Minister of MSWY (Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth). During its meetings the NCGE has addressed various gender-related issues, adopted by-laws and issued annual monitoring reports and recommendations to central and local bodies.

The most common type of government funding for women's support services is permanent core funding.

The Ministry of social welfare is supporting two shelters (one in Vlora and one in Tirana) with the payment of six social workers. Both of them are shelters that support survivors of trafficking and of violence.

In reality, state support for allocating adequate resources to ensure sustainability of existing services provided by CSOs is still not at the required level; some legislative improvements have taken place but they are not yet followed by appropriate financial planning and implementation. The specifically needed legislation and sub-legal acts regarding the outsourcing of services for non-profit organizations are not yet in place. The Agency of Support for Civil Society is an entity established for this purpose, but still non-governmental service providers are faced with the situation that they are almost entirely dependent from donors.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

All national women's networks, women's shelters, women's helplines and women's centres are doing prevention work. It was not possible to indicate the amount of state funding allocated to such activities in 2014.

Campaigns are being organized every year seeking to eliminate gender stereotypes, gender-based violence and domestic violence. An example is the '16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women' (25 November-10 December), taking place every year. For the purpose of this campaign government bodies cooperate with NGOs and local authorities with the support of international institutions, particularly UN agencies.

Training

All national women's networks, women's shelters, women's helplines and women's centres are doing trainings. State funding is never allocated for such activities. The main target groups for trainings carried out by women's shelters are police officers, health care professionals and social workers.

Many women's NGOs provide trainings to police officers who have to deal with domestic violence or gender based violence cases. Such trainings focus on protocols for procedures and the law on VAW. Refleksione Women's Association carried out trainings for police officers in 10 municipalities within the framework of the project 'Free from fear of violence – bringing the Istanbul Convention to the local level'. The target group for these trainings were health care professionals.

ARMENIA

Basic Information

Population: 3,274,285

Female Population: 1,684,000

Member of Council of Europe: 2001

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1993

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2006

Istanbul Convention – signed: no

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/COUNTRY_REPORT_2012.pdf)

Gender Equality Index: 0.318, for further information see: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>
[UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/asia/armenia](http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/asia/armenia)

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2009:

Violence against women

22. The Committee reiterates its concern that a lack of understanding and acknowledgment of the fact that gender-based violence against women, and in particular domestic violence, continues to be a significant problem in the State part as expressed in its previous concluding observations (A/57/38). The Committee also regrets that the State party's report makes no mention of this phenomenon. It is further concerned that there is no specific legislation addressing violence against women and that the Criminal Code does not define domestic violence as a separate crime and does not criminalize it as such. The Committee is further concerned that there is no dedicated governmental body or coordinating institution tasked with implementing measures to counter all forms of gender-based violence against women. While noting the establishment in 2002 of a shelter by the Centre for Women's Rights in collaboration with the police, the Committee is concerned at the lack of sufficient shelters for victims of violence. Furthermore, the Committee expresses its concern about the absence of data in regard to court cases on domestic violence and that there have been inexplicably very few court cases in the areas of sexual and other forms of violence against women. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of statistics provided on the incidence of various forms of violence against women, including the number of women murdered by their husbands, partners or ex-partners in cases of domestic violence, and on the availability of support services for victims.

23. The Committee urges the State party to give priority attention to eliminating all forms of violence against women, in particular domestic violence, and to adopt comprehensive measures to address it in accordance with the Committee's general recommendation No. 19. The Committee requests that the State party enact, without delay, legislation specifically addressing domestic violence against women. Such legislation should ensure that violence against women and girls constitutes a criminal offence and a civil wrong; that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished; and that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection, including protection orders and availability of a sufficient number of adequate shelters and in all regions, in particular addressing the needs of rural women, women with disabilities, refugees and minority women. The Committee further recommends the implementation of training for the judiciary and public officials, in

particular law enforcement personnel and health-service providers, ensuring that they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women, in particular domestic violence, and can provide adequate support to victims. It also recommends further public awareness raising and zero-tolerance campaigns in regard to violence against women.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview, as needed. The country profile includes information on women's helplines, women's shelters, women's centres, national women's networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness raising and campaigning, and training. It was not possible to gather information about all available women's helplines in Armenia.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There are two national women's helplines in Armenia. The National Hotline on Domestic Violence has been operating since 1997 and can be reached at +37410542828 and 080080850. The helpline is operated by the Women's Rights Center. The hotline operates 24/7, and is free of charge for landlines call and only when the 080080850 number is dialed. The helpline provides multi-lingual support, although it is not a service that is highly needed in Armenia. In 2014, the helpline registered 1,428 phone calls.

The second helpline is the Hotline of the Armenian Lighthouse Charitable Foundation, and is reachable at 20-80. The hotline operates 24/7 and is free of charge for calls made from mobile calls made from a specific mobile phone provider⁹.

In addition to this, there are two other hotlines in Armenia, however, information on them is not available.

Other helplines for victims

There are three other national helplines for victims. The general victims helpline is the Helpline of the Republic of Armenia Police (+374010546914), which is run by the state.

There is also a children's helpline called Fund for Armenian Relief (080061111) which is run by a charitable foundation.

There is also the Hotline of the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia (116), which is run by the state.

All of the helplines are reachable 24/7 and are free of charge.

⁹ VivaCell

Women's Shelters

There are currently three women's shelters in Armenia for women survivors of domestic violence and their children. There are an additional 2 shelters dedicated to women victims of trafficking. The last shelter was opened in 2015, but the oldest shelter in Armenia was closed in May 2013 due to expiration of project funding. One of the women's shelters (run by the Women's Rights Centre) has a total of 12 beds available. Information on the number of beds in the other two shelters is not available.

There is no information available on the number of women and children accommodated in the women's shelters for 2014, as one of the shelters did not operate in 2014 and the remaining do not make the data public.

Two of the domestic violence shelters are run by NGOs and the third shelter for women-victims of domestic violence and their children is run by the Armenian Lighthouse Charitable Foundation. There are no accredited national standards for women's shelters. Two of the shelters are located in the capital city only and the third one in Ptghunk village (run by the Armenian Lighthouse Charitable Foundation). All shelters provide 24/7 access and are free of charge. In two of the women's shelters, the stay limit is 90 days, while in the third shelter, women are able to stay up to two years. The women's shelters have security precautions as well as the provision of non-residential support. In addition to the three women's shelters that provide non-residential support, three other shelters (two for victims of trafficking and one for migrant women and men – run by the State Migration Service – provide non-residential support services as well) exist.

Three of the shelters have age limits for children, but these limits differ. For instance, one of the shelters only accepts pregnant mothers or mothers with children up to three years of age, regardless of their gender. Other shelters limit children's age to 18 (for boys) and none for girls.

There are no restrictions on access to the women's shelters with the exception of elderly women as well as women without children, or women with disabilities. For example, one of the women's shelters only accepts pregnant women or women with children under the age of three, but in rare cases will make an exception and accept a woman survivor of violence, even if she does not have any children. Shelters' limited access for women with disabilities stems from the fact that the structures are not set up to accommodate women with limited mobility, for example, such as women in wheelchairs due to lack of elevators and other accessibility structures.

The shelters received no state funding and have historically not received any state funding, and information on the amount of funding received from other sources is not available.

Other shelters in the country include three shelters. Two of the shelters are for women victims of trafficking and one of the shelters is for migrant women and men.

The situation of transitional housing for women victims of violence is difficult. Usually, shelter staff try to support women staying in the shelters in finding work and establishing financial savings in order to be able to rent an apartment following shelter stay. The government does not provide any transitional housing or housing specialized for women survivors of violence.

Women's Centres

There are two women's centers (run by women's NGOs); one sexual assault center (run by women's NGO); seven regional crisis centers for survivors of domestic violence serving predominantly women with a gender-specific approach (run by women's NGOs); one women's center for migrant or minority ethnic women (run by the state); and two centers for women victims of trafficking (run by NGOs).

National Women's Networks

There is a network called Coalition to Stop Violence against Women in Armenia consisting of seven organizations. There are generally very few organizations working in the field of combating violence against women or women's rights, although there are many organizations registered under this domain, yet they are not active.

Policy & Funding

There is no established comprehensive and coordinated policy on violence against women and there is no policy laid out in an overarching national action plan in Armenia. There is however a national action plan called the Strategic Action Plan to combat gender-based violence (2011-2015).¹⁰ The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia is responsible for implementing policies and measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women. The coordinating body does not involve women's NGOs to support its work. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia is also entrusted with the monitoring and evaluation of policies and measures concerning violence against women. Women's NGOs have been consulted in the later part of 2015 to complete an evaluation form related to implementation of the national action plan and were invited to participate in further discussions. The tasks of monitoring and evaluation involve collecting information from different interagency commissions and from the regions regarding the implementation of the strategy and then integrating the information into annual reports, which are submitted to the government. The reports are not available on the website of the ministry. The strategy itself has clearly set outcomes that government is required to achieve, although information on whether these outcomes have been met is not available as an evaluation report is not available publically. The women's NGOs themselves do not conduct an evaluation of the strategy themselves.

The Republic of Armenia has not yet adopted the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (as of 8 September 2015). As a result, no integrated policies or relevant financial resources are available for implementation of integrated policies. There are no specific government funds allocated for activities to combat violence against women on the national level (neither for government nor for NGO activities).

There are no special provisions in national legislation which would allow or prohibit the state to fund any NGOs, including women's NGOs, to run social services or women's support services. There is equally no special mandate in the legislation on governmental funding of women's support services. No government funding has been made available to women's NGOs, whether through project, or public procurement funding, among others.

¹⁰ Hagemann-White, Carol. (2014). Analytical study of the results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation of recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states. Pg. 52.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

In Armenia, some of the women's centres conduct prevention work, such as information and awareness raising activities, campaigns, work in the community, and work in schools, among others. As example, during the 16 days of activism, in 2014, the Women's Rights Centre participated in increasing awareness about domestic violence among radio listeners. The work involved a series of four radio programs broadcasted to target the whole territory of Armenia and was devoted to the issue of domestic violence, adoption of the Draft Law on Domestic Violence Prevention, negative impacts of domestic violence, among other issues.

Training

In Armenia, most of the women's centres are engaged in the training of professionals, especially training of the police, social workers, psychologists, and media professionals. As example, in April 2015, the Women's Rights Centre carried out a basic training of 30 professionals, including lawyers, and psychologists. The aim of the training was to introduce the participants to general information about domestic violence and to specific methods of working with women victims of domestic violence. The training allowed various persons, who come in contact with victims, to acquire knowledge and necessary skills for their future work.



AZERBAIJAN

Basic Information

Population: 9,356,483

Female population: 4,707,690

Member of Council of Europe: 2001

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1995

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2001

Istanbul Convention – signed: No

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/COUNTRY_REPORT_2012.pdf)

Gender Equality Index: 0.303, for further information see: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>
[UN Women](http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/asia/azerbaijan) Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/asia/azerbaijan>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2015:

Violence against women

22. The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party's delegation concerning the current consideration by the Cabinet of Ministers of the national strategy and the national action plan on the prevention of domestic violence, and the establishment of an online database on violence against women.

The Committee remains concerned, however, at:

(a) The lack of implementation of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence, as reflected by the modest number of cases reported and long-term and short-term protection orders issued;

(b) The lack of systematic collection of data on domestic violence;

(c) The limited number of support and referral centres for victims of domestic violence, which are mainly run by non-governmental organizations;

(d) The small number (currently only three) of State-funded shelters for women who are victims of domestic violence, under the authority of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Protection;

(e) The delay in the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

23. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party:

(a) To adopt without delay the national strategy on the prevention of domestic violence and the national action plan on the prevention of domestic violence, and allocate adequate resources for their implementation;

- (b) To put in place a system to collect comprehensive data on all forms of violence against women, disaggregated by age, urban and rural areas and relationship between the victim and the perpetrator;
- (c) To establish State-funded support and referral centres for victims of violence throughout the country and strengthen cooperation with relevant non-governmental organizations in this respect;
- (d) To increase the number of State-funded shelters for women who are victims of violence, especially in the regions, and establish a round-the-clock national helpline for victims;
- (e) To set a time frame for the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire.¹¹ The profile includes information on women's helplines, shelters, centres, networks, policy and funding. It was not possible to gather any information on women's networks, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning activities, and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

Currently there is no national women's helpline operating in Azerbaijan. The NGO Clean World Social Union Aid to Women had run a domestic violence helpline from early 2011 until 2013.¹² The OSCE provided financial support for the establishment and maintenance of this service. The helpline received 970 calls in its first year and in 2012 the total amount of calls was around 3000. The helpline operated free of charge and was available 24/7, and addressed several forms of VAW: violence within the family, sexual violence and human trafficking. Unfortunately the helpline stopped working in 2013 due to a lack of funding.¹³

Other national helplines for victims

¹¹ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

¹² Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo (2 June, 2014), p. 15

¹³ Ibid.

Currently there is a hotline run by the Ministry of Internal Affairs which provides information and consultation services to victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children.¹⁴ There is also a children's hotline which was launched in February 2010 by the Ministry of education.¹⁵

Women's Shelters

According to the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women Azerbaijan has one shelter in Baku operated by the NGO Clean World Social Union Aid to Women.¹⁶ The shelters primarily provides services for women victims of trafficking, and less for women who have experienced other forms of violence, such as domestic violence, therefore failing to meet the urgent demand for protection services. The Council of Europe Monitoring Report from 2014 also states that Azerbaijan has one shelter for victims of human trafficking.¹⁷

Women's Centres

Azerbaijan has no women's centres for survivors of sexual violence. Women victims of domestic violence and their children can be admitted to the aforementioned shelters. The State Committee runs 11 regional Family and Children Support Centres scattered throughout the territory of Azerbaijan. These facilities are meant to address social issues in remote villages and regions of the country.¹⁸ Nevertheless, these units have limited capacities, and are often unable to provide shelter, psychosocial support or other support services which ensure the protection and recovery of survivors.

Policy & Funding

According to the CoE Monitoring Report 2014 Azerbaijan has a national action plan addressing violence against women, the time frame being 2008-2015.¹⁹ The following types of violence are being addressed: rape and sexual violence, violence within the family/DV, sexual harassment, violence in institutional environments, failure to respect freedom of choice with regard to reproduction, forced and early marriage. Azerbaijan also has a government body in charge of implementing policies and measures aimed at preventing violence against women. Furthermore, there is also a national body entrusted with monitoring and evaluation of the national action plan. According to the CoE Report specific government funds are allocated for combatting VAW at the national level, whereby funding for NGO activities in this field is being prioritized.

¹⁴ Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo (2 June, 2014), p. 16

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Council of Europe(2014), Analytical study of the results of the 4th round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member States, p. 67, available at:

<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680465f71>

¹⁸ Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo (2 June, 2014), p. 16

¹⁹ Council of Europe(2014), Analytical study of the results of the 4th round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member States, p. 57-58

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs which was established in 2006 is the central state body charged with the implementation of Azerbaijan's international obligations regarding women's rights and gender equality.²⁰ A number of laws, policies and programmes have been implemented in Azerbaijan, aiming to address women's rights in general and violence against women (VAW) in particular. The following laws are worth mentioning: the Law on Gender Equality (2006), the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence²¹ (2010), the Family Code of 2000 (updated in 2011), the Criminal Code (2000), and the Law on the Fight against Human Trafficking. As far as forced and early marriage is concerned, the Family Code was amended in 2011 to establish the legal age of marriage at 18 years for both men and women.²²

AUSTRIA

Basic Information

Population: 8,506,889

Female Population: 4,351,253

Member of Council of Europe: 1956

Member of European Union: 1995

CEDAW ratified: 1982

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2000

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2011); ratified: yes (2013)

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 50.2, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/austria>

²⁰ Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo (2 June, 2014), p. 12, available at: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/~media/files/un%20women/vaw/country%20report/asia/azerbaijan/azerbaijan%20srvaw.pdf>

²¹ Available in English at: [http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/~media/files/un%20women/vaw/full%20text/asia/law%20on%20prevention%20of%20domestic%20violence%20\(2010\)/law%20on%20prevention%20of%20domestic%20violence%202010.pdf](http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/~media/files/un%20women/vaw/full%20text/asia/law%20on%20prevention%20of%20domestic%20violence%20(2010)/law%20on%20prevention%20of%20domestic%20violence%202010.pdf)

²² Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo (2 June, 2014), p. 14

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2013:

Violence against women

24. The Committee commends the State party for its leading role in combating violence against women including in the drafting of the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). It welcomes the enactment of the Second Act on Protection against Violence of 2009, and notes the ongoing discussions to ratify the Istanbul Convention and to criminalize the breach of protection orders. However, it is concerned at the lack of a national action plan on violence against women, the residents' permit situation of migrant women living with abusive partners, the insufficiency or absence of data on the number of women murdered by their partner or ex-partner, insufficient training of the judiciary and the limited number of shelters for victims (30 throughout the territory). Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that funding contracts for shelters restrict the accommodation of asylum-seeking or undocumented women.

25. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women, the Committee, urges the State party to:

- (a) Adopt a comprehensive national action plan on violence against women as soon as possible;
- (b) Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and introduce criminal sanctions for non-compliance with restraining orders;
- (c) Review regularly the situation of migrant women living with abusive partners and the conditions for the granting of regular residence permits;
- (d) Continue training the members of the judiciary and systematically include there in training on the protection of women/girls victims of gender-based violence;
- (e) Continue public awareness-raising campaigns on all forms of violence against women, including against women from ethnic minorities and women with disabilities, and pursue dialogue with migrant women's organizations, including those of Muslim women;
- (f) Increase the number and funding of shelters and guarantee national coverage, including for asylum-seeking or undocumented women affected by violence; and
- (g) Enhance the system of data collection to ensure that data are disaggregated by type of violence and by the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim.

26. The Committee welcomes the State party's measures to include persons with a migration background in the police force and fight against racial stereotypes and xenophobia. It also commends the State party for recognizing ethnic hatred in its criminal law as an aggravating circumstance. However, the Committee is concerned at the increase of xenophobic violence against migrant women and cases of incitement to hatred and violence, particularly targeting Muslim and/or black women.

27. The Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Increase the number of migrants and/or persons with a migrant background in the police force and intensify the dialogue between police and migrant communities;
- (b) Continue providing migrant women who are victims of violence with psychosocial and legal support;
- (c) Conduct surveys to assess the prevalence of violence experienced by migrant women, including when the motivation for a crime relates to ethnicity; and
- (d) Pursue policy measures and programmes, including through the use of the media, to prevent xenophobic violence against migrant women and increase awareness on opportunities that migration presents.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's shelters, centres, helplines, national women's networks, policy and funding.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is one national women's helpline called [Frauenhelpline gegen Gewalt](#)/Women's Helpline against Violence (0800 222 555), run by the women's organization Austrian Women's Shelter Network (AÖF). It operates 24/7, is free of charge, and provides multi-lingual support in Arabic, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Romanian, Russian, Turkish, and English.

Other national helplines for victims

There are two national helplines for victims: Opfer Notruf des Weissen Rings (0800 112 112) is a general helpline for victims run by a non-governmental organization and is free of charge and 24/7; and the national helpline for children (0800 567 567) is run by an NGO, and is 24/7 and free of charge.

Women's Shelters

There are 30 free of charge and 24/7 women's shelters which exist in all regions, as well as one shelter for victims of forced marriage called Verein Orient Express, one shelter for asylum-seekers called Association Mensch Leben in Hollabrunn, and two shelters for victims of trafficking (IBF and SOLWODI (Solidarity with Women in Distress" – Solidarität mit Frauen in Not), totalling 34 women's shelters in Austria. Since 2013, Austria has two women's shelters networks: AÖF and ZÖF, and both collect data for their networks. In 2015 AÖF collects data on 19 women's shelters, and ZÖF collects data on seven women's shelters.

In the 30 women's shelters, there are 759 beds. In some regions, there are less beds, particularly in the rural areas such as Waldviertel, Mühlviertel and Styria. The last women's shelter which opened was in 2007, in Spital/Drau, Corinthia. No women's shelters have closed recently, but in 2010 the local government in Salzburg wanted to close one shelter in Hallein, however, due to a huge protest from civil society, it is still open.

There is also one specific shelter for asylum-seekers, one shelter for girls and women victims of forced marriage, and two shelters for victims of trafficking.

Women's Centres

There are 32 women's centres in Austria, including six non accommodates centres, six rape crisis centres in Austria in the major cities; three centres for girls experiencing sexual abuse in Vienna; nine intervention centres in all länder run by non-governmental organizations, with funding from the State; seven women's centres for minority ethnic women in the major cities such as Peregrina Orientexpress,

Miteinander lernern, Beratungszentrum, [LEFÖ](#), Maiz, Viele in Salzburg, [African Women's Association](#); and one centre for victims of trafficking called LEFÖ.

National Women's Networks

There are a total of six national women's networks in Austria, two of which are networks of women's shelters: the [Austrian Women's Shelter Network](#) (AÖF), and coordinates data collection, engages in public relations, conducts campaigns and trainings, and runs the National Women's Helpline against Violence/Frauenhelpline gegen Gewalt. [The Union of Austrian Shelters for Women](#) (ZÖF) is a legal entity and also collects the data on their seven members, shares information, and coordinates various network activities.

There is one network of intervention centres called Bundesverband der [Gewaltschutzzentren und Interventionstellen](#)/Federal Association of Victims Protection Centres and Intervention Centres, which has member organizations including the intervention centres for trafficking victims with Interventionsstelle für Betroffene von Frauenhandel (IBF)/ Intervention Centre for Trafficked Women, and organizes pro-active support for victims, as well as collects data on protection orders.

Bundesverband der Frauennotrufe in Österreich (BAFÖ)/Federal Association of Women's Counselling Centres against Sexual Violence with five counselling centres as members of the network.

[Netzwerk der Mädchen und Frauenberatungsstellen](#) (FMBST)/Austrian Counselling Centres for Women and Girls conducts coordination, communication, information, and developing further education and training between its 55 members of general women's counselling centres, although the members are not necessarily specific on violence against women and girls.

Plattform gegen die Gewalt in der Familie/Platform against Domestic Violence is a network of 45 mixed services.

Policy & Funding

The current national action plan for Austria is called [Nationaler Aktionsplan zum Schutz vor Gewalt gegen Frauen, Maßnahmen der Österreichischen Bundesregierung 2014-2016](#)/National Action Plan violence against women, Measures of the Austrian Federal Government 2014-2016.

Policies and measures about specialist women support services is integrated in the national action plan. The governmental coordinating body for implementing policies and measures to prevent violence against women is the Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs. This ministry is also responsible for evaluating and monitoring the NAP. Some women's organizations like AÖF, ZÖF, Intervention Centre Vienna, and Victim's Protection Centres (Gewaltschutzzentren) and BAFÖ are invited for implementing the national action plan. All relevant women's organizations and academics in the field of violence against women should be involved into the coordinating body.

In terms of funding, the federal government funds women's organizations. The intervention centres and victim protection centres are funded by the State, and half by the Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs, with public procurement funding of five years. The three most common forms of funding for women's support services are annual core funding and public procurement funding. The women's shelters are financed by local governments, although the funding is very different in each

county/province – some have annual core funding, contract, or 2-3 year core funding. Some of them have permanent funding such as in Upper Austria, Burgenland, and Vienna.

BELARUS

Basic Information

Population: 9,463,840

Female Population: 5,066,314

Member of Council of Europe: No

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: Yes (1981)

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: Yes (2004)

Istanbul Convention – signed: no

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/COUNTRY_REPORT_2012.pdf)

Gender Equality Index: 0.151, for further information see: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>

Un Women Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/belarus>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2011:

Violence against Women

19. While noting the State party's efforts to sensitize the police and law enforcement officers on violence against women, the Committee reiterates its grave concern about the persistence of such violence, in particular domestic and sexual violence; its underreporting; the high number of women killed as a result of domestic violence; the lack of prosecution of violence within the family; the fact that rape is subject to private rather than ex officio prosecution; the absence of separate criminal law provisions on domestic violence and marital rape; and the lack of shelters for victims of domestic violence.

20. In accordance with its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women and the recommendations contained in its previous concluding observations, the Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Intensify its efforts to prevent and prosecute acts of domestic and sexual violence against women and impose appropriate penalties commensurate with the gravity of the crime on perpetrators rather than administrative fines which may have an adverse impact on the financial situation of victims themselves;

(b) Expedite the adoption of the draft Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence, including specific rights for victims to assistance, protection and compensation;

(c) Amend its Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code in order to specifically criminalize domestic violence and marital rape, introduce ex officio prosecution for rape, and ensure that the definition of rape covers any non-consensual sexual act;

(d) Provide mandatory training to judges, prosecutors and the police on the strict application of legal provisions dealing with violence against women and train police officers, on standardized procedures to deal with women victims of violence;

(e) Encourage women to report incidents of domestic and sexual violence, by de-stigmatizing victims and raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts;

(f) Provide adequate assistance and protection to women victims of violence, by strengthening the capacity of crisis rooms in territorial centres for social assistance, increasing the number of State-run shelters for battered women and girls, enhancing cooperation with and funding for NGOs providing shelter and rehabilitation to victims, and reinforcing rehabilitation programmes for alcoholics;

(g) Collect statistical data on domestic and sexual violence disaggregated by sex, age and relationship between the victim and perpetrator.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's networks, shelters, centres, helplines, and policy and funding of women's support facilities, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines:

There is no national women's helpline in Belarus.

Other helplines for victims:

There are several other national helplines, including a helpline for victims of domestic violence, children's helpline and a helpline for safe migration.

The National Hotline for Survivors of Domestic Violence (8801 100 8 801) operates since 13 August 2012. It does not operate 24/7 and is free of charge²³. The helpline operates daily from 8:00-20:00. In 2014, the hotline received 2,163 calls. In the period of 2012-2014, the helpline received USD 70,000 to fund its operations. The hotline is operated by an NGO.

²³ For landlines only. Mobile phone users must pay a connecting fee.

The national toll-free children hotline (8801 100 16 11) is for children, parents and professionals, who face or deal with situations of violence, abuse and/or neglect. The helpline operates 24/7 and is free of charge. The helpline is operated by the state National Center of Mental Health and supervised by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with a local NGO.²⁴

The Hotline for Safe Migration (113) is run by the NGO 'Gender Perspectives' and 'Business Women's Club Brest'. The helpline does not operate 24/7 and is free of charge²⁵.

Women's Shelters

There are currently four women's shelters in Belarus, none of which receive state funding and only two of which are operated with a gender-specific/feminist approach²⁶. Shelters are available in only three cities (Minsk, Mogilev and Lida), offering a total of 30 places (beds). In 2014, 106 women and 104 children were accommodated, although access to shelters for elderly women, women with disabilities, lesbian and/or transgender women, women from other regions, asylum seeking women, migrant women (including undocumented migrant women), and minority ethnic women is severely restricted.

There are no domestic violence shelters in Belarus. In terms of other support structures, there are 108²⁷ state crisis rooms that offer services and/or accommodation for persons experiencing various crisis situations (e.g. domestic violence, trafficking and homelessness). A majority of the crisis centres are not suitable for women survivors of domestic violence, leading to a low number of survivors using these facilities: During January-March 2015, 70 domestic violence related requests were registered in crisis rooms; in 2014, 130 persons received assistance related to situations of domestic violence; in 2013, the number was 150; in 2012, the requests totaled at 124 cases.²⁸

Finding housing for women, who are escaping a violence relationship can be challenging. Mostly, the costs of renting a flat present the greatest obstacle for the women. In addition to this, there are no special programs for women survivors of violence to support their access to second stage/transitional housing, or other housing programs.

Women's Centres

There are no specific women's centers for survivors of violence, although some women's shelters provide some level of non-residential support.

National Women's Networks

There is no national women's network (network of women's organizations) in Belarus. There are however plans to establish a network of organizations working in the area of preventing and combating

²⁴ www.1611.by/about

²⁵ For landlines only. Mobile phone users must pay a connecting fee.

²⁶ NGOs 'Gender Perspectives' and 'Radislava'

²⁷ www.mintrud.gov.by/ru/ter_centry_adresa_telefony

²⁸ www.belta.by/society/view/kolichestvo-krizisnyx-komnat-v-belarusi-za-dva-goda-udvoilos-2705-2015

domestic violence. Currently, a group of five women's NGOs are working on addressing the issue of forming a network.

Policy & Funding

At the moment, there is no national action plan in the area of violence against women. A recently ended plan (2011-2015) – the Fourth National Action Plan to Ensure Gender Equality, contained a chapter outlining measures to address domestic violence and human trafficking. As a result, there is neither a coordinating body nor an institution/organization responsible for monitoring and/or evaluation of the national action plan in the area of violence against women.

At the time in Belarus, there are no specific governmental funds allocated for activities to combat violence against women on a national level. However, as of January 2014, a newly enacted legislation (Law on Social Contracting) enables funding of NGOs, including women's NGOs, working in the area of service provision for survivors of domestic violence. At the same time, funds for social contracting are allocated based on issues deemed priorities by local authorities. As a result, funding has not yet been allocated broadly to NGO-run domestic violence services in Belarus.

The state of Belarus recognizes, encourages and supports women's NGOs by cooperating with them in the frame of activities of the National Council on Gender Policy (under the Council of Ministers). NGOs are also extended invitations to conferences and are involved in training of professionals, including government officials. Furthermore, Ministries may consult with women's NGOs regarding legislative drafts, or provide necessary support for registration of NGO projects. At the same time, funding is still not provided to women's NGOs and the process of approving NGO projects is not always transparent, and is outside of the influence of the NGOs.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

All women's shelters in Belarus conduct prevention activities in form of providing information and raising awareness about violence against women, conducting campaigns, working in the community and in schools, among others. The prevention work is not funded by the state. Below is an example of a campaign from the country.



Training

In Belarus, all women's shelters carry out trainings of professionals. The following professional groups participate in the trainings: police, lawyers, health service workers, social workers, psychologists, pedagogues, teachers, media professionals, staff working in the area of immigration and asylum (e.g. border guards). State funding is allocated to individual experts to conduct such trainings.

BELGIUM (Brussels and Wallonia)

Basic Information

Population: 4,764,917 (1,175,173 in BCR, & 3,589,744 in RW)

Female Population: 2,442,506 (602,472 in BCR & 1,840,034 in RW)

Member of Council of Europe: 1949

Member of European Union: 1958

CEDAW ratified: 1985

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2004

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2012); ratified: yes (2016)

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 58.2, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/belgium?unstatscountry=da01fa4d86664318bb7bbb8334ee773c>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2014:

Violence against women

20. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That the national action plan to combat intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence for 2010-2014 lacks clear timelines and measurable benchmarks and fails to address the specific needs of migrant women who are victims of domestic violence;

(b) That the number of shelters available to women who are victims of violence is insufficient and that undocumented migrant women are often not admitted to those shelters because of financial constraints;

(c) That the law of 15 December 1980 regarding the entry on the territory, the stay, the settlement and the removal of aliens (Aliens Law) fails to grant temporary residence to women who are victims of domestic violence who are undocumented or are awaiting a residence permit on the basis of family reunification. In addition, while noting the State party's indication that deportations are unlikely in the above-mentioned cases, and that the women can apply for residence permits on humanitarian grounds, the Committee is concerned that fear of deportation prevents victims from reporting cases of domestic violence.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Include in the national action plan to combat intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence for 2010-2014 clear timelines, measurable benchmarks and measures to address the specific needs of migrant women who are victims of domestic violence;

(b) Increase the number and capacity of State-run shelters for women who are victims of violence and ensure that all women, including undocumented migrant women, have non-discriminatory access thereto;

(c) Amend the Aliens Law to grant temporary residence to migrant women who are victims of domestic violence who are undocumented or are awaiting their residence permits on the basis of family reunification and to ensure that migrant women having residence permits as a result of family reunification, who are victims of domestic violence and want to leave their husbands, are not required to prove that they are employed, self-employed, or have sufficient means of subsistence to receive residence permits on their own. The State party should work to raise awareness among migrant women of the existence of the new legal provisions once they are adopted;

(d) Ensure that all migrant women can seek protection from domestic violence and halt deportation procedures in this context.

22. The Committee welcomes the drafting, in February 2014, of a checklist of good practices for police officers who are responding to situations involving possible sexual offences. However, the Committee notes with concern:

(a) The qualification of sexual abuse as an “offence against public morality and family order” under title VI of the Criminal Code;

(b) The lack of comprehensive statistical data on violence against women, disaggregated by age, ethnicity, nationality and relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, and on the number of women murdered by their current or former partners;

(c) The absence of specialized centres providing women who are victims of sexual violence with immediate medical and forensic examinations to collect evidence, medical treatment, psychological counselling and legal assistance;

(d) The underreporting of rape and the high number of rape and domestic violence charges dropped, owing in part to a lack of trust in the police and inadequate support services;

(e) The incomplete process of ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), signed on 11 September 2012.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend the Criminal Code with a view to qualifying sexual abuse as a crime against the person rather than an offence against public morality and family order;

(b) Collect statistical data on all forms of violence against women, disaggregated by age, ethnicity, nationality and relationship between the victim and the perpetrator;

(c) Establish specialized centres (one-stop shops) for victims of sexual violence, where they can receive immediate medical and forensic examinations to collect evidence, medical treatment, psychological counselling and legal assistance in filing a complaint;

(d) Study the reasons for the underreporting of cases of rape and the high number of rape and domestic violence charges dropped, in order to inform the development of policies and strategies to address this issue, including policies to build the trust of women who are victims of violence in the police and in the law enforcement system;

(e) Expedite the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the [WAVE Report](#) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines, shelters, centres, networks, policy & funding, prevention awareness raising & campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is no national women's helpline in Belgium, but each region has its own helpline. For the French-speaking part, the existing helpline is [Ecoute Violences Conjugales](#) (0800 30 030) ; the helpline was founded in 2010 by CAP Sciences Humaines and, when the NGO went bankrupt in 2012, was taken over by three feminist shelters: [Centre de Prévention des Violences Conjugales et Familiales](#) (Brussels), the [Collectif contre les Violences Familiales et l'Exclusion](#) (Liège), and [Solidarité Femmes et Refuge pour Femmes Battues](#) (La Louvière). The helpline deals with marital violence, runs Monday-Friday 9:00-19:00 and is free of charge; it does not provide multi-lingual support.

Other helplines for victims

People experiencing sexual violence in the French speaking part of Belgium can call the helpline [SOS Viol](#) (02/534 36 36).

There is an additional helpline on forced marriage, founded in 2015 by the Brussels-based NGO [Réseau Mariage Migration](#), and called [Mon Mariage M'appartient](#) (My marriage belongs to me); it operates on Mon 10:00-14:00, and Wed 14:00-18:00 and it is funded on the regional level.

Wallonia and Brussels also have a children helpline called [103 Service Ecoute-Enfants](#) which is run by the state, is free of charge and operates every day 10:00-24:00.

Women's Shelters

In the region of Brussels Capital there is 1 women's shelter and 6 in the Walloon Region; 58 beds are available in Brussels and 225 in Wallonia. Last year, the Brussels shelter opened a new site with 34 additional places.

Out of the 7 shelters, 1 is run by the State, 3 are run by women's NGOs with a gender-specific approach and 3 are run by other women's NGOs. 6 shelters apply the accredited regional standards and all of the

7 shelters provide 24/7 access. Moreover, 6 out of 7 shelters provide immediate and direct access in emergency situations and all the 7 shelters provide non-residential support. There is a limited stay policy of 3 months that can be renewed only once, but occasionally, women in need may stay longer. Nevertheless, women's shelters are not free of charge in Brussels and Wallonia regions.

There are no domestic violence shelters in Brussels and Wallonia; different types of homeless shelters exist, but they face several issues such as safety, hygienic problems and theft and are not sufficiently staffed to provide the necessary psychosocial support to survivors and their children.

Women's Centres

There is one rape crisis centre in Brussels run by a women's NGO and at least 7 regional crisis centres for victims of domestic violence serving predominately women with a gender-specific approach – 5 of the regional crisis centres are run by local authorities, and the other 2 centres are run by women's NGOs. In addition, there are two centres for women victims of trafficking available in the Brussels-Wallonia region, both of which are run by NGOs. All centres provide information and advice, as well as advocacy and practical support.

Women's Networks

There is one national women's network in Belgium called "Plate-forme féministe contre les violences faites aux femmes"/"Feministisch platvorm tegen geweld tegen vrouwen". The network gathers 22 French-speaking and 11 Flemish-speaking organizations, including shelters, a rape crisis centre, mixed-services organizations, migrant women organizations and others. This group was founded in January 2015 under the initiative of dedicated members of the organisation [Garance asbl](#), and will go public in 2016.

There are five platforms on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) on provincial level and one in the Brussels Capital Region, which comprise a network of civil actors (police, justice, health, social services, others) and are funded by the [Institut pour l'Egalité des Femmes et des Hommes](#) and the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles. In addition, the [Conseil des Femmes Francophones de Belgique](#), a French-speaking platform of 63 women's organizations, has a working group on violence against women as well as a memorandum on rape. Finally, the [Fédération des Maisons d'Accueil & des Services d'Aide aux Sans-abri](#) includes all recognized and subsidized French-speaking shelters and other services for homeless people and also has a memorandum on domestic violence.

Policy & Funding

The [National Action Plan to Combat IPV and other Forms of Domestic Violence 2010-2014](#), includes violence within the family or domestic violence, female genital mutilation, killings in the name of "honour" and forced and early marriage. The NAP includes the creation of additional shelter places for victims under 18 and for adult women, and it further indicates that the funding of the organizations working on FGM should be made permanent.

The Institut pour l’Egalité des Femmes et des Hommes is in charge of the implementation of the policies, as well as the evaluation and the monitoring of the national strategy. However, women’s NGOs are involved only sporadically in this institution’s work, on certain particular projects.

An Inter-French-speaking Action Plan has also been adopted in Belgium.

A new NAP is to be adopted for the current legislation (2015-2018), which should include sexual violence, Female Genital Mutilation and Forced and Early Marriage.

In general, the state does recognise, encourage and support women’s NGOs working in the field of VAW in Brussels and Wallonia and there is an effective cooperation of the government with all women’s NGOs. However, women’s NGOs are not involved in the making of the NAP, especially because of the difficulties of the Flemish NGOs and the French-speaking NGOs to find a common ground of discussion. Analyses of the NAPs by women’s NGOs can be found in the CEDAW shadow reports.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

All national women’s networks and women’s shelters are involved in prevention work, as well as some women’s centres. More importantly, women’s shelters are involved in all awareness raising campaigns, and most of them provide self-defence classes. Some also organize and run awareness raising activities themselves.

Prevention – Good practice example

Organisation carrying out the activity: [Garance asbl](#)

Timeframe of activity: Since 2009

Goals and target groups: migrant women

Description of activity: Garance trains peer educators to facilitate group meetings of migrant women on safety and violence prevention. The meetings are based on an exchange experiences, practices, tricks and tips among women in order to make their available prevention resources visible and appreciated, so that they can share them with other women. The group meetings are organized in neighbourhood centres, alphabetisation organizations, centres for asylum seekers and other places. Since 2009 they have a [safety guide](#) that has been written by migrant women for migrant women and it is available in French.

Main results: Participants report less isolation, less fear and more self-confidence. They leave the meetings with basic knowledge on what works in violence prevention.

Training

In Wallonia, the training of professionals who deal with VAW is conducted by some women’s shelters in cooperation with the main provider of perpetrator responsibility groups. The regional and provincial platforms for IPV organize training for professionals, in the form of study days and seminars and with a new topic every year.

Moreover, each police zone has a psychosocial service for short-term victim support that has among its missions the continuous training of police agents on victim support, including IPV and sexual violence.

BELGIUM (Flanders)

Basic Information

Population: 11,203, 992²⁹

Female Population: 5,695,923³⁰

Member of Council of Europe: 1949

Member of European Union: 1958

CEDAW ratified: 1985

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2004

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2012); ratified: yes (2016)

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 58.2, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/belgium?unstatscountry=da01fa4d86664318bb7bbb8334ee773c>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2014:

Violence against women

20. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That the national action plan to combat intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence for 2010-2014 lacks clear timelines and measurable benchmarks and fails to address the specific needs of migrant women who are victims of domestic violence;

(b) That the number of shelters available to women who are victims of violence is insufficient and that undocumented migrant women are often not admitted to those shelters because of financial constraints;

(c) That the law of 15 December 1980 regarding the entry on the territory, the stay, the settlement and the removal of aliens (Aliens Law) fails to grant temporary residence to women who are victims of domestic violence who are undocumented or are awaiting a residence permit on the basis of family reunification. In addition, while noting the State party's indication that deportations are unlikely in the above-mentioned cases, and that the women can apply for residence permits on humanitarian grounds, the Committee is concerned that fear of deportation prevents victims from reporting cases of domestic violence.

²⁹ According to Eurostat 2014, covers all of Belgium

³⁰ According to Eurostat 2014, covers all of Belgium

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Include in the national action plan to combat intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence for 2010-2014 clear timelines, measurable benchmarks and measures to address the specific needs of migrant women who are victims of domestic violence;

(b) Increase the number and capacity of State-run shelters for women who are victims of violence and ensure that all women, including undocumented migrant women, have non-discriminatory access thereto;

(c) Amend the Aliens Law to grant temporary residence to migrant women who are victims of domestic violence who are undocumented or are awaiting their residence permits on the basis of family reunification and to ensure that migrant women having residence permits as a result of family reunification, who are victims of domestic violence and want to leave their husbands, are not required to prove that they are employed, self-employed, or have sufficient means of subsistence to receive residence permits on their own. The State party should work to raise awareness among migrant women of the existence of the new legal provisions once they are adopted;

(d) Ensure that all migrant women can seek protection from domestic violence and halt deportation procedures in this context.

22. The Committee welcomes the drafting, in February 2014, of a checklist of good practices for police officers who are responding to situations involving possible sexual offences. However, the Committee notes with concern:

(a) The qualification of sexual abuse as an “offence against public morality and family order” under title VI of the Criminal Code;

(b) The lack of comprehensive statistical data on violence against women, disaggregated by age, ethnicity, nationality and relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, and on the number of women murdered by their current or former partners;

(c) The absence of specialized centres providing women who are victims of sexual violence with immediate medical and forensic examinations to collect evidence, medical treatment, psychological counselling and legal assistance;

(d) The underreporting of rape and the high number of rape and domestic violence charges dropped, owing in part to a lack of trust in the police and inadequate support services;

(e) The incomplete process of ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), signed on 11 September 2012.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend the Criminal Code with a view to qualifying sexual abuse as a crime against the person rather than an offence against public morality and family order;

- (b) Collect statistical data on all forms of violence against women, disaggregated by age, ethnicity, nationality and relationship between the victim and the perpetrator;
- (c) Establish specialized centres (one-stop shops) for victims of sexual violence, where they can receive immediate medical and forensic examinations to collect evidence, medical treatment, psychological counselling and legal assistance in filing a complaint;
- (d) Study the reasons for the underreporting of cases of rape and the high number of rape and domestic violence charges dropped, in order to inform the development of policies and strategies to address this issue, including policies to build the trust of women who are victims of violence in the police and in the law enforcement system;
- (e) Expedite the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.³¹ The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines, shelters, centres, networks, policy & funding, prevention awareness raising & campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is no national women's helpline in Belgium, but each region has its own helpline. For the Flemish speaking part there is one helpline 1712, which covers all forms of violence: domestic (all family members), child abuse, elder abuse, sexual violence, 'honour crimes' and more – as we can see it is not "women-specified". 1712 operates free of charge, for 8 hours per day, 5 days per week, while it is closed during national holidays. It does not provide multi-lingual support.

Other helplines for victims

There is a counselling helpline (078 150 158) for the whole Flemish region run by the Centrum Algemeen Welzijnswerk (CAW)³² (Center for Social Care). The counselling is offered in Flemish, French and English and despite the fact that CAW offer general support (not gender-specific), they still provide specialized support to women survivors of Domestic Violence (DV).

Women's Shelters

³¹ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

³² For information about CAW centres please check the following section "women centres".

In Flanders, the total number of shelters that are dedicated only for women victims of violence are 7.

6 of them are “Centrum Algemeen Welzijnswerk” (CAW) shelters, located in six different regions of the Flemish part of Belgium. They have a secret address, security precautions and they are used for high risk situations, honour related violence, domestic violence etc. However, these shelters do not provide their services for girls under 18, being in forced marriage and honour related violence situations; there is a youth care system through which they can find support.

The total places/beds offered are 62 for women and 23 for children. There is 24/7 access to most of the shelters and women usually stay from 3 to 6 months, but their actual staying varies from a couple of days to 1 year. Moreover, counselling in the shelters is provided for free, while women survivors need to pay for their board – in case they cannot afford it the local authority provides the funds.

Finally, there is 1 shelter that is specialised to provide accommodation and assistance to victims of trafficking.

Other existing shelters are 2 studios in Mechelen, which can be used by gay couples, couples that flee honour based violence and other, while there are also 6 CIG shelters for families.

Women’s Centres

There are no centres that are exclusively focused on and directed to a gender perspective.

Instead, there are centres for social care, the aforementioned CAW, which are non-profit organizations, funded by the state and provide assistance to all persons facing problems. There is one CAW in every region³³ and there are 11 in total. Under these general social welfare centres, victims of domestic violence can find specialized support, mostly in the form of counselling, despite the fact that CAW are not gender specific.

Women’s Networks

There is no network that is recognized exclusively as “women’s network” in Flanders.

The national social work network “Steunpunt algemeen welzijnswerk”(Support Centre for General Welfare), is the Flemish centre for knowledge and expertise on social work. Despite not being a women’s network, it covers many areas associated to violence against women, such as victim support and domestic violence. The 11 member organizations – CAW, provide women’s shelters, helplines, centres and other services and they are also responsible for building and maintaining national women’s coalitions to end violence against women.

Policy & Funding

³³ To precise map coverage can be found here <http://www.caw.be/organisatie>

The Nationaal Actieplan ter bestrijding van Partnergeweld en andere vormen van intrafamiliaal geweld 2015-2018 (National Action Plan against Partner Violence and other forms of Domestic Violence 2015-2018) covers the entire country; it also includes honour based violence and female genital mutilation.

The coordinating body, Instituut voor Gelijkheid Vrouwen en Mannen (IGVM) / Institut pour l'Égalité des Femmes et des Hommes (Institute for the Equality of Women and Men), involves women's NGOs: Vrouwenraad, Steunpunt AWW, vzw Zijn, vzw Ella, etc. are consulted in policy making and recognized as experts. They are subsidized and can apply for project funding.

The evaluation and monitoring is constituted by expert consultation from the IGVM and Vrouwenraad (a women's NGO) participates in the evaluation process.

When it comes to funding the towns and communes in Belgium make an effort, while provinces (10), regional governments (Flanders, Brussels Capital, Wallonia) and the national government also invest. Governmental funding of women's support services is mandated by law.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

The NGO's are particularly active in this area, as are the provinces.

Prevention – Good practice example

Organisation carrying out the activity: province of Antwerp

Timeframe of activity: 25th November focus

Goals and target groups: population at large, schools (special programme) & professionals

Description of activity: awareness raising activities with famous musicians and actors

Main results: press coverage & distribution of leaflets and gadgets and posters etc.

Training

Training – Good practice example

Organisation carrying out the training: Honour Based Violence Training

Goals and target groups: professionals (social workers in CAW), police and youth carers

Training framework: a) in vocational/basic training, b) advanced training/continuing education, c) in-house training in the institution): basic & advanced training and also follow up consultation on casework

Timeframe: October 2015-June 2016

Description of activity: in depth methodical training in reception, risk assessment, counselling & multi-disciplinary approach

Main results: dissemination of "know-how" from the Dutch services to the Flemish services

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Basic Information

Population: 3,839,265

Female Population: 1,963,655

Member of Council of Europe: Yes (2002)

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: Yes (1993)

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: Yes (2002)

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2013); ratified: yes (2013)

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/COUNTRY_REPORT_2012.pdf)

Gender Equality Index: 0.201, for further information see: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/bosnia-and-herzegovina>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2013:

Violence against women

21. While welcoming the State party's increased efforts to combat domestic violence, the Committee reiterates its serious concern about the high prevalence of domestic violence and the lack of monitoring and accountability mechanisms regarding the implementation of existing strategies, at both the State and entity levels; insufficient data collection to assess the phenomenon of domestic violence; and insufficient support services dependent on non-governmental organizations and foreign funding. The Committee is also concerned about the inconsistent application of the laws regulating domestic violence by the courts of both entities, which undermines women's trust in the judicial system despite the comprehensive legislative framework in place; the underreporting of domestic violence; the limited number of protective measures issued; and the lenient sentencing policy, including a large percentage of suspended sentences. In addition, the Committee regrets the absence of information regarding Brčko District and the insufficient information on other forms of violence against women in the State party.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish effective institutional mechanisms to coordinate, monitor and assess the effectiveness of the impact of the strategies developed and measures taken with a view to ensuring the consistent application of the laws at all levels;

(b) Encourage women to report incidents of domestic violence by de-stigmatizing victims and raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts, and intensify its efforts to ensure that all reported cases of domestic and sexual violence against women and girls are effectively investigated and that perpetrators are prosecuted and sentenced commensurate with the gravity of the crime;

(c) Collect statistical data on domestic violence, including femicide, disaggregated by sex, age and relationship between victim and perpetrator, and undertake research on the extent of all forms of violence against women and its root causes;

(d) Provide mandatory training for judges, lawyers and law enforcement officers on the uniform application of the existing legal framework, including on the definition of domestic violence and on gender stereotypes;

(e) Provide adequate assistance, protection and rehabilitation to women victims of all forms of violence, including by strengthening the capacity of existing shelters and by enhancing cooperation with and funding for non-governmental organizations providing shelter and rehabilitation to victims.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines, women's shelters, women's centres, national women's networks, and policy and funding, among others.

Women's Helplines

National Women's Helplines

There are two national women's helplines in Bosnia and Herzegovina. One covering the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and one covering Republika Srpska. The names of the helplines are SOS line for help of women and children, victims of domestic violence.

The helpline number for the Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina is 1265 (established in 2008) and for Republika Srpska is 1264 (established in 2005). The helplines are run by women's NGOs.

The helplines do not operate 24/7, instead from 9:00-21:00 during working days, and from 17:00-21:00 on the weekends. The helplines operate on holidays. Several organizations running women's shelters also offer 24/7 SOS hotlines.

The helplines are free of charge, despite NGOs struggle to sustain them. For example, the costs of operating the helplines of the Republika Srpska (1264) are covered by the Gender Centre of the Republika Srpska, while payment to staff of the helpline is covered by women's NGOs through donor funding. This is threatening the sustainability of the helpline, as some helpline operators work in capacity as volunteers.

The helplines generally do not offer multilingual support.

In 2014, both helplines received a total of 4,636 calls of which 4,442 came from women. Collecting data on service users is an obligation of the women's helplines, despite no governmental funding allocated to the activity.

In 2014, the women's helplines did not receive any funding from the state.

Other helplines for victims

There is a children's helpline in Bosnia and Herzegovina called the Blue Phone. It does not operate 24/7 and is free of charge. The number of the helpline is 0800 50305. The helpline is run by an NGO. Between years 2013-2015, the helpline received at least 802 calls. The helpline has received no state funding in 2014.

Women's Shelters

There are nine safe houses for women survivors of violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Six of the safe houses³⁴ are located in the Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina and three³⁵ in Republika Srpska. The total number of places in the women's shelters is at least 204³⁶. The last shelter was opened in 2013. No shelters have been closed in recent years. In 2014, 210 women and 216 children were accommodated in the nine safe houses. The number of women, who were not taken or accepted is not known as the Centres for Social Work are responsible with referring women to shelters. There is a significant number of women asking for access to a safe house, however, this is not always granted by the Centres for Social Work. Majority of the safe houses are run by women's organizations with a gender-specific and feminist approach, while at least one is run by a faith-based organization. The safe houses operate according to nationally accredited standards for women's shelters. The standards were created by state institutions and without input from women's NGOs. As a result, the safe houses operate to meet the national standards and their own specialist standards for working with women survivors of violence.³⁷

Women's shelters are available in most regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the Republika Srpska, there are plans to open additional shelters. All existing women's shelters have 24/7 access, as shelters are staffed by professionals on a round-the-clock basis. At the same time, none of the shelters provide direct access, as funding for women's stay in shelters is based on the placement being approved by state authorities. Women without such state placement, must be funded from private donations. The allowed length of stay is up to six months, with extensions considered on an individual basis.

All of the women's shelters provide services free of charge to the women survivors of violence. All of the women's shelters have security precautions, such as secret location, protocols for handling emergencies, video surveillance, and information about safety for women staying in the shelter, among others.

Most of the shelters provide non-residential services. Most also have an age limit for accepting children with their mothers; for boys the limit is 16 years of age, while there is no limit for girls.

There are certain restrictions for accessing shelters. For example, not all shelters could provide access for lesbian and/or transgender women, or for women from other regions of the country, women seeking asylum, migrant women, or minority ethnic women. The stay of an undocumented migrant woman in a shelter is not supported with state funding.

The state funding per shelter has been approximately EUR 85,000 or less per year. This is minimal and more funding is needed for shelter operation.

Women's Centres

³⁴ The NGOs operating those safe houses are: Foundation for Local Democracy Sarajevo, Medica-Zenica, Vive Zene Tuzla, Women from Una-Bihac, BiH Woman Mostar, and Caritas-Mostar.

³⁵ The NGOs operating those safe houses are: Future Modrica, United Women Banja Luka, and Lara Bijeljina.

³⁶ Refers to a number of beds.

³⁷ Women against Violence Europe (WAVE). (2015). Supporting the sustainability and autonomy of women's organizations providing services in Eastern Europe for women and children survivors of domestic violence. Pg. 77.

There are a total of eight women's centers (non-residential services for all women survivors of violence). The centers are run by women's NGOs. The centers are funded by foreign donations.

All of the women's centers offer information and advice, counselling, advocacy (access to rights), multilingual support, risk assessment and safety planning, and legal advice. Most of the centers offer specialist support for children, legal representation, outreach, support concerning access to social rights such as income, work, health care and residency permit, and multi-agency support for survivors. Only some centers offer support for housing and child care. The women's centers also run the safe houses, albeit on separate premises.

National Women's Networks

There are two national women's networks and/or coalitions to end violence against women. One is called Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina, composed of civil society organizations and individuals, working in the area of women's rights and gender equality. The network promotes anti-discrimination, non-violence and anti-militarism from a feminist perspective of peace, solidarity, trust and diversity. The network comprises of 46 organizations and is coordinated by Foundation CURE Sarajevo. The network does not have a national coordinating office, or paid staff in charge of networking, and receives no financial support from any of the governmental entities.

The second network is called Safe Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The network composes of women's organizations working in the field of combating violence against women and domestic violence. The activities of the network include raising awareness of violence against women as a human rights violation; improving existing legislation; building capacities of women's NGOs; contributing to policy, among other actions. The network comprises of 23 organizations and is coordinated by the Foundation of Local Democracy from Sarajevo. The network does not have a national coordinating office, or paid staff in charge of networking, and receives no financial support from any of the governmental entities.³⁸

Both networks include organizations from Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina and from Republika Srpska. Both networks are still informal and do not hold legal entity status.

Policy & Funding

The current national action plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina is titled Gender Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2013-2017). Additionally, the Gender Equality Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina has developed a strategy titled Framework Strategy for Implementation of the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (2014-2018).³⁹ The Gender Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2013-2017) is a comprehensive document addressing actions for the private and public sphere. It also provides guidelines for development of annual operational plans at the entity, cantonal and municipality levels. Priorities, cross-cutting areas, and areas relating to strengthening of specific mechanisms and instruments are further defined.

³⁸ In addition to the two networks, there is a network named RING – Bosnia and Herzegovina Network against Trafficking, which composes of women's organizations working in the area of combating trafficking against women.

³⁹ Women against Violence Europe (WAVE). (2015). Supporting the sustainability and autonomy of women's organizations providing services in Eastern Europe for women and children survivors of domestic violence. Pg. 81.

The Gender Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2013-2017) covers the following forms of violence: rape and sexual assault, violence within the family or domestic violence, sexual harassment, violence in conflict and post-conflict, and violence in institutional environments.

Policies and measures about specialist women's support services are integrated into the strategies on entity levels (1. Strategy for combating domestic violence for the period 2014-2019 for Republika Srpska; 2. Strategy for combating domestic violence for the period 2014-2017 for Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina). The services addressed in the strategies are helplines and shelters. Specialist support such as risk assessment, psychological support, legal advice/aid, health care, economic support, among others are also referred to in the strategies.

In the Republika Srpska, the coordinating body responsible for implementing policies and measures on combating violence against women is the Council to Combat Domestic Violence. The Council is composed of politicians, health care professionals, and judicial professionals, among other. The Council operates under the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of Republika Srpska. Women's NGOs are also involved in the work of the coordinating body, however, neither they nor other members of the Council, do not receive an allocated budget to take part in and support the activities of the Council. While the Council is dedicated to the work of combating violence against women, its effectiveness is limited as it serves only in the role of an advisory body, not a decision making body. In Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina, the coordinating body responsible for implementing policies and measures on combating violence against women is the Gender Center.

In the Republika Srpska, the institution entrusted with the evaluation and monitoring of the national action plan/strategy is the Ministry for Family, Youth and Sport of Republika Srpska. Women's NGOs are involved in the work of the evaluation and monitoring institution, however, their involvement depends on availability of funds that can be allocated to women's NGOs issuing their own 'shadow report' on the implementation of the national action plan/strategy. In the Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina, the institution entrusted with the evaluation and monitoring of the national action plan/strategy is the Gender Center. There are no evaluation reports issued for the current or previous national action plans/strategies in either of the entities.

The Gender Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2013-2017) includes clearly set outcomes that the government is required to achieve, which are: 1. Prevention of domestic violence; 2. Support and assistance to victims of domestic violence; 3. Protection of victims of domestic violence; and 4. Monitoring the implementation of laws, policies and measures against domestic violence.

In terms of preventing and combating violence against women, funding allocated cannot be seen as sufficient for the work required. According to the Council of Europe monitoring report, in 2014 funds were allocated for governmental activities⁴⁰ although it is not clear towards which type of activities the funding is allocated to or from which entity(ies) the funding comes from, but it does include funding for women's shelters (run by NGOs). Information on the amount of funding is not provided due to decentralized budgets.

There are provisions in entity level legislations to enable funding of women's NGOs for service provision, although responsibility is allocated between entities and municipal governments (although on a per-head basis). The legislation mandates the funding of women's support services. The most common forms of governmental funding are project funding and permanent core funding.

⁴⁰ Hagemann-White, Carol. (2014). Analytical study of the results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation of recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states. Pg. 60.

The state does recognize the work of women's NGOs by appointing women's NGOs in working groups on drafting legislation on domestic violence, or to various committees working on the issue of preventing and combating violence against women. An example of effective cooperation involved participation of the Foundation United Women of Banja Luka in the development of protocols for providing support to victims of war crimes and other criminal acts of gender-based violence.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

Women's support services in Bosnia and Herzegovina are engaged in prevention work such as information and awareness-raising activities, campaigns, work in the community or work in schools among others. All women's networks, shelters, centres and helplines conduct some kind of prevention work.

As an example, the organization United Women of Banja Luka conducted various awareness-raising activities during 16 Days of Activism, including providing information about violence against women as well as information about services available for survivors. The activities resulted not only in increased awareness in general, but could be confirmed by an increased number of calls to the SOS helpline.



Training

Most women's organizations, including the networks, shelters, centres and helplines in Bosnia and Herzegovina conduct trainings of professionals. The training target groups include: police, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, social workers, psychologists, pedagogues, therapists, teachers, media professionals, civil servants, persons working in the area of immigration, and army staff. The trainings are always conducted by women's NGOs on voluntary basis.

Trainings for women survivors of violence are also conducted. For example, the organization United Women of Banja Luka have provided trainings for women in the area of economic empowerment. This included vocational/basic training and advanced training/continuing education. The education included information for women about starting their own business. During the training, women acquire the knowledge to come up with business ideas, and how to realize their ideas in accordance with their capabilities, and to initiate the creation of a business plan. After the education, women have the opportunity to create their own business plan. Majority of the number of women staying in the safe houses/shelters have previously worked in their households and in farming. As a result, they already have knowledge about running a business related to working with animals, produce, and crafts.

BULGARIA

Basic Information

Population: 7,245,677

Female population: 3,720,732

Member of Council of Europe: 1992

Member of European Union: 2007

CEDAW ratified: 1982

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2006

Istanbul Convention – signed: no

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 38.5, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/bulgaria>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2012:

Violence against women

23. While noting the information provided regarding the current review of the Criminal Code, the Committee is deeply concerned about its article 158, a provision enabling the termination of criminal proceedings against rapists when they marry their victims.

24. The Committee urges the State party to expeditiously repeal article 158 of the Criminal Code and to ensure that all acts of sexual violence against women and girls are effectively investigated, that perpetrators are prosecuted and that their sentences are commensurate with the gravity of their crimes.

25. The Committee reiterates its serious concern about the high prevalence of domestic violence, the persistence of socio-cultural attitudes condoning such violence and its underreporting. The Committee is particularly concerned about the absence of specific provisions criminalizing domestic violence and marital rape, the lack of criminal prosecution of violence within the family and the failure by the judiciary to follow the practice of shifting the burden of proof to favour victims, which is provided for in the Protection against Domestic Violence Act. The Committee is further concerned about the scarcity of and insufficient funding for shelters for women victims of domestic violence. With regard to the implementation of the Committee's recommendations in its decision on communication No. 20/2008 (CEDAW/C/49/D/20/2008, para. 9.16), the Committee takes note of the information provided that a working group has been established under the Ministry of Justice to amend the Protection against Domestic Violence Act to extend the one-month time limit to file a petition for a protection order.

26. The Committee urges the State party:

- (a) To amend its Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code in order to specifically criminalize domestic violence and marital rape and to introduce the possibility of ex officio prosecution for both offences;
- (b) To amend article 10 (1) of the Protection against Domestic Violence Act so as to remove the one-month time limit to file a petition for a protection order, and to ensure the stringent application by the judiciary of article 13 (3) of the Act so as to ease the burden of proof in favour of the victim;
- (c) To ensure that sufficient State-funded shelters are available to women victims of domestic violence and their children and to provide support to non-governmental organizations offering shelter and other forms of support to victims of domestic violence;
- (d) To provide mandatory training for judges, lawyers and law enforcement personnel on the application of the Protection against Domestic Violence Act, including on the definition of domestic violence and on gender stereotypes;
- (e) To set a time frame for the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's shelters, centres, helplines, national women's networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning, and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

Bulgaria has one national women's helpline operated by Animus Association Foundation, a women's NGO. The number of the helpline is: +35329817686. Even though the service is run by an NGO, it is entirely state funded and has been in existence since 1997. The helpline is available 24/7, however the helpline is operated by volunteers and they cannot always work during night shifts.

The helpline is an NGO-initiative and does not manage to cover the needs of women throughout the whole country. It does not operate free of charge, costs for the respective operator apply. This is because the service is funded on a project basis and therefore it is not entirely sustainable. Support is available in Bulgarian and English.

The amount of state funding provided in 2014 was 38207 EUR (this includes two projects funded through the Ministry of Justice). The helpline received a total number of 1455 calls in 2014 and 1196 have been from female callers.

Other helplines for victims

The national women's helpline functions in parallel with the 112 hotline (European Emergency Number) and the children's helpline (116111), which is available 24/7, free of charge. There is also a helpline for

disappeared children (116000), run by the state, which is also available 24/7, free of charge. Additionally, there are several regional helplines that are accessible throughout the country. There is a domestic violence helpline (+359 64 846713), Hotline Open Door, available 24/7 but it is not free of charge. It has been operating since 2002 and it is run by the Open Door Centre – Pleven, and has been allocated a budget of 56410 EUR in 2014. There is also a victims' general helpline (+359 52 609677), available since 1998, but this is not serviced full time. This helpline is run by an NGO, SOS – families at risk – Varna.

Women's Shelters

There are currently 7 women's shelters in Bulgaria, one in each of the following cities: Sofia, Ruse, Pernik (recently renovated, the latest one), Silistra, Pleven, Varna and Burgas. An additional shelter will be opened in Dimitrovgrad by the end of 2015. The 7 shelters have a total of 72 beds to offer. The new shelter from Dimitrovgrad will have an additional 14 beds. Because the Law on DV is gender-neutral, these are domestic violence (DV) shelters in theory, however in practice they only take in women and children, as men are not among the solicitors. All shelters provide services free of charge and 24/7 access. All 7 shelters are run by women's NGOs with a gender-specific/feminist approach. The majority of these NGOs are also members of the Alliance for Protection Against Domestic Violence. There is a set of accredited national standards for women's shelters developed by the Agency for Social Assistance within the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. All 7 shelters are currently applying these standards.

In order to be admitted, all women need to have the respective documents and referrals from the responsible authorities – for health and security reasons as all these shelters have secret addresses. In practice, in cases of emergency, the victims are accommodated and then the administrative and medical documents are provided. The length of stay in a shelter depends on the reason for accepting the person – from up to 6 weeks for a crisis intervention to up to 6 months. The recommended term is up to 3 months and in exceptional cases the stay can be prolonged to a maximum of 6 months. All women's shelters provide services free of charge and have security precautions, and all provide non-residential support, such as counselling, advocacy, or aftercare.

Most women's shelters have an age limit for boys. The age limit for boys, where it is applied, differs from shelter to shelter – up to 13 or 14 years. It also matters whether the boys are alone or accompanied by a parent (mother) – in one of the shelters they don't apply age limits for accompanied boys. There is no age limit for girls.

Very often a woman is given a place in a far-off province or city because of security reasons. Access for women with disabilities depends on their health needs and the capacity of the shelter to meet them. In theory, there are no restrictions for older women (above 70), however in practice they may be referred to other shelters. Provision of access for lesbian and/or transgender women is currently not checked. Asylum seeking women usually stay in other shelters and can hardly access shelters for victims of domestic violence. There are no special limitations in place for minority ethnic women. Undocumented migrant women cannot access specialized services, including shelters, due to the requirement to provide documentation. A few, about 2-3, also receive asylum seeking and migrant women.

A total of 108 women and 96 children have been accommodated in 2014. 55 women were unable to find a place due to lack of space in two of the shelters. The other shelters had never encountered such problems, whereby one shelter kept no record of such cases. There is no data available from any shelter on the number of nights and days the women have spent there.

The shelters are located in the capital city - 1, in some major cities – 5 and close to a major city but in a smaller town – 1. ¾ of the country's territory is covered with shelters, yet some regions to the south and north-west, which are the poorest, ethnic- and migrant-sensitive do not have a single shelter. Women who live there need to contact shelters from other regions.

The amount of state funding allocated to women's shelters in 2014 was 188 309.15 EUR. This is the total sum of the state funding for all 5 functioning women's shelters for the whole year [2014]. One of the shelters is not included here (the newest one) as it is newly opened and also because it was supported by a private donor. Neither is the shelter from Dimitrovgrad included, as it will be opened only by the end of 2015.

As stated above, DV shelters and women's shelters are one and the same thing. 'Domestic violence shelters' are shelters for victims of domestic violence, but these may also accommodate men, for example: family shelters, mother and child homes. All 7 DV shelters are run by NGOs. These NGOs are: S.O.S. families at risk – Varna; Demetra – Burgas (they run two shelters but for the statistics here are shown as one), BGRF branch Haskovo – in Dimitrovgrad; Open Door – Pleven, Dinamika – Rousse and Animus Association – Sofia.

The possibility for women and their children to find affordable housing after leaving a shelter depends on the existing situation, on a case by case basis and many factors need to be considered, such as: the dynamics of the relationship with the violent person, whether the victim has a job or can easily find one; whether she can rely on any other income, and whether she can rely on support from her extended family and friends. Currently there are no special housing programmes available for women survivors of violence.

Other shelters include shelters for black, minority ethnic women, migrants, asylum seeking or victims of violence. Nine such shelters exist, whereby these also take in men. There are no specific shelters for girls and young women victims of forced marriage; however, such victims may be accommodated in other shelters, if necessary. There are 14 shelters for victims of trafficking, however these are not women specific and primarily take in children, girls and boys.

Women's Centres

There are currently 14 women's centres in Bulgaria. There are no women's centres for survivors of sexual violence only. The existing facilities are called consultation centres and they provide a wide range of services, such as information, advice, advocacy counselling, practical support, court accompaniment, pro-active support, outreach services, and other.

Women's Networks

There is one women's network in Bulgaria, *The Alliance for Protection against Gender Based Violence* (hereafter the Alliance), and is entirely an NGO initiative and project. Its members include women's shelters, women's centres, women's helplines, intervention centres, researchers and legal aid providers, providers for psychological support and consultations, and other. The Alliance coordinates activities and joint initiatives, develops standards for services, takes initiatives for legislative changes, programmes and strategies. Additionally, it provides training and education for various social groups and experts. It also engages in multi-agency cooperation and is responsible for monitoring and research activities, to ensure sustainability and international cooperation. The Alliance has the status of legal entity and is comprised of eleven NGOs. It has five paid staff members, and in order to conduct its activities it receives

a certain amount of funding from the government. This however is not core funding, and only comes from projects initiated by the Ministry of Justice. In 2014 60,000 EUR were allocated for the training of representatives of the judiciary. The biggest challenge faced by the Alliance is the need to ensure its financial sustainability, as it currently depends on projects funded by the Ministry of Justice.

Policy and Funding

There is no national Action Plan per se for 2015. There are only strategies and policies in place, which are vaguer than an action plan and therefore represent a step backwards. The current strategy is the National Programme for Prevention and Protection against Domestic Violence, which is developed annually. There are a number of other relevant strategies and policies in place:

1. the Strategy for Crime Prevention (2012-20),
2. the National Strategy for the Child (2008-18)
3. the National Strategy for Promotion of Gender Equality (2009-15) and the Annual Plans on Gender Equality,
4. the National Programme for Protection of Children against Violence (2016-20). This is still in process.

All in all, for the year 2015, there is not just one single document, but instead there are several others which partly cover the content of a National Action Plan. The amount provided in the budget of the Ministry of Justice for NGO projects aimed at the implementation of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence (LPDV) is up to 250,000 EUR per year, however in practice this amount is not always allocated and cuts may be made to the initial budget. Bulgarian legislation still does not recognize the term and phenomenon of violence against women, hence there exists only the above mentioned Law on Protection from Domestic Violence. Domestic violence is also defined as a gender-neutral phenomenon, whereby the law pays no special attention to its gendered nature. The State does not officially recognize victims of domestic violence as a separate category. Financial resources are not allocated for combatting all forms of VAW, but only DV. Allocated funds are insufficient even for the implementation of the LPDV. Financial support from the Government is based on grants, which vary every year. There is no single permanent and sustainably supported activity. Furthermore, resources are allocated for different prioritized activities, and these vary every year. Currently it is the Ministry of Justice which sets the yearly priorities. For the grant awarded in 2015, the work with perpetrators followed by support for victims was prioritized. Shelters are funded by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry for Social Affairs, they implement different projects under different grants.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

All women's NGOs that provide support services are also actively working in the area of prevention.

Training

Most training sessions are delivered by women's NGOs, especially after the introduction through the Law on Protection from DV of state funding for NGO projects in 2011. Hence, most projects have as component training sessions for professionals.

Training – Good practice example 1

Organisation carrying out the training: BGRF and partners

Goals and target groups: young lawyers with NGO affiliation from Central and Eastern Europe

Training framework ((a) in vocational/basic training, b) advanced training/continuing education, c) in-house training in the institution): advanced training/continuing education

Timeframe: 2 years – 4 sessions and intersessional assignments and preparatory readings

Description of activity: WHRTI – WOMEN’S HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING INSTITUTE

Main results: 5 successful rounds with more than 100 educated participants from more than 20 countries in the region; support for the strategic litigation at regional and international level; and follow-up activities and networking

Training – Good practice example 2

Organisation carrying out the training: The Black Sea Academy for Prevention of violence- an initiative of the Alliance for Protection against GBV since 2013.

Goals and target groups: police officers, social workers, NGOs, representatives of the judiciary

Training framework ((a) in vocational/basic training, b) advanced training/continuing education, c) in-house training in the institution): advanced training/continuing education

Timeframe: 2013-2016

Description of activity: Training sessions have been conducted with police officers, social workers and NGO representatives. Several training sessions with representatives of the judiciary have also been undertaken in many cities. The trainings have been funded by the Ministry of Justice. The Alliance for Protection against GBV is also running a similar project and all these activities are interlinked. Trainings with lawyers and public defenders are planned for the next phase. The Alliance for Protection against GBV is developing a special programme for training on GBV.

CROATIA

Basic Information

Population: 4,246,809

Female population: 2,197,061

Member of Council of Europe: 1996

Member of European Union: 2013

CEDAW ratified: 1992

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2001

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2013); ratified: no

Violence prevalence data for Croatia see: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 39.8, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/croatia?unstatscountry=80d41bb51457494b9879b0071dd83c53>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2015:

Violence against women

18. The Committee welcomes the adoption of a law on protection against domestic violence and of a national strategy for protection against family violence covering the period 2011-2016. It remains concerned, however, that, in general, the State party's legislative and policy framework is more concerned with keeping the family unit intact than with ensuring the safety of women who are victims of gender-based domestic violence. The Committee is particularly concerned by the following issues:

(a) Delay in ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence;

(b) Absence of a national plan for the implementation of the comprehensive recommendations made to the State party by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

(c) Practice of dual arrests, whereby women who are victims of domestic violence are being arrested and occasionally sanctioned, along with alleged aggressors, for being verbally insulting or defending themselves;

(d) Accountability gap that results from women being compelled to pursue domestic violence charges under the legal framework of misdemeanour rather than criminal prosecution, given that the former allows for more rapid enforcement of protection orders but precludes stronger sanctions;

(e) Exclusion from the law on protection against domestic violence of intimate partner relationships and past relationships where partners continue to pose the threat of violence in instances in which partners did not live together, lived together for less than three years or did not have children together;

(f) Suspension of protection orders when an alleged perpetrator of domestic violence appeals against such an order;

(g) Inadequate number of shelters for women who are victims of violence;

(h) Recent adoption of a less stringent definition of rape, as a qualified form of sexual intercourse without consent, resulting in the reduction of the gravity of rape as a criminal offence and in lighter sentencing.

19. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party:

- (a) To expeditiously ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence;
- (b) To formulate and implement a national plan, with time-bound targets, for the implementation of the comprehensive recommendations made to the State party by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences;
- (c) To abolish the practice of dual arrests in cases of domestic violence;
- (d) To amend its criminal legislation on domestic violence to ensure the provision of expeditious protection orders for victims while criminal proceedings are pending and also to provide for civil protective measures that allow for both emergency, ex parte protective measures and/or long-term protective measures, as appropriate;
- (e) To amend the law on protection against domestic violence to include within its scope all intimate partner relationships and past relationships where partners continue to pose the threat of violence;
- (f) To adopt a precautionary approach for victims of alleged domestic violence that provides for the continued implementation of protection orders during the consideration of an appeal against such an order;
- (g) To provide adequate, secure and autonomous funding to shelters and support services for women who are victims of violence;
- (h) To amend the legal definition of rape to bring it into line with accepted international standards.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.⁴¹ The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines, shelters, centres, networks, policy and funding, prevention and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is currently no national women's helpline in Croatia. However, the shelter, Autonomous Women's House Zagreb, is often contacted by women throughout the country (0800 55 44).

Other national helplines for victims

⁴¹ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

There is a national children's helpline, which is available 24/7 and free of charge, called *Habri Telephone* (Brave Telephone) 115 111. This is run by the state and an NGO. Additionally, there is another national helpline for victims of trafficking, *SOS Helpline* 0800 77 99, which is also available free of charge.

Women's Shelters

There are currently 18 women's shelters in Croatia. 7 are autonomous specialized women's shelters led by women's NGOs. The 7 autonomous women's shelters currently have 267 beds.

There are also 9 other accommodations which include state and church homes for adult victims of family violence, as well as some NGOs that opened accommodation together with municipalities and counties.

Additionally, there are 2 shelters for victims of trafficking, one is for minors, male and female, and the other one is for adults, men and women.

Domestic Violence Shelters and Other Shelters

There is an important distinction to be made between autonomous women's shelters run by grassroots women's organizations and accommodation services run by the government. Autonomous women's shelters are operated by NGOs founded by women's groups that are an integral part of the women's movement. These shelters work based on the principle of women's self-help (women helping women). They are self-regulating and are independent of state bodies, political parties, religious organizations, and private companies. On the other hand, a "state home," as it is referred to throughout this report, is a state, city, or county institution that may or may not have been opened in cooperation with an existing NGO or through the creation of a new NGO. Such a home may offer care to wards of both sexes, victims of domestic violence, addicts, homeless persons, victims of trafficking, asylum seekers, and migrants, among others. State, city, and county homes must comply with regulations, as must NGOs that sign these regulations and contract with the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth. These NGOs have typically been founded by employees or former employees of state institutions or are actual NGOs that opened shelters in cooperation with the government; they therefore are not truly autonomous shelters, particularly as government officials often serve on the shelter's board.

Another barrier to safe refuge for victims is the state home referral system. State homes funded by the Ministry can only accept victims referred by the Centre for Social Welfare (CSW) or police; most often, personnel at these state homes will even redirect clients to the CSW or police first. The CSW does not like to send women to autonomous women shelters.

Women's Centres

There are currently 20 women's centres in Croatia, 15 of these are non-residential and support women survivors of violence. Three centres are for women victims of trafficking. There are two centres for survivors of sexual violence.

Women's Networks

The Women's Network Croatia works on reports, awareness raising, education and lobbying, it has 30 member organizations. The national office is located in Zagreb and there are five coordinators in different cities throughout the country. This is a formal network and therefore also a legal entity.

Policy & Funding

There is no comprehensive coordinated policy. However, there are NAPs for some of the forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention: National Policy for Gender Equality 2011-15 (Nacionalna politika za ravnopravnost spolova 2011-2015). The number of necessary hot lines, counseling centers, shelters and other extra-institutional services for women victims of all forms of violence will be aligned with the population of the Republic of Croatia, pursuant to *Recommendation (2002)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of women against violence*. Competent authorities: Competent state administration bodies in line with their legally prescribed remit, units of local and regional self-government, in cooperation with civil society organizations. Timeframe for implementation: 2011 – 2015

National Strategy of Protection against Family Violence 2011-16 (Nacionalna strategija zaštite od nasilja u obitelji, 2011 – 2016). Support services for victims of domestic violence often face a lack of funding in Croatia. Moreover, the problem with the National strategy and all the financing schemes is that they use criteria for financing which were designed for state homes and not for autonomous women's shelters. These were not created in cooperation with the women's NGOs but are simply imposed on the shelters from the Government. Furthermore, the set of criteria recommended by the EU and WAVE has also been ignored. Additionally, there was no inclusive consultation process, although NGOs were somewhat consulted in the drafting of the NAP. No specific budget is allocated for VAW, the government merely states that funds will be provided. However, the percentage is not specified, and this represents an implementation problem. There exists a coordinating body, the *National team for prevention and protection from violence in the family*, which is part of the Ministry of Interior.⁴² Two women's NGOs are involved in the work of the coordinating body. It is not clear what their role is, as the National team does not seem to have much of a role in general. These two women's NGOs are not autonomous women's shelters and they do not share information from the work of the National team. All in all, the coordinating body is ineffective. This coordination body does not do any monitoring; it only holds seminars and meetings. There are some women's NGOs in Croatia which criticize the government. About 4 years ago, there were several cases of femicide. This caused a huge public campaign; they demanded change, therefore the minister called a meeting. In response to this public outcry the aforementioned body was created, however autonomous women's NGOs were left out. The Ministry for Social Policy and Youth is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the national strategy. There is no specific body in charge of this, the Ministry is supposed to do this as part of their administration. They are supposed to collect reports from all the stakeholders and publish a report on the implementation of the National Strategy for Protection from Violence in the Family every two years but it does not do it, there are no such reports. The last available report is from 2008, but that looked at the previous strategy.

⁴² The person responsible for this is Branka Zigante Zivković, Address: Ulica grada Vukovara 33, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia, Phone: +385 1 6122111, E-Mail: Branka.Zigante@vpsrh.pravosudje.hr

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

All members of the national women's network in Croatia are doing prevention work. Most women's shelters and centres are also doing this, including some women's helplines. When it comes to state funding for women's services doing this type of work, it is difficult to provide an answer, as there is no official data available. The ministries and government offices do not publish tenders for women's services. Some funding is provided through different projects.

Best Practice Example:

„I sign“ campaign <http://www.potpisujem.org/hr/> by the Centre for Women War Victims ROSA (for Croatia, project leader in general was Autonomous Women's Centre from Belgrade, Serbia). Timeframe of the activity: 24 months (2013/2014). The main objective of the project is to contribute to the establishment of comprehensive legislation and policies for the protection of women from violence in the Western Balkans, as a condition for achieving democracy, fulfilment of human rights, social inclusion and harmonisation with European values. Specific objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of women's organisations and networks in 4 countries of the Western Balkans for the analysis, monitoring and advocacy in the field of protection of women against violence, through long-term regional cooperation and learning from the EU experience. The campaign is aimed at informing citizens about the content of the Istanbul Convention. It needs to influence the awareness of the entire society, every individual, that violence – any form of violence – is not the right way of solving problems. The campaign informs citizens about the obligations the country has assumed by ratifying the Convention, which includes the comprehensive protection of women and violence prevention, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of violence, and an effective and efficient system of monitoring the implementation of the Convention provisions. Besides partner organisations, nearly 30 women's organisations from Serbia, organised in the [Women against Violence Network](#) participate in the campaign. *Joint advocacy campaign* for the ratification of the Convention was well-designed under the slogan “I sign!” which had a clear message, adopted by a large number of citizens, public figures, government and institutional authorities, other CSOs. A large number of various materials (posters, billboards, city lights, video clips, radio spots, postcards, personalized postage stamp, booklets, leaflets, outdoor advertisement on buses, etc.,) were produced, available through various actions and the media, in 11 languages, which contributed to spreading information about the content of the Convention. The series of street actions have mobilized citizens to leave their signatures, messages of support and to send requests to the decision makers. The campaign has been supported through media sponsorship for broadcasting spots (e.g. in Slovenia it was 12 times more than the invested funds). A large number of media reports (a total of 997: 385 in 2013 and 612 in 2014), which followed all the events organized by women's CSOs, contributed to the *visibility* of the actions and topic. As part of the campaign, an international conference was organised and attended by the President of Croatia, Ivo Josipović, who gave support to the ratification.



Training

None of the member organizations from the national women's network is engaged with the training of professionals. Only some women's shelters, centres and helplines are doing this kind of work. Judges, police officers, prosecutors, lawyers, health care professionals and social workers in general do not want to receive training from women's services. Very often people who do perpetrator work also do this kind of trainings.

CYPRUS

Basic Information

Population: 858,000

Female Population: 440,462

Member of Council of Europe: 1961

Member of European Union: 2004

CEDAW ratified: 1985

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2002

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2015); ratified: no

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 44.9, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/asia/cyprus>

[CEDAW Concluding Comments 2013:](#)

Violence against women

17. The Committee welcomes the State party's efforts to combat domestic violence, in particular the adoption of a comprehensive legislative framework, the conduct of national research on the prevalence of domestic violence, and professional training provided to the police by the Police Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Office. However, the Committee remains concerned about the low number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions in cases of domestic violence, despite the high number of cases reported. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of information on the implementation of the National Action Plan on Prevention and Handling of Family Violence (2010–2013), the insufficient gender perspective and lack of inclusion of migrant women and ethnic minorities in the State party's programs and policies regarding domestic violence, as well as the limited assistance provided by the only shelter run by a non-governmental organization in the State party. The Committee further expresses concern about the limited data and information available on the incidence of other forms of violence.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take effective measures to investigate reported acts of all forms of violence as well as prosecute and adequately punish perpetrators, including by providing mandatory training to judges, prosecutors and lawyers and providing legal aid to victims;
- (b) Effectively implement its National Action Plan on Prevention and Handling of Family Violence within a specified time frame and with sufficient budget allocation as well as systematically monitor its impact;
- (c) Enhance the data collection system to include all forms of violence against women, protection measures, prosecutions and sentences imposed on perpetrators, and conduct appropriate surveys to assess the prevalence of violence experienced by women, including migrant women and women belonging to ethnic minorities;
- (d) Provide adequate assistance and protection to women victims of violence, in particular social rehabilitation and an adequate number of shelters, including by strengthening its cooperation with and support to non-governmental organizations offering shelter and other forms of support to victims of domestic violence; and
- (e) Set a time frame for the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://fileservers.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines, shelters, centres, networks and policy and funding. However, it was not possible to gather information about prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is one national women's helpline in Cyprus, called the Centre for Emergency Assistance Helpline (1440). The helpline was opened in 1990 and is run by the NGO Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (SPAVO). It does not operate 24/7, due to lack of adequate financial resources, however it is free of charge and provides multi-lingual support in English and Greek.

In 2014, the national women's helpline received 1,636 calls, including 1,374 (84%) from women.

Other helplines for victims

There are four national helplines for victims of crime in Cyprus. The general victim's helpline called Citizens' Line (1460) operates 24/7 and is free of charge; it is run by the Police of the Republic of Cyprus. The children helplines Missing Children Helpline (116 000) and Support for Children and Adolescents (116 111) operate 24/7 and are free of charge; both are run jointly by SPAVO and the NGO Hope for Children.

Women's Shelters

There are two women's shelters for victims of domestic violence in Cyprus; both are accessible 24/7 and free of charge. In addition, there is one women's shelter specifically for women survivors of trafficking that is run by the State.

The domestic violence shelters are run by SPAVO, and are located in the capital city Nicosia and in Paphos, where the second shelter was opened in September 2014. The NGO SPAVO is currently working on the construction of an additional women's shelter in Nicosia, with funding provided through Norway Grants, among others. Expected to be completed by May 2016, the shelter will be able to accommodate 24 women and children.

The two existing women's shelters have a total of 17 shelter beds, with nine beds available at the shelter in Nicosia, and eight beds available at the shelter in Paphos. In 2014, the women's shelters in Nicosia and Paphos accommodated 32 women and 40 children.

Women's Centres

There is one women's centre providing non-residential support to women survivors of violence in Cyprus. The centre is run by the NGO SPAVO and is partly funded by the state.

Women's Networks

There is currently no national women's network addressing violence against women in Cyprus.

The network of women's NGOs called the [Cyprus Women's Lobby \(CWL\)](#) was formed in 2008. While the network is still informal, work is underway the change the current legislation on registration of NGOs,

which should result in the formalisation of CWL. At present, the network includes nine member organisations, including the [Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family \(SPAVO\)](#), the [Mediterranean Institute of Gender Equality \(MIGS\)](#), the [Cyprus Family Planning Association \(CFPA\)](#), and the [International Association for the Promotion of Women in Europe \(AIPFE\)](#). Activities carried out by the network include lobbying and advocacy, campaigning, support to members' activities and networking, as well as the organisation of seminars and conferences.

Policy & Funding

Currently waiting for approval by the Council of Ministers, the *National Action Plan for Preventing and Combating Violence in the Family 2016-2018* will follow from the previous National Action Plan for the period 2010-2013. In addition, the *National Action Plan for Equality between Men and Women 2014-2017* includes violence against women (VAW) as one of its priorities.

There is currently no coordinating body for the implementation of policies and measures to prevent VAW; the Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family is entrusted with the evaluation and monitoring of policies and measures, including the NAP 2016-2018. The Advisory Committee has published several reports and publications on VAW⁴³ as well evaluation reports on policies and measures to address VAW which are available on their website www.familyviolence.gov.cy. Commissioned by the Equality Unit of the Ministry of Justice, MIGS conducted a mid-term evaluation of the *National Action Plan for Equality between Men and Women 2007-2013* in 2011.

Government funding is mostly allocated to the Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family for activities to combat domestic violence on the national level; information provided in the 2014 Council of Europe 'Analytical study of the results of the 4th round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states' indicates an annual budget of EUR 50,000⁴⁴. The report also mentions the provision of government funds (EUR 140,000) to the organisation SPAVO, for the building of a women's shelter in 2012.⁴⁵ There is, however, no information available on regular and sustainable government funding for NGO activities in the field of combating VAW.

While provisions in national legislation do allow for state funding to go to women's NGOs for service provision in Cyprus, government funding is not legally mandated and the most common forms of funding for women's support services run by NGOs are project-based and annual core funding.

⁴³ Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family. (2012). *Extent, Frequency, Nature and Consequences of Domestic Violence against Women in Cyprus*. Available at http://www.familyviolence.gov.cy/upload/research/erevna_2012oct_viol-ag-women_summary_en.pdf

⁴⁴ Council of Europe. (2014). *Analytical study of the results of the 4th round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe members states*. P.60

⁴⁵ Ibid.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Basic Information

Population: 10,512,419

Female Population: 5,350,039

Member of Council of Europe: 1993

Member of European Union: 2004

CEDAW ratified: 1993

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2001

Istanbul Convention – signed: no

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 43.8, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/czech-republic>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2016:

Violence against women

18. The Committee notes the steps taken by the State party towards ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention). However, it remains concerned at the risk of further delays in the actual ratification process of the Istanbul Convention. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reports that capacity building programmes on gender based violence, including domestic violence, for the police and for professionals working with victims of gender-based violence do not reflect gender sensitivity;

(b) The inadequate funding system of the State party for victim services; and,

(c) The heavy dependence of such services on regional co-funding which negatively affects their long-term stability and sustainability.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to accelerate the process of ratification of the Istanbul Convention. In accordance with its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party to intensify its efforts to prevent and prosecute acts of domestic and sexual violence and assist women victims of such violence. In doing so, the State party should:

(a) Undertake regular and systematic training of the police, security personnel as well as the judiciary to ensure they carry out their functions with gender sensitivity;

(b) Ensure transparent evaluations of its capacity building programmes on gender based violence, including domestic violence, to ensure that they are fully in line with the Convention;

(c) Increase the allocation of human, technical and financial resources for the provision of specialist services for victims of gender-based violence in a long-term sustainable manner; and,

(d) Ensure that resources are allocated in an adequate and sustainable manner for its victim support services; and, progressively fund such services through the regular budget of the State party instead of external funding sources.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview, as needed. The country profile includes information on women's helplines, women's shelters, women's centres, national women's networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness raising and campaigning, and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is no national women's helpline in the Czech Republic. Women's organizations such as ROSA, Acorus and Magdalenium also run their own helplines, which are used by women from different parts of the Czech Republic.

Other helplines for victims

There are various other helplines available to victims. A domestic violence helpline called DONA line operates 24/7, but is not free of charge. It is operated by an NGO called While Circle of Safety. In 2014, the helpline received 3,306 calls, 88% of which came from women callers. The helpline can also be considered a general helpline for all types of victims. A children's line called the Safety Line also exists in the Czech Republic, operating 24/7 and free of charge.

Women's Shelters

There are four women's shelters for survivors of violence in the Czech Republic (ROSA, Acorus, Magdalenium and Helena). The shelters have a total of 96 places available. According to information provided by the Ministry of Social Affairs, there are 82 registered shelters, however, these range in the variety of services offered and target groups catered to, and are not specialist for women survivors of violence. There are also no specific shelters for migrant, minority ethnic, or asylum seeking women, only general shelters as such exist. There are also an estimated 18 shelters for victims of trafficking, although majority are not geared towards women survivors.

The most recently opened shelter for women survivors of violence is Magdalenium which was opened in 2011. There were no recent women's shelters closed.

In 2014, there were a total of 122 women and 104 children accommodated in the women's shelters. The total number of nights/days women stayed in the shelter amounts to 17,668. There were also 139 women seeking accommodation, who could not find available space in the women's shelters.

Organizations providing women's services include women's NGOs with gender specific approach/feminist approach (2), other women's NGO (1), and other NGO (1).

All shelters registered through the Ministry of Social Affairs must operate according to set standards developed by the ministry. These standards, however, are not specialized for working with women survivors of violence, and apply generally to all institutions/organization, regardless of the target group (e.g. homeless, persons in a crisis situation).

Specialized women's shelters for victims of violence are located only in big cities and there is lack of such specialized help in rural areas. Most of the specialized shelters are able to provide immediate and direct access in emergency situation. The maximum stay allowance is 12 months in the women's shelters. Accommodation in the women's shelters is not free of charge. Women may apply for state funds in order to pay for the accommodation; however, there is no obligation for the state to reimburse the stay in the shelters. Most women's shelters have some forms of security present, such as secret addresses or alarm systems for the safety of shelter residents and staff. Some of the shelters also provide non-residential support to women survivors of violence. There is no age limit for accepting women staying in the shelter with their children.

Apart from the four specialized shelters mentioned above, there are no other specialized domestic violence shelters in Czech Republic, only other general shelters that accept clients with different types of problems and in different situations. Following stay in a shelter, women find it difficult to find accommodation in transitional housing, as such social housing has been minimized in most cities.

Women's Centres

There are two women's centres in the Czech Republic providing non-residential support to women survivors of violence. There are also 18 intervention centres, with at least one center covering each province. Only one of the centers is run by an NGO with a gender-specific and feminist approach. The remaining 17 are run by NGOs. Additionally, there are three centres for women survivors of trafficking (La Strada, Magdala and Rozkoš bez rizika).

Women's Networks

There is a national network of women's NGOs called the Czech Women's Lobby⁴⁶, composing of 25 organizations with various scopes of work in the area of women's rights. Czech Women's Lobby is a member of the European Women's Lobby. The network works on lobbying and monitoring in the area of gender equality in the Czech Republic.

⁴⁶ www.czlobby.cz/en/about-us

Additional work in the area of networking is conducted by the Slovak-Czech Women's Fund⁴⁷. The organization has begun to coordinate the cooperation of women's NGOs in form of organizing meetings and seminars.

Policy & Funding

The current national action plan for the Czech Republic is titled Action Plan for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Gender-based Violence (2015-2018). This is the second national action plan, the first one beginning in 2011 and ending in 2014. There is not a specific coordinating body assigned for implementing policies and measures to prevent violence against women, as each ministry assigned a task based on a policy document, carries those out in their own capacity.

On a governmental level, there is a Council for the prevention of domestic violence and violence against women, of which women's NGOs (Rosa and ProFem) are members. The Council, however, cannot be considered a coordinating body for policy implementation. The implementation of the national action plan is monitored and/or evaluated by the Council for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women. Women's NGOs are involved in the work of the Council as aforementioned. Evaluation is scheduled to be delivered annually at end of April in form of summary reports.

There are no appropriate means established to realize the national action plan by allocating funding to envisioned activities. The national action plan does not include a budget. Where the Council of Europe Monitoring⁴⁸ reports the existence of governmental funds allocated to activating for combating violence against women, the funds referred to come from the Norwegian funds⁴⁹ and this referred to the first national action plan. According to the Monitoring, the funds are allocated to both governmental and NGO activities.

National legislation enables the funding of women's NGOs through the Ministry of Social Affairs. However, this is only in the context of service provision. An organization must be registered (under Law No. 108) as (e.g.) shelter, social counseling, however, no specific references are made to gender-specific service provision. Funding for women's support services is not mandated in legislation, and therefore, no specific funding to women's NGOs is made available. At the present, women's support services are funded on a project basis and through core annual funding. Furthermore, the state is considering opening up funding to public procurement procedure. Funds are typically not available at state level, instead redistributed regionally.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

Most women's shelters and women's centres conduct prevention work that includes providing information and raising awareness, conducting campaigns, working in the community, or working in schools, among others.

⁴⁷ www.womensfund.sk

⁴⁸ Hagemann-White, Carol. (2014). Analytical study of the results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation of recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states. Pg. 60.

⁴⁹ <http://eeagrants.org/Who-we-are/Norway-Grants>

Training

Most women's shelters and women's centres conduct trainings. The professionals often participating in the trainings include police, health care professionals, social workers, psychologists, pedagogues, therapists and teachers.

DENMARK

Basic Information

Population: 5,627,235

Female Population: 2,834,956

Member of Council of Europe: 1949

Member of European Union: 1973

CEDAW ratified: 1983

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2000

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2013); ratified: yes (2014)

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 70.9, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Violence against Women Database: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/denmark>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2015:

Violence against Women

17. The Committee welcomes the continued progress achieved by the State party in combating violence against women, including the establishment of systematic training for health-care professionals, police officers, teachers, educators and other professionals who may deal with victims of such violence. The Committee remains concerned, however, about:

- (a) The absence of gender-disaggregated data on all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and homicide by intimate partners;
- (b) The inadequacy of protection and restraining orders for victims of violence against women in Greenland and the Faroe Islands;
- (c) The absence of explicit legal provisions ensuring that women are protected from psychological violence.

The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Enact legislation providing for the collection of data, disaggregated by age, ethnicity, nationality and relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, on all forms of violence against women and establish a mechanism with a clear mandate as well as adequate human, technical and financial resources for the analysis of such data;

(b) Further strengthen the quality and accessibility of protection measures, including restraining orders, for women who are victims of violence in Greenland and the Faroe Islands;

(c) Adopt a legislative framework that explicitly provides for the protection of women from psychological violence, in line with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, to which Denmark is a party.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.⁵⁰ The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's shelters, centres, helplines, national women's networks, policy and funding. It was not possible to gather any data on prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning, and training.

Women's Helplines

National Women's Helpline

There is a national women's helpline called LOKK Hotline (+45 70203082) run by LOKK, in existence since 2002. Men are also supported through this helpline. The helpline operates 24/7 and is free of charge, offering multilingual support.

Other National Helplines

There are four national helplines for victims: Børnetelefonen⁵¹ (116 111) is a children's helpline run by a non-governmental organization, and operates free of charge. Etnisk Ung Hotline⁵² (70 27 76 66) is a helpline run 24/7 and free of charge, run by an NGO, for ethnic youth minorities. It also provides anonymous counselling services, available for men and women. The helpline offers support and legal advice for honour-related problems. National helpline for trafficking victims, free of charge and 24/7. National helpline for victims of crime, 24/7 and free of charge.

Women's Shelters

There are 43 women's shelters in Denmark, with 934 beds (427 for women and 507 for children). Women's shelters exist in all regions, and all provide 24/7 access. Women's shelters are not free of charge, as all women pay a fee for food and accommodation. According to the Service Package for LOKK, women and children must be able to stay at women's shelters free of charge (except the fee). The women's shelters are financed through tariffs with a 50% government refund.⁵³ The LOKK shelters require that all residents are self-sufficient with regards to managing their own daily lives and activities

⁵⁰ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

⁵¹ <https://bornetelefonen.dk/>

⁵² <http://www.etniskung.dk/>

⁵³ Basic Package for Women's Shelters Organized Under LOKK, p. 2

such as grocery shopping, cooking, laundry, childcare and interacting with other residents. In most cases a fee is required for residence at a shelter. The shelter arranges contact to the municipality about residence and payment.⁵⁴ All also provide immediate access to women's shelters in emergency situations. Women can stay as long as needed, but sometimes the municipality can move her out before.

Women's Centres

There are at least 10 women's centres in Denmark. Three women's centres in Denmark provide information and legal advice to women survivors of violence. Five regional health centres assist women survivors of rape/sexual assault. There exists also The Centre for Victims of Sexual Assault in Copenhagen, and Centre for Victims of Rape. There are Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) who provide wider services: short to medium support for high-risk victims and assisting women in the transition from shelter to accommodation.

National Women's Networks

There are ten women's networks in Denmark.

[National Organization of Women's Shelters in Denmark](#) (LOKK) is a network of women's shelters. The mission is to support the shelters in their effort to prevent, combat and create awareness of physical and psychological violence against women and their children. Offers telephone and online counselling. There is also counselling for both men and women for dating violence. The network offers advice, counselling, and conferences for professionals. LOKK has 42 women's shelters and counselling centres as members, and its national office is located in Copenhagen.

The Danish Organization against Sexual Abuse is a network of sexual violence centres.

[National Observatory on Violence against Women](#) is a network of organizations working to combat violence against women.

[Kvinderådet](#)/Women's Council in Denmark is an umbrella organization for women's organizations and other organizations working to secure women's rights. Since 1899, when The Women's Council in Denmark was established, women's organizations have worked together in order to stand stronger in the common struggle for the liberation of women.

[Dansk Kvindesamfund](#) / Danish Women's Society is a network of women's organizations, including a women's shelter.

[Nordic Tour 2014](#) is an ad hoc initiative, an investigation of the family field in the Nordic countries. The goal is to inspire the societies to a zero-tolerance for violence approach with a sex and gender awareness and with a recognition and respect for the important role of the reproductive aspects. At planned symposiums, meetings and through digital contact, knowledge was shared and experiences gathered. Furthermore, Nordic Tour 2014 helped provide inspiration for further action.

⁵⁴ LOKK, LOKK, <http://www.lokk.dk/Info/In-English/Residence-at-a-womens-shelter/>

[Fagnetværket Barnets Tarv NU](#) / The Child's Best Interests Now is a network of professionals working for a change of the Act on Parental Responsibility and the so-called "divorce package 1". The legal framework and practice is seen as a severe breach of fundamental rights.

[Joan-Søstrene](#) helps victims of rape, abuse and sexual harassment). The association, a feminist organization, has two main objectives: working woman politically with the community problem sexual and physical abuse against women, and providing support to women victims of violence, rape, sexual harassment and / or sexual abuse during childhood (incest) through a woman-to-woman counselling.

[Reden International](#) / The Nest International is an independent private institution combating human trafficking and supporting women who are victims of human trafficking. We provide support for foreign women in prostitution in Denmark, with services that cover the women's needs, both on a short- and on a long-term basis.

[Network Mom](#) is a network for women in Denmark who cannot protect their children against a perpetrator because of the Danish Parental Responsibility Act. The network gathers a group of women who have left behind violent or strongly offensive relationships where children are involved. Unfortunately, our experience is that the Danish legal system categorically refuses to recognize abuse of and violence against women and children.

Policy & Funding

The national strategy in Denmark is called "Initiatives against violence in the family and in close relationships: National Strategy" (Indsats mod vold i familien og i nære relationer. National handlingsplan) (2014).

Several action plans have already been launched to supplement and strengthen permanent services in the field, for example, providing further qualification to professionals, treatment of perpetrators and sufficient support to both women and their children and to victims of dating violence. A new action plan for 2014-2017 has been prepared to address challenges and support target groups who still do not receive sufficient attention within the existing systems and permanent services, for example, victims of dating violence, male victims of domestic violence and new forms of violence such as stalking.

Specific governmental funds are allocated for activities to combat violence against women on the national level. The law allows for funding of women's NGOs, and governmental funding of women's support services is mandated by law/regulation (for women's shelters). The most common type of governmental funding for women's support services is project funding. Staying at a women's shelter is also financed by the government and municipalities.

ESTONIA

Basic Information

Population: 1,315,819

Female Population: 700,900

Member of Council of Europe: 1993

Member of European Union: 2004

CEDAW ratified: 1991

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: no

Istanbul Convention – signed: no

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 49.8, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/estonia>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2007

Violence against women

16. While noting the preparation of a national action plan on domestic violence which is expected to be operational from 2008, the Committee continues to be concerned about the prevalence of violence against women in Estonia, including domestic violence. The Committee also continues to be concerned about the lack of a specific law on domestic violence against women which provides for protection and exclusion orders and access to legal aid.

17. The Committee urges the State party to speedily adopt and implement the draft national action plan on domestic violence, make it widely known to public officials and society at large, and monitor its effectiveness. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure that all women who are victims of domestic violence, including rural women, have access to immediate means of redress and protection, including protection orders and access to a sufficient number of safe and adequately funded shelters and to legal aid. The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the State party elaborate a specific law on domestic violence against women which provides for such redress and protection. It urges the State party to work towards a comprehensive approach to preventing and addressing all forms of violence against women, including a legislative framework, and to improve its research and data collection on the prevalence, causes and consequences of violence against women. The State party should include in such data collection the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national

experts working in the field of violence against women.⁵⁵ The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's networks, shelters, centres, helplines and policy and funding. It was not possible to gather any data on prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

Since 2008, there has been one 24/7 national women's helpline, called [Tugitelefon](#) (1492), which is free of charge. It is a nationwide hotline for women experiencing physical, emotional, economic, and/or sexual abuse. The hotline offers emotional support, provides information on accessing support services across Estonia, provides guidance on dealing with governmental agencies, and legal counselling. It is run by the women's non-governmental organization, Estonian Women's Shelters Union, and offers multilingual support in Estonian and Russian.

Other national helplines for victims

There is one other helpline in Estonia called Lasteabi (116111) for children, which operates 24/7 and is free of charge, however, it is not gender sensitive and the counselors do not have specific knowledge about gender-based violence.

Women's Shelters

There are 13 24/7, free of charge women's shelters in Estonia (and no specialized shelters), with 86⁵⁶ beds,⁵⁷ throughout most regions of Estonia (13/15 regions have a shelter). In emergency, as well, women can have immediate access into the women's shelters. All women's shelters are run by specialized non-governmental organizations; 13 are run by women's organizations.

Domestic violence and other shelters

Estonia has mother and child shelters, as well as other organizations running shelters, which provide accommodation when the other women's shelters lack capacity. They provide 24/7 access, and immediate access in cases of emergency. However, they do not have security precautions. They provide only a narrow scope of services (accommodation, some social counselling), they do not provide psychological or legal counselling or support women in criminal proceedings.

National Women's Networks

[Estonian Women's Shelter Union](#) (EWSU) is a network of 10 women's shelters. EWSU organizes the cooperation and mutual assistance between the organizations providing shelter services to the victims of violence against women in Estonia; develops cooperation with similar organizations on international levels; cooperates with regional and local governments and other organizations both in Estonia and abroad; develops and implements projects and programs to prevent violence against women, to assist victims and raise public awareness; organizes training courses, seminars, conferences, public events; makes proposals to adopt, amend and supplement legislation, strategies, action plans, etc. EWSU also

⁵⁵ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

⁵⁶ Some shelters count all beds they have and give out this number, but as agreed during the development of the service description, shelters can accommodate up to 2 women with their children in one room. This makes the number smaller.

⁵⁷ Some shelters count all beds (this is the number, 86), but shelters can accommodate up to 2 women with their children in one room, which makes the number smaller.

runs a 24/7 helpline (1492) for victims of violence against women, and runs the EEA grants 3-years project "Developing services for victims of domestic violence, strengthening co-operation between different institutions and raising awareness among victims and the general public", targeting all women's shelters.

Women's Shelters Cooperation Network is also a network of four women's shelters and organizes the exchange of information and knowledge between member organizations.

Policy & Funding

There was one national action plan: [Vägivalla vähendamise arengukava 2010-2014](#)/National [Development Plan for Reducing Violence](#) (2010-2014). The development plan covered four areas: violence against children; violence committed by minors; domestic violence including violence against women; and trafficking in human beings including prostitution. For each area, a special network has been created consisting of officials and NGOs representing institutions responsible for the issue.⁵⁸ Trainings for law enforcement officials continue in the framework of the Development Plan 2012-2014, and police have a regulation on how to treat victims of domestic violence and how to investigate and record domestic violence cases.⁵⁹

There is currently a national strategy: [National Strategy for Prevention of Violence 2015-2020](#)/Vägivalla ennetamise strateegia (2015-2020).

The new action plan adopted in 2015 covers five areas: violence against children; violence between minors; domestic violence; sexual violence and trafficking in human beings, including prostitution.

Specific governmental funds are allocated for activities to combat VAW on the national level. For NGO activities, it is €500,000 for women's shelters through the budget of ministry of social affairs.

Provisions in national legislation allow for State funding, however, it is not mandated by law/regulation to provide governmental funding of women's support services. The most common forms of governmental funding for women's support services are project funding and public procurement funding.

FINLAND

Basic Information

Population: 5,451,270

Female Population: 2,770,906

Member of Council of Europe: 1995

Member of European Union: 1989

CEDAW ratified: 1986

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2000

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2011); ratified: yes (2015)

⁵⁸ CEDAW, Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention – Estonia (2015) p.12.

⁵⁹ CEDAW, Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention – Estonia (2015) p.13.

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 72.5, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/finland>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2014

Violence against women

18. The Committee expresses appreciation for the efforts of the State party to prevent intimate partner violence and domestic violence, including through the adoption of the Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women 2010-2015, and the assurance provided by the State party to the Committee during the constructive dialogue that it would shortly ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. The Committee is, however, concerned:

(a) That insufficient resources have been allocated to the implementation of the Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women 2010-2015 and that the incidence of violence against women remains high;

(b) That there is no effective institutional mechanism to coordinate, monitor and assess measures at the government level to prevent and tackle violence against women;

(c) That public discourse on domestic violence is couched in gender-neutral language, which undermines the notion that such violence is a clear and disproportionate manifestation of discrimination against women;

(d) That mediation and conciliation procedures are increasingly employed in domestic violence cases, notwithstanding recommendations in the Government Programme and the Government Action Plan for Gender Equality 2012-2015 to limit its use, and notwithstanding the previous concerns of the Committee ([CEDAW/C/FIN/CO/6](#), para. 15) that such procedures may lead to the re-victimization of women who have suffered violence;

(e) That the Penal Code continues to define rape according to the degree of violence of the perpetrator and does not place the lack of consent of the victim at the centre of the definition; the draft amendment to the Penal Code continues to define abuse of authority leading to sexual intercourse as sexual abuse rather than rape, resulting, among other things, in lenient sentences for acts committed by perpetrators in institutional settings against disadvantaged persons, in particular women with disabilities; and conviction rates in cases of rape are proportionally lower (17.5 per cent) than those in relation to other crimes such as assault (49.5 per cent);

(f) That the number and services of shelters, many of which have been established and are operating on the initiative of non-governmental organizations, are insufficient to meet the needs of women victims of violence.

(g) That other services available for victims of gender-based violence, including rape crisis centres, 24-hour helpline services and walk-in centres, are lacking.

19. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 on violence against women, the Committee calls upon the State party:

(a) To allocate adequate financial resources to the national action plan and strategies aimed at eliminating violence against women;

(b) To establish an effective and adequately funded institutional mechanism at the government level to coordinate, monitor and assess the effectiveness of measures taken;

(c) To take specific measures to promote the use of gender-sensitive language in public discourse on the issue of domestic violence and provide information on its gendered nature;

(d) To take the legislative and other measures necessary to prohibit mandatory mediation and conciliation in cases of intimate partner and other forms of domestic violence;

(e) To review the legislation on rape so as to remove any requirement that sexual assault be committed by force or threat and place the lack of consent at the centre of its definition; amend the Penal Code, chapter 20, section 1.2, on rape and section 5.1, containing provisions on sexual abuse, to ensure that the definition of rape also covers cases of non-consensual sexual acts where there is an abuse of authority, such as in cases of rape committed against women who are residents in closed institutions, and align the sanctions for such acts from a fine to the minimum sentence of imprisonment as is the case for the commission of such acts; and take specific measures to fully investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators of rape in order to increase the conviction rates in cases of rape;

(f) To ensure that a sufficient number of shelters, staffed by qualified personnel and provided with adequate financial resources, are available to women victims of violence, including those from disadvantaged groups who require special support;

(g) To open rape crisis centres, walk-in centres and 24-hour, free-of-charge helplines that provide protection and assistance to all women victims of violence, including migrant women, women with disabilities and women belonging to sexual minorities;

(h) To ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence within the time frame indicated by the State party.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's networks, shelters, centres, helplines, and policy and funding. It was not possible to gather any data on prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is one women's helpline in Finland called [Women's Line](#) (0800 02400; Mo-Fri 4-8pm, Sat-Sun 12-4pm; free of charge). The women's helpline is run by a women's NGO and also provides multi-lingual support in English and Swedish. All the helplines are funded by the [Slot Machine Association](#).

Other national helplines for victims

There are five national helplines for victims, all funded by the [Slot Machine Association](#): [Rape Crisis Centre](#) (0800 97 899; also supports men; Mo-Thurs 3-9pm; not free of charge). They also offer judicial help (0800 97 895; Mo-Thurs 1-4pm). The helpline is run by [Rape Crisis Center Tukinainen](#). [Monika Helpline](#) is a helpline for immigrant women (09692 2304; 24/7; not free of charge). It is specifically for women who identify as being part of an ethnic, cultural, or linguistic minority and do not speak Finnish (based in the women's shelter Mona Koti). The helpline assists immigrant women and children who have been victims of violence and those living under the threat of violence. [Suvanto](#) is a helpline (0800 6776; for elderly who have been abused; Tues, Thurs 12-6pm). It provides advice and support on situations where elderly are abused or in violence situations, but also on intimate partner violence (IPV), and between caregivers, children, etc. [Ihmiskauppa](#) is a national trafficking helpline (02954 63177; 24/7). Victim Support Helpline (0203 16116; not 24/7; not free of charge) is run by an NGO.

Women's Shelters

There are 19 women's shelters in total. One of them is for women, the other 18 help mainly women but also men, who need support to escape domestic violence. Eleven of the 19 are members of Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters (FMS), and allow men victims of domestic violence to access the shelter, however it is not common for men to receive shelter. In all 19 shelters, there are 114 places, which here refers to rooms (but the rooms can have multiple beds).

The shelter Turvakoti Mona (Mona shelter) is the shelter only for (immigrant) women and their children. It is run by Monika and provides safe, culturally sensitive housing and specialized services in a language understood by the client. Staff are multicultural health professionals and social workers.

Additionally, there is also a project called "Juuri" (meaning "Root" in English) with member organizations which work with the elderly. They have established a shelter next to an institution for elderly in northern Finland, and conduct training on VAW and the elderly.

Women's Centres

In total, there are 20 women's centres in Finland. 17 of the centres are member organizations of FMS. FMS has services which conduct day-time services. These daytime services are 'supported living' and help women overcome trauma, resource planning, budgeting, support mental health, apply for housing, empowerment, and help organize every-day questions with a holistic approach. There is one rape crisis centre for female survivors of sexual violence, which operates a helpline and provides legal consultation. There is one intervention centre for black/migrant/minority ethnic women called Voimavarakeskus Monika, which offers group activities and support for the integration process to Finland. Additionally, Women's Line offers group activities and support for women survivors of DV.

National Women's Networks

[Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters](#) is a network in Helsinki of 30 Members which are associations assisting families by means of institutional and community services and projects (member organizations which run shelters and centres, and support children from divorced homes). The network conducts lobbying, publishes reports, develops suitable methods, trainings, and online shelter services including individual and group chats.

[MONIKA](#) (Multicultural Women's Association) is an umbrella organization for several associations for women of ethnic minorities. Founded in 1999, the aim is to assist immigrant women and their children who are victims of violence. The association is also engaged in distributing information with the purpose of preventing VAW, and aims at facilitating the integration of immigrants in Finland.

[NYTKIS](#) (Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations) is a network with 11 members from women's associations of all the political parties represented in Parliament, as well as three politically unaffiliated women's associations. In co-operation with women's associations, the network works for the advancement of women, de facto gender equality and social justice, is a watchdog for women's rights, monitors legislation, decision-making and research, and responds to political decision making and social issues from women's point of view.

[The National Council of Women of Finland](#) has 57 member organizations which altogether have nearly half a million individual members. An umbrella organisation independent of party politics, the Council acts as a national link and a forum for discussion for its member organizations. The objective of the National Council of Women of Finland is to promote equality, human rights, and the status of women in the Finnish society. The Council strives to bring gender mainstreaming into the framework of society and to achieve gender equality both at work and in the family.

Policy & Funding

The primary national action plan (NAP) is the "[Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women](#)" (2010-2015)/Naisiin kohdistuvan väkivallan vähentämisen ohjelma (2010 -2015). The aims of the NAP are to tackle violence proactively by seeking to influence attitudes and behaviours; to prevent repeated violence; to improve the position of victims of sexual violence and the crisis assistance and support provided for them; develop methods for identifying and intervening in the violence experienced by vulnerable groups; and to enhance the knowledge and skills of the authorities and professional service providers in preventing VAW and in helping victims. Evaluation of the present state of VAW and an overview of areas are not covered by previous programmes of action.⁶⁰

There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing policies and measures to prevent VAW, although it is only set up until 31.12.2015. This body is the cross-sectoral working group of governmental officers on preventing domestic violence is "Lähisuhde- ja perheväkivallan ehkäisyn poikkihallinnollinen virkamiestyöryhmä", coordinated by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The members are five different ministries, police, and the National Institute of Health and Welfare. Women's NGOs are not involved in the coordinating body, but they are consulted and called in as experts and make recommendations. A new coordinating group based on the Istanbul Convention is being formed and women's NGOs hope to be a part of this new group. NGOs are also taken into many working groups

⁶⁰ Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women (2010-2015), p. 36-37.

with ministers and are consulted prior to ratifying the Convention, its implementation, also for the Victim's Directive.

There is a national body/institution entrusted with the evaluation and monitoring of the national strategy. There will be a closing seminar of the NAP in November, but there is no public evaluation report yet of the whole NAP, only on some parts of the implementation. There is no shadow report conducted by women's NGOs, but women's NGOs have made a statement together about the lack of funding for the implementation of the NAP. Governmental funding of women's support services is mandated by law/regulation⁶¹. Finland has a law for State funding of the shelters for victims of domestic violence. Additionally, the new social welfare law states domestic violence as something which an individual must receive help for. Both laws entered into force in 2015. The only form of governmental funding for women's support services is 2-3 years of core funding for the shelters.

FRANCE

Basic Information

Population: 65,889,148

Female Population: 33,970,072

Member of Council of Europe: Yes

Member of European Union: Yes

CEDAW ratified: Yes

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: Yes

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2011); ratified: yes (2014)

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 55.7, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012/FR>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/france>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2008:

Violence against women

4. The Committee welcomes the State party's ongoing efforts to improve de jure and de facto the situation of women in France. It particularly welcomes Act No. 2006-399 of 4 April 2006, which was aimed to strengthen the prevention and punishment of domestic violence and violence against children.

22. The Committee is concerned that immigrant women living in France continue to suffer from multiple discrimination, including with regard to access to education, employment and health care, and from violence against them. The Committee is further concerned at the new restrictive immigration laws and policies, which have prevented many immigrant women from qualifying for residence permits. The Committee is especially concerned at the restrictive family reunification practices, which mostly affect

⁶¹ The official code of the law is 30.12.2014/1354

women, such as DNA tests, which have been found to be discriminatory by HALDE, and language proficiency tests and tests relating to knowledge of the values of the Republic.

28. While appreciating the State party's efforts to combat violence against women, including through awareness-raising programmes, research and the adoption of Act No. 2006-399 of 4 April 2006 aimed at strengthening the prevention and punishment of domestic violence and violence against children, the Committee remains concerned at the high prevalence of violence, particularly domestic violence, as, inter alia, shown by the recent research demonstrating that a woman dies at the hands of her companion every three days.

29. The Committee urges the State party, in accordance with its general recommendation 19, to take comprehensive measures in order to address all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence. The Committee recommends that the State party analyse all cases of violence against women, particularly those that result in murders of women, and ensure the adoption of effective measures to prevent violence against women and protect them from violence. The Committee further urges the State party to strengthen the cooperation between police, the public prosecutor and non-governmental organizations in the prevention of violence against women. Furthermore, the Committee calls upon the State party to collect comprehensive statistical data disaggregated by age and type of violence and the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.⁶² The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines, shelters, centres, networks, and policy and funding. However, it was not possible to gather information on prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

The "Violence Femmes Info" helpline (3919, Mo-Fri 9 AM – 10 PM; Sat, Sun, holidays 9 AM - 6PM; free of charge; multi-lingual support) was established in 1992 and addresses all forms of violence against women (e.g. domestic violence, forced marriages, "honour" crimes, etc.). The helpline is run by the Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes ([FNSE](#)).

The helpline receives some public, as well as private funding.

Other helplines for victims

There are several other helplines available.

[08victimes](#) (08 842 846 37; Mo-Sun 9AM – 9PM; free of charge) is a general victims support service, run by the NGO [INAVEM](#) and can be reached under 08victimes@inavem.org outside of the helpline operating hours.

⁶² Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

[Allô enfance en danger](#) (119; 24 hours, 7 days a week; free of charge; multi-lingual support) is a state-run children's helpline.

The [SOS Viols Femmes](#) helpline (0800 05 95 95; Mo-Fri 9AM – 7PM; free of charge) is a rape and sexual assault crisis hotline operated by the NGO "Collectif Féministe contre le viol" ([CFCV](#)).

Women's Shelters

There is no data available on the amount of women's shelters or available places at the women's shelters. Due to the decentralized nature of the services it is hard to find information on this issue.

Information provided in the [2012 EIGE victim support report](#) indicates that women's shelters are available in all regions of France.

Information provided in the [2013 WAVE Country Report \(P.89\)](#) indicates that women and children may stay more than 6 months at the shelters. Depending on the circumstances, some stays may be up to two years long.

Information provided in the [2012 EIGE victim support report](#) indicates that all women's shelters provide access free of charge.

Information provided in the [2012 EIGE victim support report](#) indicates that all women's shelters have security precautions.

Information provided in the [2013 WAVE Country Report](#) indicates that all women's shelters accept children of the survivors accommodated in the shelters.

Information provided in the [2012 EIGE victim support report](#) indicates that general shelters, including mother and child shelters, family shelters, homeless shelters, and others, are available in France.

Women's Centres

Due to the decentralized nature of these services there is no data available.

Women's Networks

France has one women's network established in 1992. The Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes ([FNSF](#)) has 64 member organizations providing support services to women survivors of violence, including women's shelters, helplines and counselling centres. The FNSF is active in lobbying, awareness-raising, networking, monitoring, training and capacity-building. Additionally, the network offers a rehousing service for women in the region île de France.

Policy & Funding

The [4th Interministerial plan for the fight against violence against women 2014-2016](#) is the National Action Plan currently in place in France.

The coordinating body for the NAP is the Service for Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the [Ministry of Family, Children and Women's Rights](#). Additionally, the [French High Council for Gender Equality](#) acts as an evaluating body for the NAP. Women's NGOs are not involved in the work of the evaluating body.

The text of the NAP states that NGOs should be directly involved in the implementation efforts and when bills concerning gender equality are proposed women's NGOs are regularly consulted by the Women's Rights Commission of the National Assembly and Senate. The coordinating body involves the NGOs in their regions and areas of expertise. Women's NGOs are not involved in the activities of the evaluating body.

The NAP allocates funding for shelters. There are no specific funds for specialised services in the National Action Plan. There is, however, funding for the promotion of women's rights, and the prevention of and fight against violence against women in the "Loi de finances 2014" [program 137](#) on gender equality. According to the information from our partners the total funding allocated in this program comes to 13,900,000 €. This funding includes support for women's services but does not allot any budget for specialised, gender-based analysis of violence or feminist services. The most common form of public funding for women's NGOs is through calls for projects.

There is little to no information available on the implementation of the NAP.

GEORGIA

Basic Information

Population: 4,497,617

Female population: 2,353,823

Member of Council of Europe:

Member of European Union:

CEDAW ratified: 1994

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2002

Istanbul Convention – signed: No

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/COUNTRY_REPORT_2012.pdf)

Gender Equality Index: 0.382, for further information see: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/asia/georgia>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2014:

Violence against women

20. The Committee notes the adoption of legislation on elimination of domestic violence, including protection of and assistance to victims, in 2006, the criminalization of domestic violence in 2012 and the adoption of an action plan to combat domestic violence and implement measures to protect victims, covering the period 2013-2015. The Committee also notes that the State party has signed the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and will ratify it in the third quarter of 2014. It is concerned, however, at the:

(a) Growing number of women who are murdered by their husbands or partners and of women who are victims of other forms of violence, including psychological, physical, economic and sexual violence;

(b) Low rate of reporting of cases of sexual and domestic violence against women owing to stigma and fear of the perpetrator, in addition to lack of trust in law enforcement agencies, which sometimes refuse to register complaints of domestic violence;

(c) Lack of State-funded crisis centres and shelters for women who are victims of domestic violence, especially in rural areas;

(d) Fact that women are sometimes subjected to virginity tests in violation of their right to privacy.

21. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party:

(a) To take measures to prevent the growing number of murders of women by their husbands and partners and other forms of domestic violence;

(b) To encourage women to report acts of sexual and domestic violence by raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts, to ensure the effective investigation of cases of violence against women, to prosecute and punish perpetrators with sanctions commensurate with the gravity of the crime and to provide victims with adequate compensation for damages suffered;

(c) To ensure that all women who are victims of violence have access to effective protection and assistance, including State-funded shelters, and to improve cooperation with relevant non-governmental organizations in this respect;

(d) To prohibit and adequately sanction the practice of virginity tests carried out on women in violation of their right to privacy.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's shelters, centres, helplines, national women's networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning, and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

Georgia has a national women's helpline, i.e. *the National Helpline for Victims of DV* (original name: ოჯახში ძალადობის ცხელ ხაზი, number: 2309903). The helpline is run by a women's NGO, Tbilisi Crisis Center of "Sakhli", which is an advice centre for women. This national women's helpline is operating 24/7, free of charge, and does provide multi-lingual support (in Russian). Statistics on the national helpline are not available, the total number of calls received in 2014 is unknown, and so is the total number of female callers. There is also no information available regarding funding from 2014.

The anti-violence network of Georgia also has a women's helpline and so does the NGO Sakhli. Additionally, there is the hotline of the Ministry of Labour and Social Care, and the hotline of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Other helplines for victims

Georgia also has a general victims' helpline, which is operating only during daytime. This is operated by women's support centres, which are part of Fund Sukhumi. To be more precise, there are 6 hotlines operating in regions of Western Georgia: Kutaisi, Khoni, Senaki, Tskhaltubo, Poti and Zugdidi. Victims of domestic violence (DV) mostly use these hotlines. 52 cases were registered in 2014, all concerning DV cases. There is no special funding allocated to these.

Women's Shelters

According to national NGO experts, there are 5 state and 3 NGO-run women's shelters in Georgia. Additionally, there are 5 shelters for girls and young women victims of forced marriage and another 5 women's shelters for victims of trafficking. The total number of women's shelters is 8 (5 run by the state and 3 by women's NGOs: AVNG, Sakhli and Samtskhe – Javakheti Democracy Women Association). The last women's shelter was opened in 2014. No information regarding the number of women who stayed at the shelters is available. Neither is the total number of beds available. There exists a set of accredited national standards for women's shelters. Women's shelters exist only in major cities: Kutaisi, Tbilisi, Gori, Akhaltsikhe, Zugdidi and Signagi.

Some shelters are providing 24/7 access and also immediate direct access in emergency situations. The length of stay in women's shelters is up to 18 months (state-run) and 6 months (NGO-run). All women's shelters are providing services free of charge. All women's shelters have security precautions and all shelters are providing non-residential support. The age limit for boys in all shelters is 16 years. There is no age limit for girls. When it comes to access to specific groups, all shelters ensure access to women with children. Some shelters also provide access to women without children and to women above 70 years. There are no shelters, which ensure access to women with disabilities, lesbian/transgender women or migrant women. All shelters provide access to women from other provinces of the country, minority ethnic women, every shelter is accepting undocumented migrant women and women from EU countries. Some shelters also take in asylum seeking women.

The information regarding the amount of funding allocated to women's shelters in 2014 is not available.

Georgia takes a strict approach when it comes to domestic violence, hence young men above the age of 16 cannot be accommodated in shelters where women victims of domestic violence are staying. Furthermore, there are no men's shelters in the country. The last amendment to the law that stipulates this was made in 2015. Unfortunately, in some cases in Georgia victims and perpetrators have to live together because there are no crisis centres and shelters for perpetrators. Overall, Georgia has no specific domestic violence shelters.

When it comes to second stage or transitional housing for women survivors of violence and their children, there is a programme running in Georgia, which entails that the state takes over the responsibility to cover her rent for one month.

Nevertheless, there are no specific second stage or transitional housing programmes, public housing programmes or any other such programmes.

Women's Centres

In Georgia, there are no official crisis centres, counselling centres, intervention centres, rape crisis centres or any other such centres. There are only some NGOs, which run programmes for victims' counselling; these include legal and psychological consultations. For example Fund Sukhumi has 6 women's support centres in 6 Cities of Western Georgia where women can receive legal and psychological consultations free of charge.

Women's support centres offer a limited range of services. All provide information and advice, counselling, and advocacy and most offer practical support, such as obtaining a residence permit or social benefits. Furthermore, most offer legal advice, empowerment support and floating/mobile support. Some also provide for legal representation and outreach.

Women's Networks

There is one women's network in Georgia called *the Anti- violence network Georgia*. Its members are NGOs working on GBV issues, women's shelters and women's centres. The activities it undertakes include trainings, consultations, informal meetings and campaigns. The network is a legal entity, bringing together 10 regional committees, representing 4 women's organizations (Fund Sukhumi, Tanaziari, Democrat Women's Organizations in Abkhalsikhe, Anti-violence Network Georgia). It has a national office and 25 paid staff members. The network does not receive any government funding.

Policy and Funding

The current national action plan (NAP) is called: *Combating domestic violence and measures to protect victims of domestic violence, action plan for the years 2013-2015*. Additionally, there is also a Law on Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection and Support to its Victims, and a Law on Gender Equality.

When it comes to the scope and form of violence covered by the action plan, rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment are only marginally addressed. Violence within the family and DV are addressed. Other forms of violence such as killings in the name of honour, violence in institutional environments, failure to respect freedom of choice with regard to reproduction and violence in conflict and post-conflict situations are not addressed at all.

In Georgia the Law on Domestic violence regulates violence within the family or DV, be it economical, sexual, physical, or psychological forms of violence. The other forms of violence, which have been previously mentioned, are regulated by various administrative and criminal laws.

The Anti-Discrimination Law was adopted in 2014. This Law is intended to eliminate every form of discrimination and ensure the equal rights of every natural and legal person under the legislation of Georgia, irrespective of race, skin colour, language, sex, age, citizenship, origin, place of birth or residence, property or social status, religion or belief, national, ethnic or social origin, profession, marital status, health, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, political affiliation or other characteristics.

Policies and measures about specialist women's support services are integrated into the NAP. The Ministry of Internal Affairs sees trainings as an important part of the curriculum of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (for example, basic training courses for police officers). The Ministry of Internal Affairs is actively cooperating with local NGOs. Regular meetings are being held, along with consultations. Furthermore, in 2014 several campaigns were organized. In every police department there are 2 specialist officers who are qualified to work with victims of DV.

There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing policies and measures to prevent violence against women. This is called the Inter-Agency Council, and it is placed under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Defenses. All Ministries are involved in this inter-agency council. The person in charge is the advisor of the Prime Minister for human rights matters.

Women's NGOs are also involved in the work of the coordinating body. Women's NGO are involved in monitoring processes and also in the elaboration of the new action plan for 2015-2017. Unfortunately, the process of working out the new strategy has not yet started, but when the process will be initiated, women's NGO will be actively involved in the elaboration of recommendations. Women's NGOs are actively involved in consultation processes, they are also members of the committee, which is identifying the status of victims of domestic violence.

When it comes to the effectiveness of the coordinating body, it is worth mentioning that since January 2015 the cultural-humanitarian Fund "Sukhumi" has been monitoring the implementation of the law on combating domestic violence – "Combating Domestic Violence, Protection and Assistance of Victims". The monitoring covers Western Georgia only.

Within the framework of the monitoring process, from January to June 2015, it has been analyzed how the existing action plan is relevant to activities and challenges, envisaged by the law, what the current reality is, how the in-depth understanding of the problem is being evaluated, and lastly which are the legal mechanisms for combating violence against women and ensuring inter-sectoral cooperation.

An analysis of the existing situation shows that in comparison with previous years, the current situation regarding the scale of DV has changed significantly. Alarming thresholds reached by the problem of DV and repeated incidents have prompted this change.

Persons from the highest government circles openly condemned DV, to raise the importance of this issue in the government's political agenda, thus hoping to establish more effective mechanisms to tackle this problem and raise public awareness. Furthermore, they sought to emphasize that violent attitudes are irreconcilable with a prosperous, peaceful vision of society.

The monitoring also pointed out that protection orders are frequently being used and have a swift effect. Although it was unanimously stressed at all levels that obtaining a protective order entails great difficulties, due to the complexity of procedures, these remain in place, forcing the victim not to accept this measure.

The monitoring highlighted the necessity of having a specialized court: even in instances when a case is referred to court, inadequate decisions are often taken. The need to have a multi-disciplinary team

working on DV cases was repeatedly raised (police officer, psychologist, and social worker) throughout the identification process and management of cases.

Additionally, there is also a national body entrusted with the monitoring and evaluation of the national strategy. This is called *the Action Group on Violence*, placed under the authority of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Women's NGOs are involved in the work carried out by this body. In 2015 Fund Sukhumi began working on the monitoring of the implementation of NAP. Several recommendations were made to be taken into consideration for the drafting of the next NAP. Moreover, women's NGOs are actively involved in consultations and are attending formal and informational meetings held by the national body. The national body entrusted with monitoring and evaluation has not published any official reports so far. Monitoring and evaluation is only being carried out by NGOs. The drafting of the report was initiated in 2015, it has not been finalized at this stage. The following NGOs are working on it: the Anti Violence Network of Georgia is analyzing legal amendments, and looking at the Public Defender's Office, Fund Sukhumi is monitoring the law on domestic violence and the NAP. According to the opinion of national NGO experts the government has not met the outcomes set in the NAP. Furthermore, appropriate human and financial resources for ensuring the adequate implementation of integrated policies have not been allocated. Nevertheless, there are specific government funds allocated at the national level for activities combatting VAW. The Ministry of Justice has a grant tender on DV prevention. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has also carried out an awareness-raising campaign on gender based violence in cooperation with women's NGOs.

The law does allow for funding of women's NGOs, this refers to the above-mentioned grant for domestic violence offered by the Ministry of Justice. This was only launched in 2015. Government funding for women's support services is not mandated by law. The most common form of government funding is project funding. The government however is recognizing and supporting the work of women's NGOs active in the field of VAW. They are actively involved in consultation processes and are members of the committee, which is identifying the status of victims of DV. Effective cooperation also exists between the government and women's NGOs. The Ministry of Internal Affairs, the government of Georgia and the President have held permanent meetings, i.e. consultations with women's NGOs. This started in 2014, after the high incidence of femicides. Only 2 such meetings were held so far.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

All members of the national women's network are engaged in prevention work. No state funds were allocated for prevention in 2014. Support came from international donors.

Women's NGO are actively working on prevention of DV throughout the whole country. They carry out different campaigns, activities, informational meetings, workshops and use other strategies to raise public awareness. These kind of events are carried out with different groups: children, kindergarten pupils, schools, but also youth, universities, colleges, institutes, women and men in cities, villages, and collective centres where internally displaced persons are living, together with representatives of local governments.

The biggest campaign that has been carried out in Georgia starting with 2001 is called – *16 active days against gender based violence (GBV)*.

Throughout the 16-day campaign all women's NGOs in Georgia carry out different activities together; they run some campaigns and carry out various actions against GVB. For example, Fund "Sukhumi"⁶³ is carrying out more than 120 activities in 8 cities of Western Georgia every year. Leaflets, posters, notebooks, press releases and calendars are prepared in this respect. Publications were distributed covering all the activities planned within the framework of the campaign.

Prevention – Good practice example

Organisation carrying out the activity: Cultural – Humanitarian Fund Sukhumi

Timeframe of activity: 25 November to 10 December 2014

Goals and target groups: Informational campaign carried out on different levels and with different groups in 8 cities of Western Georgia

Description of activity: Actions, round tables, informational meetings, workshops, film screening, debates, forums, publication of different materials, transmission of social clips, radio broadcasts and so on.

Main results: *The main achievements of the campaign are considered to be an active public debate on the issue of violence against women, informational meetings, international youth trainings, promotions, active involvement of the media - social clips, videos, movies, TV and radio programmes.*

You can find all materials on the website about the campaign: www.fundsokhumi.ge

Training

Most members of the national women's network are carrying out trainings. Their target groups are police officers, social workers and civil servants. Fund Sukhumi is also doing trainings, especially for civil servants, social workers and representatives of local governments. No state funds are allocated for the training of professionals. Only the Ministry of Internal Affairs carried out periodic trainings on DV for police officers in certain regions.

Training – Good practice example

Organisation carrying out the training: Cultural – Humanitarian Fund Sukhumi

Goals and target groups: **representatives of local self- government and social workers from 6 cities of Western Georgia, 20 persons were attending**

⁶³www.fundsokhumi.ge

The focus of the training was: definition of gender, definition of DV, role of local self-government in DV prevention and protection of victims

Training framework ((a)in vocational/**basic training**, b)advanced training/continuing education, c) in-house training in the institution): **Basic training**

Timeframe: **1 training per year**

Description of activity: **Training for representatives of local self- government and social workers from 6 cities of Western Georgia, 20 persons were attending**

Main results: Local authorities were given not only new perspectives and information on gender and domestic violence; many of them now have a new attitude to the problem of gender / family violence. The depth of the problem and the need for inter-sectoral collaboration was acknowledged, including the real participation of local governments in the creation of statistical databases. It was stressed that they believe it is the prerogative of local government, because on the local/municipal level you can more easily collect relevant information.

They have developed approaches to the inclusion of local governments in the national mechanisms for protection from violence. These were established to develop the information base for the principles of the concept of local self-government for the prevention of violence and assistance to victims and to enhance accountability at the local level to assist victims of violence.

Local authorities are looking for adequate mechanisms in the prevention of violence and the provision of assistance to victims is making improvements.

All representatives of local authorities expressed their readiness to take concrete steps to help victims, according to them when planning the budget for next year, the issue of violence and the funding of small grants will be given higher priority.

The training was held In Borjomi.

Photos are available at:

http://fundsokhumi.ge/photo/t-39-reningebi/t'reningi_adgilobrivi_tvitmmartvelobis_ts'armomadgenl/3-0-2862

GERMANY

Basic Information

Population: 80,767,463

Female population: 41,210,384

Member of Council of Europe: yes

Member of European Union: yes

CEDAW ratified: yes (1985)

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: yes (2002)

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2011); ratified: no

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 55.3, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/germany>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2009:

Violence against women

41. The Committee commends the State party for the range of efforts, including recent legislative initiatives, to eliminate violence against women since the submission of its previous periodic report. It remains concerned, however, at the high prevalence of violence against women and girls, as demonstrated by the studies on women's experience with violence in Germany, including migrant women, showing that some 40 per cent of women had experienced physical or sexual violence or both since the age of 16 and that women from Turkish and Russian migrant backgrounds experienced physical and sexual violence with a level of frequency — and gravity for Turkish migrant women — clearly above the average for the female population of Germany. The Committee is also concerned at the inadequate impact of the Protection against Violence Act of 2002 on persistent and extremely violent perpetrators and on migrant women married for less than two years. The Committee is also concerned that acts of domestic violence may not be taken into account in child custody or visitation cases.

42. In accordance with its general recommendation No. 19, the Committee urges the State party to ensure that comprehensive measures are in place to address all forms of violence against women. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure the effective implementation of the 2007 action plan on violence, to study and analyze all types of violence against women, particularly those that result in murders of women, and to continue implementing policies to prevent such violence, provide protection, support and services to the victims, and punish and rehabilitate offenders. The State party is also urged to implement legislation requiring that convictions for acts of domestic violence be taken into account in child custody or visitation decisions.

43. The Committee is concerned at the lack of sustained funding of shelters for women and non-residential counselling centres and at the lack of free access to shelters regardless of income for all women and children in all Länder. It regrets that some Länder are unable to offer secured housing in shelters to all women victims of violence, or equipped shelters for women with special needs, such as women with disabilities.

44. The Committee urges the State party to take the necessary measures to ensure greater cooperation between the Federal Government, the Länder and the municipalities to monitor the provision of social services with a view to ensuring the availability of a sufficient number of shelters equipped to accommodate women with special needs, such as women with disabilities, throughout the territory of the State party and making sure that such shelters are adequately financed and open for all, regardless of the victim's financial resources.

45. The Committee welcomes the increased efforts of Germany in compiling sex disaggregated statistics and in shedding light on the number and ages of asylum seeking and refugee women and girls but regrets the lack of statistical information on cases of female genital mutilation on women and girls living in Germany, on violence against women in institutions and on homicide of women in the context of domestic violence.

46. The Committee calls upon the State party to establish a method of collecting comprehensive statistical data disaggregated by sex, age, type of violence and the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim. The Committee urges the State party to provide statistical information in its next periodic report on the number of cases of female genital mutilation on women and girls living in Germany.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's shelters, centres, helplines, national women's networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning, and training. However, it was not possible to gather information about domestic violence shelters

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

The national women's helpline in Germany is called Hilfetelefon „Gewalt gegen Frauen“ (08000 116 016). It exists since 01.03. 2013. The helpline is run by the State, to be more precise by the Federal Office for Family and Social Affairs, under the Federal Ministry for Family, Senior, Women's and Youth Affairs – BMFSFJ. The women's helpline operates 24/7 and is free of charge. Furthermore, it also provides multi-lingual support in many languages.

The helpline received a number of 23,912 calls in 2014. Out of these 16,183 came from female callers. The person responsible for data collection on the women's helplines is Ms. Antje Mäder, from the Federal Office for Family and Social Affairs (Bundesamt für Familie und Zivilgesellschaftliche Aufgaben). It is not known how much funding was allocated to the national women's helpline in 2014.

Other helplines for victims

Germany also has a victims' general helpline, *Opfer-Telefon* (116 006), which is available 24/7 free of charge and is run by an NGO. There is also a children's helpline, *Kinder- und Jugendtelefon Nummer gegen Kummer* (116111), which is also run by an NGO and is available 24/7 free of charge. Other national helplines for victims include the *Telefonseelsorge* which is run by a faith-based organization and is available 24/7 free of charge. This helpline addresses a wide target group, and is for both men and women. Additionally there is another helpline for vulnerable pregnant women, *Schwangere in Not*, which is run by the State, and is available 24/7 free of charge.

Women's Shelters

There are currently 369 women's shelters in Germany, including protection flats for women (Frauenschtutzwohnungen). The latter are small flats where women live, some are independent, some are administered by a shelter. No distinction can be made between women's shelters and those with a specific focus, such as shelters for minority ethnic women or shelters for women victims of human trafficking. Approximately five women's shelters have been closed in the last 5 years due to various reasons.

The 369 women's shelters have approximately 6800 beds to offer. 131 of these shelters are run by women's NGOs with a gender-specific, feminist approach. Approximately 5 are run by the state and around 85 by faith-based organizations. 40 Women's shelters are run by the Worker's Welfare Union (AWO). Lastly, approximately 100 shelters are run by other women's NGOs.

There is no set of accredited national standards for these shelters, only a set of recommendations. There are recommendations from the Frauenhauskoordinierung and also from the Autonomous Women's Shelters.

Women's shelters exist in most regions, and most of these provide 24/7 access. Immediate and direct access in emergency situations is possible in some of these. A long stay in any of these shelters is one which exceeds a period of three months, and very often shelters are asked by social services to justify their reasons for extending women's accommodations in such cases. Nevertheless, the usual length of stay in women's shelters is between 3 to 6 months, and sometimes even longer than this.

Some women's shelters provide services free of charge, yet under certain circumstances women have to pay. Women who are employed or possess certain assets fall under this category, as well as women who are not entitled to social benefits. Vulnerable women, especially refugee women, are negatively affected by this issue. Most women's shelters also have security precautions and most of them do offer non-residential support, however not all shelters have sufficient capacities to provide for this. Most women's shelters have an age limit for boys (14 years) and there is no age limit for girls. When it comes to access to women's shelters for specific groups, less than half of the existing shelters ensure access for women with disabilities and some shelters provide access to asylum seeking women, undocumented migrant women and lesbian or transgender women. All women's shelters take in migrant women, minority ethnic women, elderly women or women with or without children.

A total of € 32.625.070,00 was allocated by the government to women's shelters in 2014. This number represents only the funding from the federal state governments. It does not include funding from the national state and the municipalities.

It was not possible to state how many domestic violence shelters are operating in Germany.

Women's Centres

Germany has 420 women's centres, 183 rape crisis centres, 67 centres for women who have experienced sexual abuse in their childhood, 130 intervention centres with a pro-active approach and 40 centres for women victims of trafficking. All these different types of centres are run by women's NGOs and have different sources for funding, which include the State and donations. Women's centres, rape crisis centres and intervention centres with a pro-active approach exist in most provinces.

All women's centres offer information and advice, counselling, empowering support, risk assessment and safety planning; most of them offer advocacy, practical support, legal advice, court accompaniment, support regarding social rights (income, health care, independent residence permit, multi-agency support for survivors, and support for survivors to organize themselves; some women's centres offer specialist support for children, multi-lingual support, specialist support for black/minority ethnic/migrant/ asylum seeking women, outreach, floating/mobile support, support concerning social rights (work, housing, child care), cooperation with services working with perpetrators, they support the participation of survivors in policy development and evaluation and they provide family/systemic support. No women's centres ensure legal representation.

National Women's Network

Germany has 5 women's networks (these are national women's networks that solely work on the issue of gender based violence): BFF – Frauen gegen Gewalt e.V., ZIF – Zentrale Informationsstelle Autonomer Frauenhäuser, Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V., GESINE e.V. (Intervention gegen häusliche Gewalt) and KOK e.V. (Bundesweites Koordinierungskreis gegen Menschenhandel).

Members of BFF include autonomous rape crisis centres, women's counselling centres and intervention centres. The network holds seminars, organizes conferences and disseminates expertise, research and information materials. It has a total of 160 member organizations, and its national office is located in Berlin. BFF is also a legal entity and receives funding from the national government.

ZIF has 100 member organizations which are autonomous women's shelters; they do networking, engage in lobbying, and organize conferences. ZIF is not a legal entity and its national office is located in Bonn. It has one paid staff member and it does not receive funding from the national government.

Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V. has 18 member organisations. These include women's shelters, women's centres and intervention centres. The members engage in networking, they organize conferences, disseminate relevant materials and cooperate on various issues. The network is a legal entity and its office is located in Berlin. It has 4 paid staff members and it does receive funding from the national government.

KOK has 37 member organizations which address the phenomenon of human trafficking and also support victims of human trafficking.

GESINE is active in the area of domestic violence. Its members include health centres, equal opportunities offices, psychologists and physiotherapists. The network strives to provide for women victims of domestic violence in the health care sector.

Policy and Funding

The current national action plan on violence against women is called *Second Action Plan of the Federal Government to Combat Violence against Women* (2007-open end).

The following forms of violence are covered by this action plan: female genital mutilation, killings in the name of 'honour' and forced and early marriage.

It is important to note that the action plan itself does not represent a national strategy to tackle violence against women, but encompasses a list of different projects and already existing services.

Policies and measures about specialist support services are integrated in the national action plan. The coordinating body in charge of implementing policies and measures to prevent violence against women is the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ).

There is no national body entrusted with the evaluation and monitoring of the national action plan. The action has also not set any outcomes the government is required to achieve, because as previously mentioned, the so called action plan does not contain any strategy. It is merely a collection of various items related to violence against women, yet no vision or perspective aimed at tackling this phenomenon is distinguishable.

No appropriate financial and human resources are being allocated by the government for the adequate implementation of integrated policies. The amount of funds allocated for activities to combat violence against women on the national level is not known. There are no specific funds allocated for activities to combat violence against women on the national level. The law only allows for funding of women's NGOs in one federal state legislation (Schleswig-Holstein). No such provisions exist in the national legislation. Furthermore, governmental funding of women's support services is not mandated by law.

The most common types of funding for women's support services is project funding, annual core funding and individual case financing (Einzelfallfinanzierung). Funding provided to women's NGOs working in the field of violence against women continues to be scarce, the government is not listening to their recommendations as far as financing is concerned.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

All women's networks, women's centres and women's helplines are doing prevention work. It was not possible to indicate how much state funding has been allocated to such activities. There are no women's NGOs in Germany that are exclusively engaged in this type of activities.

Prevention – Good practice example 1

Organisation carrying out the activity: SToP Steilshoop (Hamburg) das bundesweite Projekt für "Stadtteile ohne Partnergewalt" (<http://stop-partnergewalt.org/wordpress/english/2940-2/>)

Timeframe of activity: since 2010

Goals and target groups: Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence. For low income neighbourhoods in Hamburg, Germany.

Description of activity: "StoP" is a new neighbourhood based approach to prevent and reduce domestic violence. It is about "community mainstreaming" of the issue using the method of community organizing. Social networks/neighbours are crucial in preventing DV and supporting victims but this potential has been neglected so far.

Main results: Studies prove that the rate of lethal violence against female partners is higher in neighbourhoods where the norm of non-intervention is strong. Police and Social work cannot do the job alone. It needs a strong civil society. And that means ground/ grassroots work: face to face communication, not sitting in offices but reaching out, doing door knocking, being present in shopping centres, playgrounds and in the street, bringing neighbours together, empowering people to speak out and take action, supporting victims and paying attention.

Prevention – Good practice example 2

Organisation carrying out the activity: cooperation of 3 organisations: rape crisis centre Worms, equal opportunity commission, child protection centre Worms (ASB)

Timeframe of activity: the campaign started in 2014 und is still running

Idea: Male and female soccer teams stand up against sexual violence and show a red card to sexual harassment

Goals and target groups: One important goal is to address boys and men to stand up against sexual harassment and sexual violence. Everybody has to respect the limits of other people! But still many activities to prevent violence and sexual harassment are addressing women and girls, because they are much more often victim of violence. The campaign “Grenzen setzen” wants to change this perspective and especially addresses men and boys to stop harassment and violence. One aim is to show mal ‘role-models’ against violence.

Description of activity: <http://grenzenachten.de/> (Respect someone’s limits!)

Main results: During the campaign many pictures are taken with a red card against sexism and sexual violence against women and girls, for example from the local soccer male and female soccer teams in Worms. The female soccer team got new football shirts with “Grenzen setzen!” written on it, and lots of people participated in the campaign.

Awareness raising, good cooperation between specialised service centres, sports and many more.

Training

All national women’s networks and women’s centres in Germany are doing trainings. Some women’s helplines are also engaged in such activities. State funding is rarely allocated for such activities. The most common target groups for trainings are police officers, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, health professionals, and teachers.

Training – Good practice example

Organisation carrying out the training: Bff in cooperation with Rape Crisis Centre Hamburg

Goals and target groups: Awareness rising of sexual harassment at work (University of Kassel), target group: Employees of the university of Kassel

Training framework ((a) in vocational/basic training, b) advanced training/continuing education, c) in-house training in the institution): Basic training

Timeframe: One-day in-house training

Description of activity: Awareness rising, Instruments against Sexual harassment at work

Main results: Theoretical input and information on how to prevent sexual harassment at the workplace, and how to deal with any such allegations and complaints.

GREECE

Basic Information

Population: 10,992,589

Female Population: 5,602,274

Member of Council of Europe: 1949

Member of European Union: 1981

CEDAW ratified: 1983

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2001

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2011); ratified: no

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 38.3, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/greece>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2013:

Violence against women

20. The Committee notes the adoption of the National Programme for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women for 2009-2013 and the abolition of the use of mediation in cases of domestic violence. It is, however, concerned at the persistence of violence against women, including domestic violence, in the State party, which remains underreported due to the prevalence of discriminatory social and cultural norms. The Committee is further concerned at the lack of information, studies and statistical data on the nature, forms, extent and causes of violence against women.

21. The Committee urges the State party to give priority attention to combating violence against women and girls and adopt comprehensive measures to address such violence, in accordance with its general recommendation No.19 (1992), including through:

- (a) Ensuring the strict enforcement of the national legislation on violence against women and ensuring that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection and further ensuring that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished;
- (b) Raising public awareness, through the media and educational programs and providing mandatory training for judges, prosecutors, police officers, health-service providers, journalists and teaching staff in order to ensure that they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and girls and can provide adequate gender-sensitive support to victims;
- (c) Encouraging women to report incidents of domestic and sexual violence by de-stigmatizing victims and raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts;
- (d) Providing adequate assistance and protection to women victims of violence by establishing shelters, especially in rural areas, and enhancing cooperation with non-governmental organizations providing shelter and rehabilitation to victims;
- (e) Collecting statistical data on all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity/minority status and relationship between victim and perpetrator, and undertaking studies and/or surveys on the extent of violence against women and its root causes.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines, shelters, centres, networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising and campaigning, and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

Open in 2011, the SOS Hotline 15900 of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE) (Τηλεφωνική Γραμμή SOS 15900 της Γενικής Γραμματείας Ισότητας των Φύλων) operates 24/7 but is not free of charge (land line charges apply). Multilingual support is provided in Greek, English and French; if there is need for another language, contact is made with an interpreter service.

Other helplines for victims

Other national helplines available in Greece include the general helpline called 'Telephone Line for Emergency Social Aid'. The number of the helpline is (197), it operates 24/7, free of charge, and is run by the state. The children helpline 'The Smile of the Child' is available at the number (1056); run 24/7 and free of charge by an NGO, the helpline recorded 719 reports for 1439 children in 2014. The trafficking helpline 'Human Trafficking Resource Line' is run by an NGO (A21); it is available 24/7 but is not free of charge. The number of the helpline is (1109).

Women's Shelters

There are 26 women's shelters in Greece, with approximately 470 shelter beds for women and their children. Most of the women's shelters also accept victims of trafficking, and the Thessaloniki-based non-profit organization A21 also provides a shelter specifically for victims of human trafficking⁶⁴. The majority of women's shelters (21) are run by the state, and five shelters are run by women's NGOs. The shelters are available in the major cities of Greece, with a relatively good geographical coverage. Three shelters only (in Athens and Thessaloniki) are accessible 24/7, on call.

The length of stay at women's shelters in Greece is three months, which may be extended to another three months. All the shelters provide accommodation free of charge as well as psychological support, and they cover the women's basic needs, i.e. food, clothing. For other forms of material support and medication, shelters often collaborate with local social services, NGOs, hospitals and medical facilities, and the local community.

The last women shelter was opened in 2015, last of a series of shelters established by the state over the past three years with European funding – however, with the grant period coming to an end in 2015, it remains uncertain whether these state shelters will still be operating in 2020. Between the 1st of January 2014 and the 19th of November 2014, 18 women's shelters accommodated 172 women.

There are currently no domestic violence shelters in Greece. Women who cannot access a women's shelter end up staying at homeless shelters, which are not designed for women in situations of acute danger, as not having secret addresses nor security guards. Second stage housing are also non-existent.

Women's Centres

There is a total of 57 women's centres in Greece, including 56 women's centres providing non-residential support to women survivors of any kind of violence – i.e. domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, sexual harassment, forced prostitution and trafficking – and one centre for women victims of trafficking located in Thessaloniki. Women's centres or counselling centres provide women survivors with information, psychological support and legal advice – a few centres also provide legal representation and court accompaniment, via collaboration with the Greek Lawyers' Association. Very few of them provide material support and vocational seminars, however almost none of the centres network women with employers.

44 of the 56 women's centres providing non-residential support are run by public authorities, 11 by NGOs and one by the Church. Available in major cities but with a good geographical coverage, the centres that are run by public authorities are funded through European and State funding, while the centres that run by NGO's depend on private donations and EU Action Grants.

Women's Networks

⁶⁴ A21 – Abolishing Injustice in the 21st Century. Our Solutions. Available at <http://www.a21.org/content/our-solution/gkr9dk>. [Retrieved on 24.11.15]

There is currently no national women's network addressing violence against women in Greece.

A PanHellenic Network of 61 structures to prevent and tackle all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, rape, human trafficking and sexual harassment was established by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE), Ministry of Interior. The Network includes the National SOS Helpline (15900), 15 counselling centres run by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE), 25 counselling centres for victims of violence against women and 19 women's shelters recently established in different municipalities of Greece, and two women's shelters run by the National Centre for Social Solidarity in Athens and Thessaloniki. **The PanHellenic Network should not, however, be considered a network.** It is referred to as a 'network' due to the Counselling Centres and Shelters being established and supervised by one same Governmental Organization (GSGE), however the different structures (rather than members) do not work on common activities, and the services provided by each individual structure depend on the specialties of its staff. None of the structures are run by NGOs.

Policy & Funding

The *National Program on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women 2009-2013* is the first and so far only NAP in the field of violence against women; the time of implementation of the strategy was extended to the end of 2015. No other Action Plan on the issue was developed so far however the creation of a Committee tasked with updating the mentioned strategy has been announced in October 2015.

The forms of violence covered by the *National Program on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women 2009-2013* include rape and sexual assault, violence within the family or domestic violence, sexual harassment, as well as violation of freedom of choice with regards reproductive rights. While some of these forms of violence have been addressed somewhat adequately through the strategy, provisions on rape and sexual assault have remained largely unaddressed. The General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE) is responsible for the implementation of the National Program, however it often assigns some of its responsibilities to the Research Centre for Gender Equality (KETHI). There is no national body officially entrusted with the evaluation and monitoring of the national strategies on VAW.

Funding allocated by the Greek government for activities carried out by women's NGOs to combat violence against women on the national level comes mostly from European funding. There is no specific provision in the national legislation that allows, or prevents, state funding to go to women's NGOs for service provision; in practice however, state funding mostly goes to state-run services. While the expertise of women's NGOs working on the issue of VAW for decades is acknowledged by the state (largely through the GSGE) that every so often asks NGOs to contribute suggestions to improve national response to VAW, there is an overarching feeling that this expertise remains under-utilized, and their recognition as experts limited to words but no action.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

Outside of the PanHellenic Network and its 61 structures (none of which are run by NGOs), most women's centres and some women's shelters conduct prevention work. No government funding is provided to conduct prevention work, all funds coming from the European level.

Prevention – Good practice example

Organisation carrying out the activity: [European Anti-Violence Network \(EAVN\)](#)

Timeframe of activity: 2009-2011, and 2014-2016

Goals and target groups: The project “Gender Equality Awareness Raising against Intimate Partner Violence” (GEAR against IPV) is a coordinated action of **primary and secondary prevention** of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) through school-based interventions aiming to raise awareness of both high-school students and teachers on the harmful effects of gender stereotypes and of unequal power relationships between sexes as well as on how these relate to gender-based violence.

More specifically, the aims of the “GEAR against IPV” project are to promote gender equality, by deconstructing gender stereotypes, which is expected to greatly contribute to the development of healthy and equal relationships, to the primary prevention of violence against women and girls as well as to the development of zero tolerance towards violence to both girls and boys. The “GEAR against IPV” project intended to achieve its aims by raising students' awareness on:

- a) The characteristics of healthy vs. unhealthy relationships
- b) The influence of stereotypical attitudes and socially imposed gender roles on their relationships
- c) How power inequality between sexes relates to psychological, physical and/or sexual violence against women/girls
- d) How adolescents can contribute to the prevention of all forms of gender-based violence.

The **target groups** of the GEAR against IPV approach included:

- General population of adolescents (boys and girls) 12+ years old
- a) high-school teachers and b) other professionals (or future professionals) in high-school settings (e.g. Health Education Coordinators/ Guidance Teachers/ Social Work Students), women and men

Description of activity: For the achievement of project's aims, the Master “GEAR against IPV” Package was developed (available online at: www.1st.gear-ipv.eu), consisting of 4 Booklets:

Booklet I. The Master GEAR against IPV Package and How to Develop your own National Package

Booklet II. Guidelines for Conducting a GEAR against IPV Teachers' Training Seminar

Booklet III. Teacher's Manual

Booklet IV. Students' Activities Book.

The Master Package is a prototype that guides the creation of culturally appropriately adapted National Packages for any country that wishes to Train Teachers (Booklet II) in order to build their capacity to implement GEAR against IPV Workshops with their students (Booklets III and IV) as a means of primary and/or secondary prevention of Intimate Partner Violence.

In the context of the “GEAR against IPV” DAPHNE Project, four National (Austrian, Croatian, German and Greek) “GEAR against IPV” Packages were developed, while three more (Cypriot, Romanian and Spanish) are currently developed under the project “GEAR against IPV-II”.

On the basis of the National Packages developed, Teachers’ Seminars were conducted aiming to build teachers’ capacity to implement and evaluate the “GEAR against IPV” Workshops in classrooms and to provide them with the opportunity to: a) reflect on gender stereotypical attitudes and behaviours as well as on any attitudes supporting tolerance towards violence and their modification and b) obtain all necessary information and skills needed in order to be able to identify and handle potential cases of abuse that might be revealed by students during or after the implementation of the “GEAR against IPV” Workshops.

The GEAR against IPV Projects I and II were carried out with the financial support of the DAPHNE III Programme of the European Union (Projects’ Grand Agreements No: JLS/2008/DAP3/AG/1258 & JUST/2013/DAP/AG/5408).

Main results:

Teachers’ Training Seminars. On the basis of the Austrian, German and Greek Booklet II, 9 seminars were organized, implemented and evaluated in Austria (3 Seminars in Vienna and Linz), Germany (5 Seminars in Brandenburg) and Greece (1 Seminar in Athens). The Seminars resulted in a total of 167 trained teachers and other school-related professionals and social work students (47 trained professionals in Greece, 51 in Austria, 69 in Germany). On the basis of the Greek, Cypriot, Croatian, Romanian and Spanish Booklet II, 11 Seminars are currently organized in the 5 countries that will result in a total of approximately 300 trained teachers and other school-related professionals as well as professionals working with high-risk children.

Students’ Workshops. In the context of the 1st GEAR against IPV project, trained teachers had successfully implemented 27 “GEAR against IPV” workshops with their students in Austria (11 workshops), Germany (3 workshops) and Greece (13 workshops), in which a total of 556 female and male students participated (249 in Austria, 55 in Germany, 252 in Greece). In the context of the GEAR against IPV-II project, trained teachers are expected to implement at least 50 “GEAR against IPV” workshops with their students in Greece, Cyprus, Croatia, Romania and Spain, in which a total of 1200 female and male students are expected to participate. In addition, 20 Workshops with groups of vulnerable or high-risk children/adolescents in Greece, Spain and Romania are currently conducted with the aim to pilot-test the applicability and effectiveness of the material and the intervention also in this subgroup of children/adolescents. All Workshops’ implementation is based on the process described in the respective National Booklets III (Teachers’ Manual) by use of the material included in National Booklets IV (Students’ Activities Book).

The “GEAR against IPV” is, if not the only one, among very few interventions which include short- and long-term effectiveness evaluation for both of its main activities, namely for the teachers’ training seminars and students’ awareness raising workshops.

On the basis of the first results, both activities found to be highly effective for both teachers and students in terms of increasing knowledge, modifying stereotypic attitudes towards less stereotypic and decreasing tolerance to IPV; in addition, on the basis of some especially interesting findings that emerged regarding differences between boys and girls at both the short- and long-term evaluations lead us to draw conclusions and recommendations with important practical implications for future IPV

primary prevention projects. Via the evaluation results of the GEAR against IPV-II project the replication of the applicability and the effectiveness of the GEAR against IPV intervention will be tested in 5 more EU-MS.

Notes:

- The GEAR against IPV-II project started on 1st October 2014 with a duration of 2 years [DAPHNE project JUST/2013/DAP/AG/5408]
- The “GEAR against IPV” approach has been selected as one of the 12 most successful practices in advocacy and policy dialogue to promote the role of women in society in the Call for “Good practices in advocacy and policy dialogue for the promotion of the role of women in society in the Euro-Mediterranean region” which the European Institute for the Mediterranean (IEMed) launched as part of the Project “Capacity-building in the Southern Mediterranean to Open Policy Dialogue and Monitoring for Women IN Society (CSO WINS)”.

Training

The General Secretariat for Gender Equality conducts training for psychologists, teachers, health sector professionals, the police and the judiciary, however these are small-scale trainings (with few beneficiaries), almost exclusively theoretical, and are done without cooperation with NGOs. Training of professionals is funded via European funds (with co-funding from the state).

Until 2015, training work conducted by EAVN was funded by the European Union, and at times conducted without funding.

HUNGARY

Basic Information

Population: 9, 877, 365

Female population: 5, 173, 974

Member of Council of Europe: yes, since 1990

Member of European Union: yes, since 2004

CEDAW ratified: yes, in 1980

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: yes, in 2000

Istanbul Convention – signed: no

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 41.6, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/hungary>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2013:

Violence against women

20. While welcoming the announcement of the State party that it would criminalize domestic violence in the Criminal Code, the Committee remains concerned about the lack of specific provisions related to other forms of violence, such as economic and psychological violence and stalking. The Committee notes the Act LXXII of 2009 on restraining orders related to violence between relatives and is concerned that such orders are not provided on a long-term basis and do not cover relationships between unmarried partners. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of information on the number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions in cases of violence against women, as well as about inefficiencies of the redress mechanism for victims of violence. The Committee is also concerned about the insufficient number of shelters specifically dedicated to women victims of violence. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of information on different types of violence against women with disabilities, Roma women and older women, as well as the absence of specific measures to prevent violence against them. While noting the new provisions on rape in the Criminal Code, the Committee remains concerned about the use of violence, threats and coercion, which continue to be elements of the statutory definition of rape rather than the lack of voluntary consent by the victim. The Committee is further concerned that rape cases are underreported due to inadequate health care providers support to women victims of rape and provision of medical and forensic examination.

21. In accordance with its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women and the recommendations contained in its previous concluding observations, the Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Adopt a law on domestic violence and criminalize different types of violence against women, including economic and psychological violence and stalking;

(b) Amend its legislation concerning restraining orders with a view to providing adequate protection to victims in all types of cohabitation and extend the duration of restraining orders;

(c) Provide mandatory training to the legal profession on the strict application of legal provisions dealing with violence against women and train police officers on standardized procedures to deal with women victims of violence;

(d) Provide adequate assistance and protection to women victims of violence and their children, by increasing the number and capacity of State-supported shelters, specifically those dedicated to women victims of violence, and adequate geographical distribution, as well as by strengthening cooperation with and funding to NGOs providing shelter, assistance, support and rehabilitation to victims;

(e) Encourage women to report acts of domestic and sexual violence, by de-stigmatizing victims and raising awareness of the criminal nature of such acts;

(f) Collect statistical data on all forms of violence against women disaggregated by sex and age and on the relationship between the victims and the perpetrators in cases of domestic and sexual violence against women;

(g) Amend its Criminal Code to ensure that rape is defined on the basis of the lack of voluntary consent of the victim;

(h) Ensure appropriate and easily accessible health-care services for women victims of rape combined with immediate medical and forensic examination to collect the evidence needed for prosecution of perpetrators; and (i) Ratify as soon as possible the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.⁶⁵ The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's shelters, centres, helplines, national women's networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning, and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is no national women's helpline.

Other helplines for victims

There is one helpline for DV, one for women (NaNE Helpline for Battered Women and Children: 06 80 505 101) and one for victims of sexual violence (number: +36 4 06 30 006), which is for both men and women. The last two are run by NANE and financed by international donors. There is also a National Crisis Information helpline, which is gender blind, and provides service for victims of family violence and of human trafficking. The 24 hour crisis helpline is completely funded by the government and represents a government service.

There is also a children's' helpline (Original name: Kék Vonal, number: 116 111; 116 000 - missing children hotline) run by an NGO. This is free of charge and available 24/7. A total number of 68, 018 calls were registered in 2014.

Women' Shelters

In Hungary there are no women's shelters per se. Nevertheless, Hungary currently has 14 regional shelters and one national secret shelter, with a capacity of approximately 140 beds. These shelters are gender blind, hence not just for women, however the victims of relationship violence are mostly women, 99,9 %. In order to be given a place these women do not need to have children. The government stresses all the time that these shelters are for everybody, even though they are not used by men at all, or very, very rarely. These shelters allow for a stay of 30-60 days. The staff working there is not specifically trained, it is not required of them to have gender-awareness or a human rights-based approach to the issue of domestic violence. Victim blaming attitudes can be present. There have been cases when a woman was abused by her husband in the shelter.

⁶⁵ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

There are 14 services contracted for providing the 30-60 days' crisis sheltering. These services are exclusively for victims of family violence who have to flee immediate violence. There has to be an inherent crisis. If the woman is "generally" a battered woman (i.e. she is regularly beaten, but right now, she does not believe herself to be in immediate danger, she is not eligible). The crisis places are only available through a national 24-hour helpline, which the victim personally has to call. The helpline decides whether she is eligible. As half of the helpline operators are male, this is already an obstacle for some traumatised victims, who are unable to speak with a man during a crisis. If they do not have small children with them, after the 30-60 days are over, usually they end up going back to the batterer, as this is a much too short time to fix any problems, or they may get a court decision on property. Mothers with smaller children (if places are available) are usually referred to the temporary family home system.

In order to access this, homelessness is needed, no violence. In the law, they are called *Families' temporary Homes* and are anchored in the Child Protection Law. According to this children and parents should not be separated because of economic reasons. The duration of stay is between 1 and 1 & 1/2 years. Men also stay there, the condition is that families must have young children. This service is run by NGOs. The crisis shelters provide services free of charge. The temporary family homes have different systems; most require some sort of small contributions.

These temporary family shelters were created for families that became homeless due to social reasons or catastrophes. These places are often used by battered women, some of these mostly accommodate battered women and their children, others less so. They are in no way shelters, but they represent a system that is used by battered mothers to be able to separate from the abuser.

There are also 2 shelters for victims of trafficking, male and female. These include migrant women, non-EU citizens, and undocumented migrants. The latter get to be redirected to the asylum services.

The total number of shelters is 17. There is also a shelter only for mothers and their children run by a faith-based organization. The women who live there must adapt to a religious life style and attend mass.

Most shelters are run by "other NGOs", which are specialised in providing housing to vulnerable groups. Some shelters are run by faith-based organizations. There are no accredited national standards for shelters. Shelters exist in all regions, most are in larger cities, at the edge of towns, which is not good for women, as they are not easily accessible. All shelters ensure 24/7 access.

When it comes to safety precautions for shelters, they usually have a secret address, or one, which is treated with discretion. Still, the fact that these places are available for both men and women is a security risk in itself. Shelters do not provide non-residential support. Shelters do apply age limits, for boys, this is up to 14 and for girls up to 18.

Domestic Violence Shelters and Other Shelters

Hungary has no domestic violence shelters per se, only crisis shelters, which are for violence within the family. Hungary has no public housing programmes and no temporary housing system.

Women's Centres

Hungary only has 1 rape crisis helpline. It is run by a women's NGO, i.e. NANE. It received approximately 150 calls in 2014, from both women and men. The helpline covers all provinces, but it is not free of charge. It is funded by foreign donors.

National Women's Network

There are two women's networks in Hungary, the Hungarian Women's Lobby⁶⁶ and the Coalition against Sexual Violence (KERET). The Hungarian Women's Lobby is not specifically addressing VAW, but this is one of their objectives nonetheless, and several of its members are organizations working in the field of VAW. The network has 22 member organizations, it is a legal entity, with a national office and 6 paid staff members. It receives no funding from the government. The network undertakes activities such as trainings; it carries out expert work and invites experts to carry out specific tasks. Generally speaking, it seeks to safeguard, reconcile, represents and enforce interests in any field in line with the network's objectives. Additionally, it also joins other organizations that work according to similar principles and strive to achieve similar objectives. Some of the members work on VAW, some prioritize young mothers and others women's freedom of birthing. One member organization focuses on women in science. All members take a human rights based approach, however not all identify as feminist organizations. The network is however an umbrella organization, with a human rights, gender-sensitive approach.

KERET is a network made up of mixed NGOs, however not all of them provide services and not all of them are women's NGOs. The network has 5 member organizations and is no legal entity. It has no office, nor paid staff, and it receives no funding from the government. Nevertheless, it undertakes awareness-raising activities; it releases publications and coordinates other activities. The Women's Rights Association (NANE), a member of this network, also runs a helpline for victims and survivors of sexual violence.

There are no plans currently to form a national network focusing exclusively on VAW. The budget of NGOs working in their field and the sustainability of their activities make it unlikely that there would be a need or any financial means available to form such a network in the future.

Lastly, there is also an informal network of NGOs, which receive mentoring, and supervision from NANE. This is also not a women's network, but rather a network of organizations, which work on VAW, some being exclusively dedicated to this issue.

Policy and Funding

Hungary has no national action plan (NAP) addressing the issue of VAW. This situation was also reflected in previous reports published by the Council of Europe (2014). According to a Human Rights Watch Report from 2013⁶⁷, there is no comprehensive national strategy or policy on how to combat domestic violence.

There was previously a NAP implemented by the government, which ended in 2010. It was a cabinet resolution, hence non-binding for new cabinets. That was on gender equality and VAW, experts from the Women's Lobby were involved in the drafting. Left wing parties, which are now in power, are very anti-feminist. At present, the government has made a commitment with regard to addressing this issue, under the form of a parliamentary resolution adopted this year on *Defining the national strategic goals regarding the effective treatment of violence in relationships*.⁶⁸

⁶⁶Original name: Női Érdekvégyesítő Szövetség

⁶⁷ *Unless Blood Flows*, Human Rights Watch 2013, p. 2, available at: <https://www.hrw.org/report/2013/11/06/unless-blood-flows/lack-protection-domestic-violence-hungary>

⁶⁸ Original title: H/5048. Számú országgyűlési határozati javaslat a kapcsolati erőszak elleni hatékony fellépést elősegítő nemzeti stratégiai célok meghatározásáról, available at (in Hungarian): <http://www.parlament.hu/irom40/05048/05048.pdf>

It is very narrow in scope (only tackles “violence in relationships”, meaning in effect all form of family violence), it is gender-blind, wants to limit government action to existing financial resources rather than allocating an appropriate budget that would be sufficient, does not refer to the issue of gender equality, or the criminal punishment of offenders. Furthermore, the resolution declares that all the tasks of a previous Parliamentary resolution on domestic violence (resolution 45/2003) has been completed, which – according to all women's NGOs working on VAW – is far from reality.

The Alternative Report submitted to the CEDAW Committee (elaborated by the Hungarian Women’s Lobby and European Roma Right Centre) includes a recommendation to “implement the “National Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality – Guidelines and Objectives 2010-2021” by elaborating and implementing its action plans (providing responsible actors, deadlines and adequate financial resources for the implementation).”

Only violence in relationships is mentioned in the aforementioned parliamentary resolution, which covers a large segment of sexual violence, but as it is not explicitly mentioned, there is a high chance that even within relationships, sexual violence will be ignored by government.

Economic violence is also included. Co-owned properties, material goods if they are damaged and the victim is severely affected by this outcome, it represents a crime but only the victim can report it. Emotional violence is also regarded as something private, the victim must report it. It covers any behavior severely affecting human dignity.

If the partners do not live together, very few issues are covered. The Law on DV in Relationships and a paragraph in the Criminal Code cover couples sharing the house (currently or previously and persons with whom a woman has a child/children), however they do not have to live together. It applies to former guardians or partners and spouses as well. There are four *modus operandi* for committing violence in the paragraph. There are two instances of violence in relationships. 1. Violence causing minimum injuries. 2. Violence is defined as something that happens regularly (more than twice). 3. Physical humiliation is also covered. 4. The victim must press charges.

Government documents often mention “cooperation with NGOs”, but they are never specific in this respect. Specialist women's NGOs are never mentioned. Traditionally, all governments preferred to cooperate with organizations, which have a gender-blind approach to violence in the family, sexual violence, and other forms of violence affecting women.

There is currently no government body coordinating policies and measures aimed at tackling VAW. When it comes to cooperation between the government and NGOs in the field of VAW, NGOs are only sporadically involved in consultations, but not as part of a regular system. There is also no national body entrusted with conducting monitoring and evaluation of government measures and initiatives aimed at tackling various forms of violence affecting women.

State funding for specialist NGOs working on VAW has always been extremely low. If at all such funding was available, it was typical to award this funding to non-specialized or gender-blind organizations or organizations with a strong victim-blaming or misogynistic attitude. Since 2010 any kind of state funding

for these NGOs has been zero, apart from the taxpayer-designated 1% of the personal income tax (which is not the result of a policy decision, although it comes from the government budget). Gender equality is not a priority for the government. The current government has undertaken efforts in the field of family violence; however, these do not prioritize women, but all members of the family.

No specific funds are allocated by the government to combat VAW on a national level. Government funding is for family violence, and only for government-based services (crisis helpline), or government-licensed services (crisis shelters). No women's NGOs are running shelters in Hungary. Shelters & housing institutions are gender blind; they are accredited and financed by the government. They are run by NGOs, faith-based organizations, social organizations. The financing is based on a quota system.

Hungarian law does allow for NGO funding, but women's NGOs are never mentioned. A lot of – especially municipal – services are outsourced to NGOs, which are often created for this purpose, hence they are not really grassroots NGOs, but rather service-NGOs.

The current government does not support women's NGOs working in the field of VAW; furthermore, it criticizes and sometimes discredits their work.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

Most women's helplines are engaged in prevention work (NANE). They run workshops with young people. They also run trainings for teachers. Currently, they are in the process of accrediting the programme for social workers. They go in schools to work with youth, they have pedagogical materials, and have also developed several training tools: one for children living with violent parents, and another one on violence in teenage relationships.

The government allocates no funding for prevention work. There are also no women's NGOs doing exclusively prevention work.

Training

Most women's helplines are active in the area of training of professionals. The target groups for their activities are police officers, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, health professionals, and social workers. They do not receive any funding from the government, but conduct their activities with financial support from private donations.

ICELAND

Basic Information

Population: 325,671

Female Population: 162,353

Member of Council of Europe: 1950

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1985

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2001

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2011); ratified: no

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/COUNTRY_REPORT_2012.pdf)

Gender Equality Index: 0.087, for further information see: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-globaldatabase.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/iceland>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2016:

Violence against women

19. The Committee notes with concern that the number of cases of violence against women is increasing. The Committee welcomes the cooperation between the police, social services, child, social and health services as well as the establishment of the new National Prosecution Authority in charge of sexual offence cases and of the Committee tasked to consider proposals on improvements in the handling of rape cases. The Committee also notes that the State party intends to amend the Penal Code to specifically criminalize domestic violence and to ratify and fully implement the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). The Committee further welcomes the new rules, procedures and assessment risk tool issued by the Reykjavik Metropolitan Police in March 2015 for cases of domestic violence. The Committee is however concerned about:

- (a) The high number of discontinuances in criminal proceedings for charges of violence against women, particular rape and sexual violence, by the State Prosecutor and the low number of convictions;
- (b) The lack of a legal analysis of the high number of acquittals in sexual violence cases;
- (c) The absence of a national action plan against sexual and domestic violence that would take into account the specific needs and vulnerabilities of migrant women and women with disabilities; and
- (d) The absence of legislation specifically criminalizing psychological violence and on-line harassment and stalking.

20. The Committee calls on the State party to:

- (a) Ratify the Istanbul Convention and incorporate it into national legislation to strengthen the legal protection of women from domestic and other forms of violence;
- (b) Step up its efforts to prosecute and convict perpetrators of rape and sexual violence against women and analyse and address the causes for the high number of acquittals in sexual violence cases;

(c) Adopt without delay a national plan against sexual and domestic violence that takes into account the specific needs and vulnerabilities of migrant women and women with disabilities and provide adequate human and financial support to expand to all police districts the Reykjavik Metropolitan Police intersectional approach to combat domestic violence; and

(d) Amend the Penal Code to specifically criminalize on-line harassment and psychological violence against women.

21. The Committee welcomes the signing of the agreement between the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing and the Women's Refuge in December 2014, providing for emergency shelter, and the recruitment of two psychologists providing assistance to women victims of violence. The Committee emphasises the need for shelters in addition to the system of enacted by the Exclusion Orders and Ejections Law No. 85/2011. The Committee nevertheless remains concerned that:

(a) There is only one women shelter located in Reykjavik, which is not easily accessible by women living outside of the capital and women with disabilities;

(b) The number of services, several of which have been established and are operated by non-governmental organisations, is insufficient and the service providers are inadequately funded to meet the needs of women victims of violence;

(c) There are only two hospitals in the country which provide specialised treatment and services for women victims of sexual violence; and

(d) There is very limited support for women victims of violence in rural areas, in particular with regard to access to health and psycho-social services.

22. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) In addition to the Exclusion Orders and Ejections Law No. 85/2011 ensure that a sufficient number of shelters with qualified personnel and adequate financial resources is available to women victims of violence, including migrant women, rural women and women with disabilities;

(b) Open rape crisis centres, walk-in centres and 24-hour free-of-charge helplines that provide assistance to women victims of violence, including migrant women and women with disabilities; and

(c) Ensure that medical and psychosocial services are available to women victims of violence in rural areas and that non-governmental organisations providing such services outside the capital receive adequate funding.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's shelters, centres, helplines, national women's networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning, and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is one national women's helpline in Iceland (00354 561 1205), which women who experience violence can always call. This helpline is run by the [Women's Shelter](#), is available 24/7 nation-wide, and women can receive counselling via the phone and the number for the women's shelter. They also have a free of charge phone number (800 1205).

Other national helplines for victims

The Red Cross runs a national helpline for women and men who suffer from various problems, including depression and anxiety. The Red Cross Helpline (1717) is a toll-free number open 24/7 for those who need immediate assistance due to grief, anxiety, fear, depression and/or suicidal thoughts. Red Cross also runs a general helpline (1717) for women and men who suffer from various problems, including depression and anxiety, available nationally. The Red Cross Helpline is a toll-free number open 24 hours a day for those who need assistance due to grief, anxiety, fear, depression and/or suicidal thoughts. Red Cross volunteers offer immediate emotional support to those who feel distressed or lonely, and when needed provide information on how to receive further assistance.

Women and men who experienced sexual violence can also call the [rape emergency service](#) at the [Landspítali hospital](#) available 24/7 if they need assistance. The rape emergency service is free of charge, and people can call the hospital and ask to get in to contact with the rape emergency service (543-1000).⁶⁹

Women's Shelters

There is one women's shelter dedicated only for women victims of violence and their children, called the Women's Shelter, located in Reykjavik. The shelter operates with a gender-specific/feminist approach. It also operates 24/7 (however in cases of emergency, women who live outside the capital area or in rural areas do not have the same access as women living in the capital area). The Women's Shelter operates free of charge (women who come to the shelter pay 1000 ISK per day, but they do not have to pay for their children, and if they cannot pay, they do not have to). The shelter also offers support and counselling for victims of rape. The Women's Shelter has 18 beds, but no woman is ever sent away due to lack of beds. There are no accredited national standards for women's shelters, although Stigamot suggested to the Minister of Welfare to establish minimum standards. It also provides non-residential support, including 24/7 telephone counselling through their national helpline.

There is direct access for women survivors to women's shelters in emergency, however this access also depends on some factors, such as geographical for women living outside the capital area (where the women's shelter is). Women who live outside of the capital area or in rural areas especially are further away from the shelter and therefore do not have the same access as women living in the capital area. 24/7 access in emergency situations also depends on health: they could be sent to a homeless shelter or the hospital, for instance, in cases of addiction.

Domestic violence and other shelters

Konukot is a homeless shelter for women, established as a joint project of the Red Cross in Reykjavik and Reykjavik City. Women who have substance abuse issues can stay at this shelter overnight if they have no other place to go.

Women's Centres

Kvennaráðgjöfin (The Women's Counselling Centre) serves as a legal and social work counselling centre for women.

⁶⁹People can also contact this service through email: neydarmottaka@landspitali.is

There are two small organisations in the rural areas of Iceland that offer counselling to rape victims: Aflið in Akureyri is a small organization with little funding and mainly run by volunteers. They offer individual counselling and groups for survivors of sexual violence. Sólstafr, located in Ísafjörður, is a small organization and offers the same services as Aflið. There are two sexual assault units located in hospitals (Reykjavik and Akureyri), run by the local government.

There is one rape crisis centre in Reykjavík called Stígamót, which opened in 1990 and is an education and counselling centre for survivors of sexual abuse and violence. It provides free counselling for survivors of rape, sexual molestation, sexual harassment, pornographic exploitation, and prostitution. Stigamot also has a helpline which operates during its opening hours (9-6 Monday to Friday), and the number is 562 6868 or 800 6868. Stigamot also provides floating/mobile support: it flies to other locations to offer services and counselling. They also recently hired a specialist in disability issues and a man to focus on this issue – he is working on incest. Furthermore, there are several self-help groups in Stigamot for: women prostitutes which helps women deal with consequences, develop feminist work, outreach, pressure authorities for legal improvement, policy development, and create priority lists.

Policy & Funding

The last National Action Plan was from 2006-2011, an action plan for domestic violence in homes and sexual violence. Three ministers have established a steering committee to have a country-wide cooperation on violence. Their first meeting was on 24 August 2015, and is intended to make a new plan of action. Additionally, there is informal cooperation with the government, in particular with the Ministry of Welfare and the Ministry of Interior, as they attend Stigamot's meetings in which Stigamot shares a list of priorities for each year, and they regularly invite members of Parliament and members of the City Council to discuss legislation, services, and other policies. Another focus of priority at the moment for Stigamot is to ratify the Istanbul Convention.

There is no law or regulation for funding of women's non-governmental organizations, however it is tradition in Iceland to receive annual co-funding (although this means that it is insecure funding for all).

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

Prevention Good Practice Examples:

Organisation carrying out the activity: Stigamot

Description of activities: Self-help groups, mobile support for women in rural or isolated areas

Counseling and self-help groups: A wide range of people come to Stígamót seeking support after being subjected to sexual violence, including individuals who are disabled individuals and who are of other nationalities. Relatives, spouses and friends of the survivors can also receive counseling. In total, 617 people attended counseling in 2014, with 280 of those individuals receiving counseling for the first time. After being in counselling, individuals have the opportunity to take part in self-help groups. Self-help groups have been the cornerstone of Stígamót from the very beginning, and they are closed groups with 4-6 participants, led by staff of Stígamót or by a trained group leader. The purpose of these self-help groups are similar to counselling, with the main goal being to deal with the consequences of sexual assault. Stígamót also runs a self-help group for women who want to leave prostitution, or who wish to deal with the consequences of prostitution and sexual abuse.

Furthermore, Stígamót also runs special groups which aim at strengthening self-esteem and increasing the well-being of individuals and groups – these groups are specifically designed for young girls. In 2014,

12 self-help groups took place in Stígamót. Over the last 25 years there have been more than 200 self-help groups. The aims of the self-help group are (like the aims of individual counselling) to strengthen the individuals to help themselves. It can be empowering to meet other people who have had similar experiences and are dealing with similar things - they often get strength from each other. In group work people often find the greatest growth. Members learn valuable life skills that they say enrich their lives. We see it in our work that after receiving counselling or going through self-help groups, people often feel much better, have more self-worth, and experience less anxiety and depression.

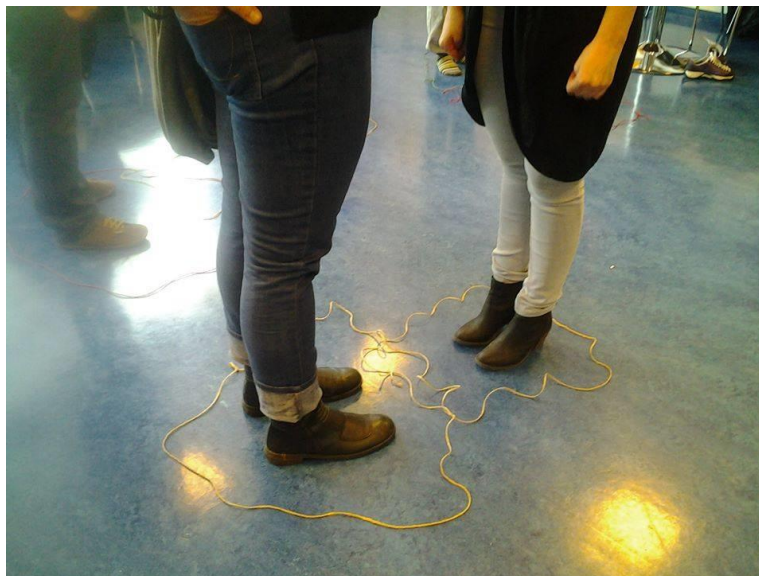


Counselling through phone, internet and in rural areas: Many of the services Stígamót provides are conducted through email, which is the primary form of contact for individuals. Stígamót also offers counselling through the internet, and people can go to Stígamót's website in order to get in contact with a counsellor and have a confidential conversation. People can also receive counselling via the phone if they live outside of the capital area. In 2014 Stígamót offered, their counselling and self-help groups in the rural areas of Iceland. The staff of Stígamót flew to the east and west coast of Iceland once every other week. This mobile support is crucial, since the communities are often small and everyone tends to know each other – having an 'outsider' come in makes it easier for women to share their experiences.

Training of group leader: Those who lead the self-help group at Stígamót are both staff at Stígamót and individuals that have sought counselling and have also gone through self-help groups themselves. They have also received training and gone through one group as an assistant group leader. If the staff of Stígamót consider them ready to lead a group themselves, they can then do so. Annually, we hold seminar for individuals who want to lead a self-help group at Stígamót. In this seminar, potential group leaders are trained.



Political work: At Stígamót we try to keep the debate about sexual violence open and try to influence law and regulation concerning sexual violence. We regularly invite the government officials and police to visit Stigamot, where we express our wishes for national action plans, including legislation, services, and other policies. In 2014, we invited the minister of Interior and minister of welfare to Stígamót where we expressed our wishes. We also invited people from the congress and city council of Reykjavík to Stígamót where we also expressed our wishes.



In 2014, Stígamót provided its annual recognition for outstanding contributions to the fight against sexual violence:



In 2014, Stígamót had numerous presentations on sexual violence and educated professionals, interest groups, individuals, and the government about sexual violence.



Nordiskt Forum in Malmö 2014 was geared towards representatives of the women's movement, activists, organizations, groups, political parties, the private sector, authorities, the general public, and other stakeholders, primarily in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland. The conference is characterized by each participant's involvement and active contribution with discussions on, for example, violence against women and girls. Stígamót took part in the Nordisk forum (12-15 juni 2014) in Malmö.



Sexual violence and disabled people: At Stígamót, it is well known that disabled people and specially disabled women are at particular risk of being sexually assaulted. Therefore, Stígamót wanted to improve their services for disabled people and in the year 2014, hired a new employee who is a specialist in disabilities. This employee has educated professionals, interests groups, and individuals about disabled people and sexual violence.



Sexual violence and men: In 2014, Stígamót hired a male employee (a specialist in gender studies) to work at Stígamót for the first time. Stígamót wanted to make their service more visible for male survivors of sexual violence, and to also focus on the role and responsibility of men in the fight against sexual violence. This employee has educated professionals, interests groups, and individuals about men and sexual violence.



IRELAND

Basic Information

Population: 4,605,501

Female Population: 2,327,276

Member of Council of Europe: 1949

Member of European Union: Yes

CEDAW ratified: 1985

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2000

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2015); ratified: no

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 56.5, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/ireland>

CEDAW Concluding Comments⁷⁰ 2013:

Violence against women

34. The Committee commends the State party for launching the “Call to end violence against women and girls” in 2010. It notes that the State party intends to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) and to criminalize forced marriage. It is concerned, however, at continued reports of violence against women, including domestic violence, affecting in particular black and ethnic minority women, and the so-called “honour killings” of ethnic minority women. The Committee is also concerned at reports of negative attitudes on the part of the police towards women who are victims of domestic violence. The Committee further recalls its previous concluding observations (ibid., paras. 280 and 281) and is concerned that corporal punishment remains lawful in the home.

35. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19, on violence against women, and its previous recommendation, the Committee urges the State party:

(a) To ratify the Istanbul Convention and criminalize forced marriage;

(b) To increase its efforts to protect women, including black and ethnic minority women, against all forms of violence, including domestic violence, and so-called “honour killings”;

(c) To continue public campaigns to raise awareness of all forms of violence against women, including black and ethnic minority women;

(d) To step up efforts to train police officers in order to eliminate prejudices concerning the credibility of victims of domestic violence;

⁷⁰ Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(e) To revise its legislation to prohibit corporal punishment of children in the home.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview, as needed. The country profile includes information on women's helplines, women's shelters, women's centres, national women's networks and policy and funding. It was not possible to gather any data on prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is a national women's helpline in Ireland, run by the NGO Women's Aid. The number of the helpline is 1800 341 900 and it has operated since 1974. The helpline is free of charge, but does not operate 24/7. The helpline operates from 10:00-22:00 daily.⁷¹ According to the Women's Aid Impact Report, in 2014, there were 11,167 contacts made with the national helpline.⁷² The helpline provides multilingual support.⁷³

In addition to private donations and volunteer work, the helpline receives government funding.⁷⁴

Additionally, there are individual helplines run by the 16 rape crisis centers, however, only one of the helplines is 24/7 (run by the Dublin Rape Crisis Center).

Other helplines for victims

There is a national helpline for children called Childline Online, where children needing support can dial (1800 66 66 66), send a text message (50101), or talk on the internet. The helpline is operated by the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC).

Another children's helpline is run by CARI (Children At Risk In Ireland). The helpline is named Lo Call 1890 92 4567. CARI is the leading voluntary organisation with a proven track record in providing child-centred specialised therapy and support to children, families and groups affected by child sexual abuse.

Women's Shelters

⁷¹ Women against Violence Europe (WAVE). (2015). WAVE Report 2014 – Specialized Women's Support Services and New Tools for Combating Gender-Based Violence in Europe. Pg. 63.

⁷² Women's Aid. (2014). Women's Aid Impact Report. Pg. 17.

⁷³ Women against Violence Europe (WAVE). (2015). WAVE Report 2014 – Specialized Women's Support Services and New Tools for Combating Gender-Based Violence in Europe. Pg. 25.

⁷⁴ Women's Aid. (2014). Women's Aid Impact Report. Pg. 38-39.

There are a total of 21 women's shelters in Ireland with 141 family places/units available.⁷⁵ Most of the shelters are run by women's organizations with a gender-specific/feminist approach. Women's shelters are present in most regions of the country.⁷⁶ Furthermore, most of the shelters are accessible 24/7.⁷⁷ While the shelters provide services free of charge,⁷⁸ due to recent funding cuts, the shelters find it more difficult to gather resources to support women with no recourse to public funds, as their shelter stay is not funded by the government.⁷⁹ Women and their children can stay for a period longer than six months.

All of the shelters are equipped with security precautions such as video monitoring or an alarm system. The shelters also provide non-residential services such as counselling to women survivors of violence.⁸⁰

There are some restrictions on age of children accommodated with their mothers. For example, at least two shelters do not accept boys over the age of 16.⁸¹ The shelters mostly support women survivors of domestic violence, but also provide some limited support to women survivors of trafficking. All shelters offer services to women from the Traveller Community and migrant women, as well as women with disabilities.⁸²

The state provides majority of the funding of women's shelters.⁸³

Women's Centres

There are various women's centers in Ireland. For example, women's shelters provide non-residential services to women survivors of violence. There are at least 23 counseling centers, some of which are run by women's shelters. Most of the centers provide information and advice, advocacy, legal advice, court accompaniment, outreach and resettlement support, among others.⁸⁴

In addition, there are 16 rape crisis and specialist sexual violence centers in Ireland and six acute multidisciplinary response Sexual Assault Treatment Units. The centers support women and men survivors of sexual violence.

Women's Networks

⁷⁵ Women against Violence Europe (WAVE). (2015). WAVE Report 2014 – Specialized Women's Support Services and New Tools for Combating Gender-Based Violence in Europe. Pg. 63.

⁷⁶ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). (2012). Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU Member States: Violence against Women – Victim Support. Pg. 120.

⁷⁷ Hagemann-White, Carol. (2014). Analytical study of the results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation of recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states. Pg. 67.

⁷⁸ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). (2012). Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU Member States: Violence against Women – Victim Support. Pg. 120.

⁷⁹ Women against Violence Europe (WAVE). (2014). Country Report 2013 – Reality Check on European Services for Women and Children Survivors of Violence: A Right for Protection and Support. Pg. 113.

⁸⁰ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). (2012). Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU Member States: Violence against Women – Victim Support. Pg. 115, 120.

⁸¹ Women against Violence Europe (WAVE). (2014). Country Report 2013 – Reality Check on European Services for Women and Children Survivors of Violence: A Right for Protection and Support. Pg. 113.

⁸² Women against Violence Europe (WAVE). (2014). Country Report 2013 – Reality Check on European Services for Women and Children Survivors of Violence: A Right for Protection and Support. Pg. 113.

⁸³ Women against Violence Europe (WAVE). (2014). Country Report 2013 – Reality Check on European Services for Women and Children Survivors of Violence: A Right for Protection and Support. Pg. 113.

⁸⁴ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). (2012). Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU Member States: Violence against Women – Victim Support. Pg. 116.

There are two networks of women's organizations in Ireland called Rape Crisis Network Ireland and Safe Ireland.

Rape Crisis Network Ireland composes of women's centres working in the area of services for survivors and prevention and combating of rape and sexual violence. Among service provision, the network's activities include supporting standards and compliance in services, data collection, research, representation, prevention of violence against women and work in the area of access to justice. The network composes of 11 member organizations. It has a national office but statutory core funding was removed in March 2015 and has been downsized and core work is under threat.

Safe Ireland composes of women's organization working in the area of combating domestic violence, including service provision for survivors of domestic violence. Activities include research, advocacy and dissemination of information, among others. The network has 24 member organizations.

Policy & Funding

There is currently no national action plan in Ireland. The previous plan was established for the period of 2010-2014, addressing domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. The forms of violence covered under the action plan were rape and sexual assault, violence within the family or domestic violence, sexual harassment, female genital mutilation, violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, and violence in institutional environments.⁸⁵ A new national strategy has been promised to be developed by the end of 2015.

According to government reporting to UNECE on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action +20, the national action plan addressed service provision, more specifically to promote quality and to improve effectiveness. According to Council of Europe monitoring report, both a coordinating body and an institution entrusted with monitoring and evaluation of the plan were in place.⁸⁶

The plan was reviewed by method of consultation, where the National Office for Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence disseminated a questionnaire to nearly 100 organizations and individuals, seeking feedback and input into the implementation of the 2010-2014 plan, as well as suggestions for a new action plan.⁸⁷ Women's organizations were also involved in the consultation, however, as the national office under which the steering committee is located is not specialized in violence against women, the consultation process and measurement of outcomes and impacts is often inadequate.

According to the Council of Europe monitoring report, an estimated EUR 18.5 million were allocated as funding to women's NGOs to cover costs of operation.⁸⁸ However, this funding has not been ring-fenced as responsibility moved from the health service executive to the new agency, the Child and Family Agency. The Agency has indicated publicly that its priority is child protection and that women's services will be cut to meet shortfalls.⁸⁹ Services' autonomy and independence both in terms of meeting

⁸⁵ Hagemann-White, Carol. (2014). Analytical study of the results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation of recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states. Pg. 52-58.

⁸⁶ Hagemann-White, Carol. (2014). Analytical study of the results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation of recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states. Pg. 59.

⁸⁷ www.cosc.ie/en/COSC/Pages/WP14000015

⁸⁸ Hagemann-White, Carol. (2014). Analytical study of the results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation of recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states. Pg. 60.

⁸⁹ www.rte.ie/news/2015/1004/732306-children

survivors' need for safety and in advocating for change are severely under threat by new funding relationships and contracts. At the same time as they are increasing controls over frontline services, the government is ceasing taking responsibility for funding advocacy at a national policy level.

In order to address violence against women, the government has established different bodies, which function under the Department of Justice and Equality, including the National Office for Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, in charge of coordinating activities. Another example includes the National Steering Committee on Violence against Women, which includes organizations working in the field, including Safe Ireland, Women's Aid Ireland and the Rape Crisis Network Ireland. The Committee serves in advisory capacity for the National Office for Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.⁹⁰ These types of establishments could also count as government's efforts to recognize, encourage and support women's NGOs. Cooperation among the NGOs and state can be difficult due to lack of specialization within the statutory sector, which makes the input of NGOs crucial. Furthermore, the national office does not fund policy level advocacy work and neither does the agency responsible for funding services. Both are tasked with prevention but neither have the appropriate resourcing.

ITALY

Basic Information

Population: 60,782,668

Female Population: 31,298,104

Member of Council of Europe: 1949

Member of European Union: 1957

CEDAW ratified: 1985

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2000

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2012); ratified: yes (2013)

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 41.1, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/italy>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2011:

Violence against women

26. The Committee welcomes the adoption of Act No. 11/2009, which introduced a crime of stalking and mandatory detention for perpetrators of acts of sexual violence, the national action plan to combat violence against women and stalking and the first comprehensive research on physical, sexual and

⁹⁰ www.cosc.ie/en/COSC/Pages/WP08000082

psychological violence against women, developed by the National Statistics Institute. However, it remains concerned about the high prevalence of violence against women and girls and the persistence of sociocultural attitudes condoning domestic violence, as well as by the lack of data on violence against immigrant, Roma and Sinti women and girls. The Committee is further concerned about the high number of women murdered by their partner or ex-partner (femicide), which may indicate a failure of the State party's authorities to adequately protect the women victims from their partners or ex-partners.

27. In accordance with its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women and the views adopted by the Committee under the Optional Protocol procedures, the Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Put emphasis on comprehensive measures to address violence against women in the family and in society, including through addressing the specific needs of women made vulnerable by particular circumstances, such as Roma and Sinti, migrant and older women and women with disabilities;
- (b) Ensure that female victims of violence have immediate protection, including expulsion of the perpetrator from the home, a guarantee that they can stay in secure and well-funded shelters, in all parts of the country, and that they have access to free legal aid, psychosocial counselling and adequate redress, including compensation;
- (c) Ensure that public officials, especially law enforcement officials and professionals in the judiciary, health care, social work and education are systematically and fully sensitized to all forms of violence against women and girls;
- (d) Enhance the system of appropriate data collection on all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, protection measures, prosecutions and sentences imposed on perpetrators, and conduct appropriate surveys to assess the prevalence of violence experienced by women belonging to disadvantaged groups, such as Roma and Sinti, migrant and older women and women with disabilities;
- (e) Further pursue, in collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders, including women's and other civil society organizations, awareness-raising campaigns through the media and public education programmes to make violence against women socially unacceptable, and disseminate information on available measures to prevent acts of violence against women among the general public;
- (f) Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, in a timely manner

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.⁹¹ The research methodology involved an

⁹¹ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines, shelters, centres, networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is one national women's helpline in Italy, addressing all forms of violence against women. The helpline is called [Antiviolenza Donna](#) (Anti-violence Women) (1522). Operating 24/7 and free of charge, it was opened in 2006 and is run by the women's NGO [Telefono Rosa](#). The management of the helpline is opened to public tender by the Ministry of Equal Opportunity every three years; in 2013, Telefono Rosa took over running the helpline from the network "Arianna", funded by the women's NGO [Le Onde di Palermo](#). Fully funded by the state, the helpline provides multi-lingual support.

In 2014, the national women's helpline received 41,897 calls, including 90% (or about 37,700 calls) from women.

Other helplines for victims

There are several additional national helplines for victims of crime in Italy. The general victims' helpline (113) connects callers to the Italian police. The national trafficking helpline 'Green Line' (800 290 290) exists since 2000; operating 24/7 and free of charge, it is run by the state. [Telefono Azzuro](#) runs several Children's helplines, including a free helpline for children (1 96 96), a helpline for teens and adults (199 15 15 15) and the Childhood Emergency Hotline (114). In addition, domestic violence helplines are available in several cities Italy, reachable through the number (140); free of charge, but not available 24/7, ten of these helplines are run by the state and 130 others are run by NGOs. In 2014, these domestic violence helplines received about 15,000 calls.

Women's Shelters

There are 66 women's shelters in Italy, with at least 627 shelter places available at 45 shelters. Six shelters are run by municipalities/local authorities, and the remaining shelters are run by independent women's organisations, and one is run by a faith-based organisation (Caritas Milano). At least 22 shelters provide 24/7 access and 30 run a 24/7 information and support helpline. Women may stay at shelters between three and six months. Most shelters provide direct access, however in recent years an increasing number of shelters have had to establish conditions for access – residence in the area/district/region, access through social service referral only, access for women with children only, among others – imposed by public institutions providing funding. All shelters are free of charge, however many NGO-run shelters would only be able to accept women if a governmental agency agrees to cover her hospitality costs; women with a certain level of income are often asked to cover part of their daily costs to the shelters. Over the last three years, three women's shelters had to close due to lack of funding; the last women's shelter was opened in 2014 by the NGO Demetra in the city of Lugo di Romagna.

In 2014, 681 women and 721 children were accommodated at 45 women's shelters that are part of the national network [*Associazione Nazionale Donne in Rete contro la violenza - D.i.R.e.*](#)

In addition, there are three shelters for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women, migrant and asylum seeking women in the cities of Reggio Emilia, Imola and Modena, one shelter for girls and young women victims of forced marriage, and 12 shelters for victims of trafficking.

Women's Centres

There are 140 women's centres providing non-residential support to women survivors of any kind of violence in Italy; 113 of these centres are run by NGOs, 19 are run by the state, and 8 are run by faith-based organisations. While the exact number of such services is not known, there are several women's centres for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women, as well as centres for women victims of trafficking. All the women's centres provide information and advice, counselling, advocacy and practical support with access to social rights (i.e. housing, income, health care) and legal advice. Some only provide specialist support for children and family support, and cooperate with programmes for perpetrators of violence against women.

Women's Networks

There is one national women's network in Italy, called [*Associazione Nazionale Donne in Rete contro la violenza - D.i.R.e.*](#) The network includes 73 members, all women's organisations running women's shelters and anti-violence centres in Italy. Formed in 2008 and based in Rome, the network conduct activities in the areas of public awareness, lobbying and advocacy, training, research and networking. In 2014, the network received EUR 66,747 in funding from various private donors and foundations for specific projects, and EUR 20,000 in membership fees.

Policy & Funding

The *Extraordinary Action Plan against gender and sexual violence in accordance with art.5 par. 1 Law Decree 14 August 2013 n.93 converted with amendments into Law 15 October 2013 n.119* (Piano di Azione Straordinario contro la violenza sessuale e di genere ai sensi dell'art 5 comma 1 D.L. 14 Agosto 2013 n. 93 convertito con modifiche nella legge del 15 Ottobre 2013 n 119) was launched in 2015 and covers a three-year period. The Plan addresses rape and sexual assault only marginally, and it does not provide for adequate financing of existing services or to create new services in the many regions where these are inexistent. While forced and early marriage is mentioned in the Plan, no particular measures are included. Conceived as an extraordinary measure provided for in a law decree addressing other subjects, the Plan generally fails to address the structural characteristics of violence against women and gender-based violence. Measures and interventions included in the Plan do not consider women's shelters and anti-violence centres as key actors in providing specialist support to survivors of violence, with a gender perspective.

The Department for Equal Opportunities – Presidency of the Council of Ministers – acts as coordinating body for the implementation of policies on VAW. This body has in practice little effectiveness, largely due to the failure of the President of the Council of Ministers to appoint a Minister with decision-making

power. There is currently no national monitoring body entrusted with the evaluation of national strategies on VAW in Italy, and women's organisations are rarely invited to conduct such evaluation. Nonetheless, in 2014, a coalition of Italian women's NGOs (among which D.i.R.e.) submitted a Shadow Report on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action covering 2009-2014, and including review of national strategies on VAW.

In 2014, funding for governmental activities to combat VAW equalled EUR 7 million, while very little funding was provided for NGOs activities through local regional governments; detailed information on funding for NGOs activities is not available, due to the budget being decentralized. State funding for women's organisations providing support is exclusively project-based.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

The national women's network, along with most of the women's shelters and centres, and the national women's helpline conduct activities in the field of prevention, awareness-raising and campaigning; besides the national women's helpline (1522), none of them received funding to carry out these activities in 2014.

Training

Most of the women's shelters and centres conduct trainings with a number of target groups: police, judiciary, civil servants, health professionals, psychologists, social workers, education professionals, media, and others.

KOSOVO

Basic Information

Population: 1,794,180

Female Population: 889,913

Member of Council of Europe: No

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: not signed

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: N/a

Istanbul Convention – signed: No

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (http://fileservers.wave-network.org/researchreports/COUNTRY_REPORT_2012.pdf)

Gender Equality Index: N/a

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: [N/a](#)

[Introduction](#)

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://fileserver.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's networks, shelters, centres, helplines, national women's networks, and policy and funding.

Women's Helplines

Women's national helplines

There are two national women's helplines in Kosovo called the Direct Line for Victims of Violence (080011112) and SOS Linja (+381390330098). The Direct Line exists since 2013 and SOS Linja, since 2012. Both of the helplines operate 24/7 and are free of charge. Multilingual support is provided in Albanian and Serbian.

The Direct Line for Victims of Violence is funded by the state, while the SOS Linja is funded by foreign donations.

Other helplines for victims

There is no information on additional helplines available for victims.

Women's Shelters

There are a total of seven women's shelters in all regions of the country. The shelters accept women and their children. There is an additional shelter for children survivors of violence (girls and boys aged up to 18). The shelter also serves as accommodation for boys, who are past the age limit allowance (usually 12 years) and cannot be accommodated with their mothers in the women's shelters. All eight of the shelters are run by women's NGOs with a gender-specific/feminist approach. In the seven women's shelters, the total number of shelter beds is 140. In 2014, the shelters accommodated 315 women and 197 children. The shelters operate based on general and specific nationally accredited standards developed by women's NGOs and approved by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. All of the shelters provide 24/7 access. All shelter services are provided to women free of charge. For women, who stay at the shelters with their children, there are no age limits for girls, but the most common age limit for boys is 12 years of age. There are no access limits for any groups of women in the shelters, all women survivors of violence are accepted, and individualized support is provided depending on need and situation.

Women's Centres

There are a total of 10 women's centres in Kosovo, eight of which are run by the women's shelters. Only one of the centres is run by the state and the centres are available in all regions of Kosovo. Most of the centres provide multilingual support. All centres also provide information and advice, counselling, practical support, specialist support for children, legal advice, legal representation, court accompaniment, healthcare support, multiagency/referral, and also cooperate with services working with perpetrators of violence.

National Women's Networks

There is a network composing of 93 women's organizations called Kosova Women's Network⁹². The network's strategic plan includes the following programs: building capacity of the Kosova Women's Network, women in politics and decision-making, women's health, domestic violence and trafficking, and women's economic empowerment.

Another network in Kosovo is the Kosovo Shelter Coalition composed of eight organizations. The network is a legal entity does not have its own national office, instead every three years, a chairperson from one of the eight shelters is chosen to lead the network. The chairperson works in voluntary capacity. In total, the network composes of 56 staff members (in all eight shelters). The network does not receive separate funding from the national government for administrative costs, instead the total amount received for running services in 2014 was an estimated EUR 240,000.

Policy & Funding

There is no current national action plan in Kosovo. The previous plan was titled Kosovo Program against Domestic Violence – Action Plan (2011-2014). The plan addressed domestic violence and marginally other forms of violence against women, including: rape and sexual assault and failure to respect freedom of choice with regard to reproduction.

The coordinating body for the implementation of the national action plan was the National Coordinator against Domestic Violence under the Deputy Minister of Justice. Women's NGOs have been involved in the work of the coordinating body, including the Kosova Women's Network and the Women's Shelter Coalition. There is no national body/institution entrusted with the evaluation and monitoring of the national action plan whose outcomes have not been met.⁹³

National legislation in Kosovo does not specify state level funding for women's NGO service provision. The legislation stipulates victims' right to support services, but this is open to include various institutions. Funding for women's support services is not mandated in law. Currently, the funding available for women's support services includes 2-3 years core funding. State representatives are said to express the view that sustainability of women's shelters is not the responsibility of the state. The total amount of state funding received by women's shelters in Kosovo in 2014 was an estimated EUR 240,000 based on all eight shelters receiving EUR 2,500 per month in 2014.

LATVIA

Basic Information

Population: 2,001,468

Female Population: 1,084,423

Member of Council of Europe: 1995

Member of European Union: 2004

⁹² www.womensnetwork.org/?FaqID=34

⁹³ An evaluation is publicly available under http://www.md-ks.net/repository/docs/EVALUATION_REPORT_OF_THE_KOSOVO_PROGRAM_AGAINST_DOMESTIC_VIOLENCE_AND_ACTION_PLAN_2011-2014.pdf

CEDAW ratified: 1992

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: No

Istanbul Convention – signed: No

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 46.9, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/latvia>

CEDAW concluding comments 2004:

Violence against women

55. The Committee regrets the lack of sufficient data and information with regard to the prevalence of violence against women, including domestic violence, and the lack of comprehensive legislation on violence against women. It is concerned that this may indicate that violence against women, particularly domestic violence, continues to be considered a private matter between the perpetrator and the victim. The Committee is concerned that marital rape is not a separate offence in the criminal code and that there are no available data on this form of domestic violence.

56. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen its system of data collection disaggregated by sex and information on the nature and scope of violence against women, including within the family, and to include this information in its next periodic report. In the light of its general recommendation 19, the Committee urges the State party to place high priority on comprehensive measures to address violence against women in the family and in society, and to recognize that such violence, including domestic violence, constitutes a violation of the human rights of women under the Convention. The Committee calls upon the State party to adopt legislation on domestic violence and to ensure that violence against women is prosecuted and punished. Women victims of violence should have immediate means of redress and protection, including protection or restraining orders and access to legal aid. The Committee recommends that measures be taken to provide sufficient numbers of shelters for women victims of violence and to ensure that public officials, especially law enforcement officials, the judiciary, health-care providers and social workers, are fully sensitized to all forms of violence against women and can adequately respond to them. The Committee urges the State party to criminalize marital rape as a separate offence, prosecute offenders and provide data on this form of domestic violence in its next periodic report.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview, as needed. The country profile includes information on women's helplines, women's shelters, women's centres, national women's networks and policy and funding. It was not possible to gather any data on prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is no national women's helpline in Latvia – crisis centres do not have individual helplines, but if women call a centre, in most cases she will get support, information and advice (most likely it will depend on the women working in this particular centre).

Other national helplines for victims

There is one children's helpline called Bērnu uzticības tālrunis /Children Trust Helpline (116111). It is 24/7 and free of charge, and run by the State (State Inspectorate for Child's Rights Protection).

There are two crisis helplines. Both operate 24/7 and are free of charge. The first is called Krīzes tālrunis/Crisis Helpline (67222922/27722292). It is run by the NGO Skalbes. The second is called Uzticības tālrunis cilvēku tirdzniecības mazināšanai – this is specifically for trafficking victims (28612120). It operates 24/7, is free of charge, and is run by the NGO "Patvērums "Drošā māja"/"Shelter" "Safe Home".

Women's Shelters

There are no women's shelters specifically according to the definition, as the shelters which exist are family crisis centres (23 of them) and take in men victims of violence and their children in emergency if social services demands.

Family crisis centres/women's shelters have 1084 beds (count is for all beds for both women and children) in the 23 shelters⁹⁴. They exist in most regions of the country, and some provide 24/7 access. Some of the shelters allow for immediate and direct access in emergency situations – these 3 shelters are run by faith-based organizations and Red Cross.

Two of the women's shelters are run by faith-based organizations, and some shelters are run by 'other' NGOs, such as Zantes ģimenes krīzes centrs, Talsu krīžu centrs. Part of the shelters are operated by municipalities as well as NGOs, however there is no information publically available on how many of them are municipal agencies, and how many are NGOs receiving municipal funding through public bids for service-providing.

Domestic violence shelters and other shelters

There are shelters for homeless persons run by municipalities (there is no data about how many exactly are there, and how many places are in these shelters for homeless).

It is possible for women and their children to find housing after staying in a shelter, but only if a women rents housing by herself, and it also depends on her financial ability to do it. In some cases, women can ask social services for accommodation in social apartment blocks, but usually they have to wait a long time in a queue, which is unsuitable in their situation.

Women's Centres

There are approximately 20 women's centres in Latvia run by non-governmental organizations and municipalities, and are located in the major cities; one of these is a centre for victims of trafficking,

⁹⁴ Data from Annual Report

called "Patvērums "Drošā māja""/ Shelter "Safe Home which is run by a non-governmental organization and in the capital city. Centre Marta is another centre, which focuses on projects dealing with combating trafficking in women, and offers a helpline as well as social integration programmes for low-income women. There are no specialized centres for survivors of sexual violence. [Skalbes](#) is a counselling centre, which aims at providing confidential assistance to individuals at risk requiring emotional support, information, and advice, as well as provision of assistance to victims of violence.

There is one children and youth welfare office located in Riga and 4 regional inspector offices in Rēzekne, Daugavpils, Valmiera and Liepāja, all run by the State as general services, and located in all provinces.

There are also 114 social services which are responsible for supporting women victims of violence and their children (located in all provinces and run by the municipalities), and 101 custody courts for women with children. These services are all run by the municipalities and available in all provinces.

Policy & Funding

There is a national action plan called "Ģimenes valsts politikas pamatnostādnes (2011-2017) gadam" / ["Guidelines for State Family Policy"](#). Only part of this time has measures to combat domestic violence; failure to respect freedom of choice with regard to reproduction is also in the plan. Latvia has not signed the Istanbul Convention, but it is included in the action plan for the timeframe 2015-2017. Policies and measures about specialist women support services are not integrated in the action plan. There is a governmental coordinating body (Committee for Gender Equality) run by the Ministry of Welfare. Women's NGO, such as Marta and Talsi Crisis Centre, are members of the coordinating body, and the committee has a consulting and monitoring role

The last evaluation report is: ["Guidelines for State Family Policy 2011-2017 Realization and Evaluating Report"](#) (2015), Riga.

LIECHTENSTEIN

Basic Information

Population: 37,129

Female population: 18,729

Member of Council of Europe: 1978

Member of European Union: no

CEDAW ratified: 1995

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2001

Istanbul Convention – signed: No

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/COUNTRY_REPORT_2012.pdf)

Gender Equality Index: n/a

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/liechtenstein>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2011:

Violence against women

20. While noting that the current revision of the State party's sexual criminal law envisages the introduction of ex officio prosecution for offences such as dangerous threats against close relatives, stalking, rape or sexual assault in marital or domestic partnerships, the Committee is concerned that not all offences occurring in the context of domestic, sexual and other forms of gender-based violence are covered by those plans.

21. In accordance with its general recommendation No. 19(1992) on violence against women, the Committee recommends that the State party consider introducing ex officio prosecution for all acts of domestic, sexual and other forms of gender-based violence deliberately depriving victims of protection from, or exposing them to, such violence. It further recommends that the State party train judges, prosecutors and the police on the strict application of relevant criminal law provisions, strengthen the support and assistance available to victims of domestic and sexual violence, and expedite its efforts to adopt the National Action Plan on Violence against Women drafted in 2008.

22. The Committee notes with concern that women from other countries who are victims of domestic violence and who have been married to a Liechtenstein national for less than five years may have their residence permit revoked upon dissolution of the marriage, if they are unable to prove their victim status or other significant personal grounds.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that women from other countries who are alleged victims of spousal violence have access to legal aid and protection so as to enable them to prove their victims status in order to retain their residence permit upon dissolution of their marriage.

24. The Committee is concerned about reports that the State party regularly fails to identify victims of sexual or other forms of gender-based violence during the asylum procedure because asylum claims are routinely rejected on formal grounds or for lack of credibility of an applicant's description of her travel route.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Apply a standard procedure for identifying victims of sexual or gender-based violence when considering the admissibility of asylum applications on formal grounds or the return of applicants;

(b) Ensure that international protection needs are determined comprehensively, including by recognizing refugee claims on the basis of sexual or gender-based violence and by taking into account the factual situation of asylum-seeking women and girls in their countries of origin;

(c) Ensure a gender-sensitive approach throughout the refugee status determination procedure by providing special rights such as counselling services for female asylum-seekers, in line with article 23, paragraph 6, of the State party's Refugee Act.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.⁹⁵ The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's shelters, centres, helplines, national women's networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning, and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

Liechtenstein has one women's helpline – *Frauenhaus Liechtenstein*, number: +423 380 02 03 (women's shelter of the Principality of Liechtenstein) – which has been operating since 1991. It is run by a women's NGO, Frauenhaus Liechtenstein. The helpline is available 24/7 but is not free of charge, local phone costs apply. When necessary, the operator calls the women back. Multi-lingual support is given in the following languages: Croatian/Serbo-Croatian, English, French, Spanish, and Italian. 13 female callers reached out to the helpline in 2014.

The women's helpline receives government funding, a share from the total yearly sum of 295,000 EUR mentioned before is used to cover the costs for the women's helpline.

Other helplines for victims

Other national helplines for victims include: a general victims' helpline (*Opferhilfestelle*, +423 236 76 96), run by the State. The amount of State funding allocated in 2014 was 55,000 EUR. The national victims' helpline is not available 24/7 and local costs apply for callers. It was established in 2008.

Additionally, there is also a national children's helpline (Original name: *Sorgentelefon für Kinder und Jugendliche in Liechtenstein*, emergency number: 147), run by an NGO called the Lazarus Community (*Lazarus Gemeinschaft*). This helpline is available 24/7 free of charge.

Another national helpline is called KIT (*Kriseninterventionsteam*, emergency number: +423 230 05 06 or over the police 117). It is run by an NGO, and it receives funding from the State and private donations. This helpline operates since 1998.

Lastly, there is a national helpline called Infra, which is run by an NGO (Original name: *Informations- und Kontaktstelle für Frauen*, emergency number: +423 232 08 80). It is not available free of charge and local costs apply for callers. The amount of State funding allocated to cover its operational costs in 2014 was 181,000 EUR.

Women's Shelters

⁹⁵ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

Liechtenstein has one women's shelter, *Frauenhaus Liechtenstein* (Liechtenstein women's shelter), which was opened in 1991. The shelter is run by an NGO with a gender-specific/feminist approach. There are no women's shelters for specific groups, such as minority ethnic women or victims of human trafficking. The women's shelter has a general capacity of 3 beds/places. The shelter admits women and children.

There are 10 beds in total: 2 rooms have one bed for a woman and 3 children, and one room has one bed for a woman and one bed for her child. So the shelter is conceived for 3 women and 7 children, but in an emergency, it can also house 5 women. 17 women and 20 children were accommodated in 2014. There is no age limit for girls admitted at the shelter and as of 2014 there is no age limit for boys. According to the yearly report from 2014 6 women stayed between 1-7 days, 2 women stayed between 8-14 days, 5 women stayed between 15-30 days, and 3 women stayed between 31 and 60 days. One woman stayed there for a period exceeding 61 days. There is a set of national accredited standards for women's shelters developed by the Office for Social Affairs.

The women's shelter provides 24/7 access and also immediate direct access in emergency situations. The shelter provides services free of charge, however when a woman has a high income she may be asked to pay the rent by herself. There is no limit for the length of stay in the shelter. The women's shelter has security precautions: secret location, alarm systems, video monitoring, and security windows by the balcony. The women's shelter provides non-residential support: in 2014 24 women received face-to-face counselling and support and 13 women received intensive telephone counselling.

When it comes to access to the women's shelter for specific groups, it has to be mentioned that certain restrictions apply for women suffering from acute psychiatric illnesses or drug addiction. Alcohol consumption is not allowed within the premises of the shelter and a woman will not be admitted if she is considered to pose an imminent threat to those surrounding her. Undocumented migrant women are also not allowed to stay at the shelter and asylum seeking women are accommodated there provided they are registered. Access for women with disabilities is limited, as there is no elevator. Access for women from other EU countries is also not ensured. No restrictions apply for lesbian or transgender women, migrant women or minority ethnic women, women with or without children. Elderly women are also admitted, provided they are reasonably fit.

The women's shelter received a total amount of 295,000 EUR from the state for the year 2014, however this only covers 60-70% of their expenses.

Liechtenstein has no domestic violence shelters. There are no public housing programmes or transitional housing programs for women survivors of violence. No specific financial support is given to them and they have to look for affordable flats through the general housing offer. Such women can though apply for general financial support for rents (*Wohnbeihilfe*).

Women's Centres

There are 2 women's centres which offer non-residential services to all women survivors of violence. One is run by an NGO called Infra and the other one is run by another NGO called Liechtenstein Women's Shelter (*Frauenhaus Liechtenstein*). The amount of funding allocated by the State in 2014 covered between 60-70 % of its operational costs. Additionally, Liechtenstein has an intervention centre with a pro-active approach, the Office for Social Services (*Amt für soziale Dienste*).

There is also a women's centre which provides services to black/migrant/minority ethnic women, also run by Infra, and a centre for women victims of human trafficking, run by the *Opferhilfe*stelle.

All women's centres offer information and advice, counselling, practical support, specialist support for children and empowering support. All women's centres offer legal advice and cooperate with services working with perpetrators. All women's centres provide multi-agency support for survivors. All women's centres do advocacy and they also ensure support concerning social rights (income, work, housing, child care, independent residence permit).

Some women's centres offer multi-lingual support, support for black/minority ethnic/migrant/asylum seeking women, court accompaniment and floating/mobile support. Some centres offer support to survivors to organize themselves and do risk assessment and safety planning. Some centres support the participation of survivors in policy development and evaluation. None of the centres ensure legal representation.

Women's Networks

Liechtenstein has one women's network, *Frauennetz Liechtenstein*, i.e. Liechtenstein women's network. Its members are NGOs, the women's organizations of Liechtenstein's political parties, under the aegis of the Office of Equal Opportunity, acting as an administration and coordination office. Accordingly, "the women's network is open to all organizations engaged on behalf of the equal opportunity of girls and women", currently, the network has 16 member organizations. The Network has opened to include other organizations that are not women only, such as the *Verein offene Kirche* (association "open church").

Frauenhaus Liechtenstein is a member of a network of women's shelters in Liechtenstein and Switzerland – *DAO-Dachverband der Frauenhäuser der Schweiz und Liechtenstein*). The activities of the Liechtenstein Women's network are: exchange of information on the work of the individual organizations, discussion of draft legislation, organization of projects.

The Liechtenstein women's network is not a legal entity. It does have a national office, the Equal Opportunities Office, an entity which is part of the Ministry for Social Affairs (*Ministerium für Gesellschaft*). The network has one paid staff member and it does receive funding from the national government. The amount allocated in 2014 has 5, 000 EUR.

Plans to form a national round table for domestic violence have been ongoing in the past, however government organizations were not in position to work with NGOs for data protection reasons.

Policy and Funding

Liechtenstein currently has no comprehensive national action plan addressing violence against women. The previous one ended in 2008. There is a government coordinating body in charge of implementing policies and measures aimed at preventing violence against women – the Office for Equal Opportunities. Women's NGOs are involved in the work of the coordinating body, there is regular cooperation and exchange of information between the Liechtenstein women's Network and the Working Group on Domestic Violence.

The Liechtenstein Women's Network (*Frauennetz Liechtenstein*) is an informal network of 16 women's organisations in Liechtenstein. The Office of Equal Opportunities is a member and the administrating body of the network. The network was established in 1997. Throughout the last couple of years, the Office of Equal Opportunities has been in a reorganization process. Currently it is unclear when the reorganization will be finalized. This uncertain situation has had negative implications for the effectiveness of the Office. The Office of Equal Opportunities is also charged with the monitoring and evaluation of the national action plan and strategy addressing violence against women, however because of the aforementioned reorganization process no new national action plan has been developed. Women's NGOs are usually involved in the work of this body. Nevertheless, no monitoring and evaluation reports are available. Women's NGOs do not conduct an evaluation of the national action plan/strategy.

The government has not allocated appropriate financial and human resources for the adequate implementation of integrated policies. Since 2001 women's shelters receive the same amount of annual government funding (295,000 EUR). This amount only covers around 60-70% of their yearly activities. Personnel costs have been reduced by the Office of Equal opportunities and generally speaking austerity measures are being felt. The yearly amount allocated to government activities in the field of eliminating violence against women is 92,360 EUR.

Provisions in the national legislation allow for state funding to be allocated to women's NGOs. The Equality Act provides funding for counselling and other NGO projects in the field of violence against women. Government funding for women's support services is also mandated by law (Article 24 of the Social Assistance Act and Articles 16&17 of the Equality Act). The most common forms of government funding are project funding and annual core funding. Project funding is made available through the *Stabstelle*, however in practice this is limited by austerity measures.

When it comes to the recognition of women's NGOs, it has to be mentioned that the government recognizes and encourages their work by allocating funding and participating prevention campaigns. The Office of Equal Opportunities is a member and the administrating body of the Liechtenstein women's network. The Office and women's shelter organize joint awareness campaigns and undertake project addressing domestic violence.

Nevertheless, staff members from the Office of Equal Opportunities have been made redundant in the last couple of years. The Commission for Equal Opportunities has resigned in 2013 in an act of protest due to the fact that personnel working at the Office of Equal Opportunities has been reduced. No new commission has been appointed since.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

All women's shelters and centres in Liechtenstein are engaged in prevention work. Both of these entities received government funding in 2014 for their activities in this area.

Prevention – Good practice example 1

Bread bags: "domestic violence is not in the bag"

Organisation carrying out the activity: Frauenhaus Liechtenstein and the Department for Equal Opportunities

Timeframe of activity: 16 days against violence against women

Goals and target groups: to sensitize the population

Description of activity: During these 16 days local bakeries and retailers distributed buns and loaves of bread in bags with the label "Domestic violence is not in the bag". The bags are meant to raise awareness and determine citizens not to look away when violence against women and children is perpetrated.

Main results: raise awareness on this issue

Prevention – Good practice example 2

Workshops with pupils in schools

Organisation carrying out the activity: Frauenhaus Liechtenstein

Timeframe of activity: throughout one year

Goals and target groups: pupils in schools

Description of activity: 3 workshops were held in schools on the activities of the women's shelter

Main results: sensitize pupils, inform them about the work of the women's shelter

Training

The women's shelter holds trainings on a regular basis. The target groups are health professionals, Caritas staff, and intercultural trainers. The women's shelter (Liechtenstein Frauenhaus) receives an annual share of government funding for its training activities.

Training – Good practice example 1

Organisation carrying out the training: Frauenhaus Liechtenstein (women's shelter) and the Victims' Assistance Office

Goals and target groups: Sensitizing nurses, medical staff, and health care professionals on the topic of domestic violence

Training framework ((a) in vocational/basic training, b) advanced training/continuing education, c) in-house training in the institution)

Timeframe: half a day

Description of activity: information transfer

Main results: The hospital staff know how violent persons manifest themselves and how to intervene in such situations, and what sort of bureaucratic procedures to undertake

Training – Good practice example 2

Organisation carrying out the training: Frauenhaus Liechtenstein (women's shelter)

Goals and target groups: Sensitizing Caritas staff and volunteers on the topic of domestic violence

Training framework ((a) in vocational/basic training, b) advanced training/continuing education, c) in-house training in the institution)

Timeframe: half day

Description of activity: information transfer

Main results: Gain an increased understanding of how women are affected by violence and provide support to such survivors of violence

Training – Good practice example 3

Organisation carrying out the training: Frauenhaus Liechtenstein (women's shelter)

Goals and target groups: Migrant women as intercultural trainers and multiplayers acting in immigration and education issues

Training framework ((a) in vocational/basic training, b) advanced training/continuing education, c) in-house training in the institution)

Timeframe: half day

Description of activity: information transfer

Main results: Gain an increased understanding of how women are affected by violence and provide support to such survivors of violence

LITHUANIA

Basic Information

Population: 2,943,472

Female Population: 1,587,477

Member of Council of Europe: 1993

Member of European Union: 2004

CEDAW ratified: 1995

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2004

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2013); ratified: No

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 40.2, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/lithuania>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2014:

Violence against women, including domestic violence

22. While welcoming the signature of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in June 2013, the Committee expresses concern at the prevalence of violence against women in the State party and regrets that the State party has not adopted a comprehensive strategy aimed at eliminating sex- and gender-based violence against women in all its forms in public and private life. The Committee is also concerned about the insufficient information on the evaluation of the implementation of the National Strategy for Combating Violence against Women 2010-2012, which indicates inadequate monitoring of the implementation of policies and measures and evaluation of results achieved. The Committee is further concerned about the insufficient data on acts of violence against women that have been reported, investigated and prosecuted and the inadequate assistance and number of shelters available to women who are victims of violence.

23. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party:

(a) To expedite the harmonization of legislation in accordance with the Convention and the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the harmonization;

(b) To adopt a comprehensive strategy, which would complement the National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Provision of Assistance to Victims for 2014-2020, aimed at eliminating sex- and gender-based violence against women in all its forms in public and private life, and set up an adequate coordinating and monitoring mechanism, or mandate an existing mechanism, to effectively prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women;

(c) To regularly collect, analyse and publish data on cases of all forms of violence against women and girls that have been reported, investigated and prosecuted;

(d) To provide crisis and walk-in centres that offer protection and assistance to all women who are victims of violence;

(e) To ensure an adequate geographical distribution and number of shelters and the provision of a range of services for victims.

24. The Committee notes with appreciation the adoption of the law on protection against domestic violence, which addresses sex- and gender-based violence against women in intimate partnerships. The

Committee also notes the adoption of the National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Provision of Assistance to Victims for 2014-2020, the fact that an action plan for the period 2014-2016 is currently being prepared and the establishment of an inter-institutional working group to coordinate protection against domestic violence. It is, however, concerned at the gender neutrality of the legislation and relevant policies, which has an impact on their effective implementation, the inadequate provision of services, the limited monitoring and enforcement of protection orders imposed on perpetrators and the low number of prosecutions and sentences in domestic violence cases. The Committee is also concerned at the excessive use of reconciliatory mediation for victims of domestic violence and the possibility that a reconciliatory institute may be developed in the criminal process. The Committee is further concerned that marital rape has not been explicitly criminalized.

25. The Committee urges the State party:

- (a) To ensure that the law on protection against domestic violence and relevant policies are implemented in a gender-sensitive manner;
- (b) To effectively enforce and monitor compliance with protection orders imposed on perpetrators of domestic violence;
- (c) To effectively prosecute and punish perpetrators of domestic violence;
- (d) To end the use of reconciliatory mediation for victims of domestic violence and refrain from adopting reconciliatory mediation in the criminal process, given that such procedures may increase the vulnerability of women who are victims of violence;
- (e) To amend the Criminal Code with a view to explicitly criminalizing marital rape.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.⁹⁶ The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's networks, shelters, centres, helplines, policy and funding. However, it was not possible to gather information on prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

⁹⁶ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

There is no national women's helpline, according to the WAVE definition in that it is gender-specific and provides specialized support.

Other helplines for victims

There is one national helpline in Lithuania called "Women's Line" (8800 66 366), run by a women's NGO called "Association of Kaunas Women's Line". It does not operate 24/7, and is only open 5 days a week from 9am-6pm, and not open on holidays. The helpline does operate free of charge and provides multi-lingual support.

Women's Shelters

There are no women's shelters in Lithuania, according to the WAVE definition of women's shelters, municipal multi-functional social service centres provide room for 'families in crisis', which is understood as part of help for the 'disadvantaged social groups'.

The only places where a gender-specific approach and women's empowerment is practiced are in the specialized help/intervention centres, which started according to the Protection from Violence Law and run by women's NGOs. Even so, this is not applied to all of them. For only by strengthening women's NGOs in Lithuania, we can achieve comprehensive gender-specific and empowering support to women and their children.

In addition, there is a lack of Domestic Violence (DV) shelters in Lithuania. Temporary accommodation for women survivors of violence is provided through the social care system in Municipal Social Care Centres. Although these do not have a gender-specific approach against violence, they do generally offer accommodation for all persons deemed to be in a crisis situation, including the women and men in vulnerable groups, such as the homeless, ex-convicts and drug users, and to children and young people without appropriate family support. Finally, there are five⁹⁷ women's shelters for victims of trafficking. These NGOs work in the field of support for the victims of trafficking provide special shelters.

Women's Centres

There are 16 women's centres in Lithuania, which are intervention centres, and are run by women's NGOs. They exist in all provinces/districts, and have served 8,000 women in 2014. The State provides partial funding for these intervention centres.

All of these centres provide information and advice, counselling and multi-lingual support. Most provide practical support, empowering support, risk assessment and safety planning, and legal advice. Some provide advocacy, specialist support for children, and legal accompaniment. None provide specialist support minority women and legal representation.

Women's Networks

There is one national women's network in Lithuania, the NGO called "Women's Rights are Human Rights", coordinated by Vilnius Moterų Namai/Vilnius Women's House⁹⁸. This network has about 10

⁹⁷ CoE, Analytical Study of the results of the 4th round of monitoring the implementation of recommendation rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states (2014) p. 68.

⁹⁸ www.vmotnam.lt

member organizations, a mix of intervention centres and women's centres. Established in 2006, after the IV Congress of Lithuanian Women for Women's Human Rights advocacy, this NGO is dedicated to lobbying for better legal protection of women victims of domestic violence, and promoting a friendly environment for women's NGOs providing services to them.

Policy & Funding

There are two national strategies which address some forms of violence against women. The first appears under the title "National Plan for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Provision of Assistance to Victims" (2013-2020), while the second is called "National Strategy for combating violence against women and a plan of implementing measures" (2007-2009)⁹⁹ and (2010-2015)¹⁰⁰ "Nutarmias dėl valstybinės smurto prieš moteris mažinimo strategijos ir jos įgyvendinimo priemonių 2010-2012 metų plano patvirtinimo"¹⁰¹. The later was arbitrarily terminated in 2013 by the Ministry of social security and labour in spite of women's NGOs protest and demands to continue the only ever existing gender specific strategic document realizing the State obligations to stop violence against women. Policies and measures about specialist women support services are not specifically mentioned in the strategy, and there is no governmental coordinating body for implementing policies and measures to prevent violence against women. Consequently, women's NGOs are not involved in the coordinating body.

There is no national body/institution entrusted with the evaluation and monitoring of the national strategy/body. Women's NGOs do however conduct an evaluation of the strategy.

The members of the Coalition Women's Rights Are Human Rights and Association Vilnius Women's House are coordinators, active agents in the process of preparation and adoption of the Protection from Violence Law are actively monitoring the process of implementation of the Law by preparing and sending women's NGO recommendations concerning various issues, such as recommendations for better protection of the victims, protection from secondary and repeated victimization, human rights sensitization and victim friendly environment in the Law enforcement institutions, as well as issues concerning the quality and quantity of the State guaranteed services - specialized complex help for the victims of DV/ IPV and Specialized Help Centers working conditions, quarterly and annual reports, etc. this is being regularly preparing the statements and recommendations addressed to Parliamentary Committees, Ministry of Social Security and Labor, the State Chancellery, the Presidents' Office and other relevant bodies. The members of the Coalition and Association Vilnius Women's House as its coordinator are acknowledged experts in the field so other Civil Society organizations often join in supporting our demands and recommendations for the policies' and practices' improvement.

There are specific government funds allocated for activities to combat violence against women on the national level. In 2014, NGOs received 920,000 LTL for NGO activities. The law does allow for State funding of women's NGOs for service provision, and this funding is mandated by law/regulation.

The most common forms of government funding for women's support services are: project funding, annual core funding, and 2-3 years core funding.

⁹⁹ http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=289640&p_tr2=

¹⁰⁰ http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=351089&p_query=&p_tr2=

¹⁰¹ EIGE, Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in EU Member States Report (2012) p. 111.

LUXEMBOURG

Basic Information

Population: 549,680

Female Population: 274,563

Member of Council of Europe: 1949

Member of European Union: 1957

CEDAW ratified: 1989

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2003

Istanbul Convention – signed: 11 May 2011; ratified: no

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 55.2 <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/luxembourg>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2008:

19. While commending the considerable efforts made by the State party to address violence against women, including the domestic violence law and its positive evaluation, awareness raising efforts as well as support services provided to women victims of violence, the Committee remains concerned at the prevalence of different forms of violence against women and at the lack of information on the extent of the phenomenon. The Committee is further concerned by the absence of a comprehensive strategy to combat all forms of violence against women.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party intensify and expand its efforts to prevent and address all forms of violence against women, including sexual violence, rape, sexual exploitation, including pornography, in accordance with the Committee's general recommendation 19, as well as utilizing the Secretary-General's in depth study on all forms of violence against women (A/61/122 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1). Accordingly, it calls upon the State party to put in place a comprehensive strategy and action plan to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women, including in the immigrant community, as well as an effective institutional mechanism to coordinate, monitor and assess the effectiveness of measures taken. The Committee encourages the State party to intensify its awareness-raising efforts with regard to all forms of violence against women and the unacceptability of all such violence. The Committee invites the State party to intensify its efforts to correct the violent behaviours of the offenders and to provide support services and sufficient number of shelters for women victims of violence, staffed by expert personnel and provided with adequate financial resources for their effective functioning. The Committee also requests the State party to ensure the systematic collection and publication of data, disaggregated by type of violence and by the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim, and to use such data as the basis for monitoring the implementation of current and future policy and support measures.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national

experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines, shelters, centres, networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising and campaigning, and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is one national women's helpline called [Fraentelefon](#). The helpline number is (12344) and it operates Mo-Fri (workdays) 9am-3pm, it is not free of charge and it provides multi-lingual support. The Fraentelefon is run by [Femmes en détresse a.s.b.l.](#), which was established in 1998.

In 2014, the women's helpline received a total of 291 calls, of which 270 were from women.

Other helplines for victims

There is a national helpline for children called [Kanner-jugendtelefon](#), and run by [Caritas Jeunes et Familles a.s.b.l.](#) The helpline number is (116111) and it operates Mo, Wed, Fri 5-10pm, Tues & Thurs 2-10pm, Sat 2-8pm, it is free of charge and it provides multi-lingual support.

Women's Shelters

There are eight women's shelters in Luxembourg, providing 150 shelter places. The last shelter was opened in 2013, and all the women's shelters are run by women's NGOs.

All women's shelters meet the accredited national standards, which are developed and accredited by the Ministry of equal opportunities. Women's shelters are available in major cities. All of them provide 24/7 access, however none provides services free of charge services, and women have to pay the services from part of their income or benefits they receive from the state.

Women may stay up to six months at shelters with the usual stay being of three to four months. All women's shelters have security precautions, such as secret locations, alarm systems and video monitoring. Some of the shelters also offer non-residential support to women victims of violence.

Women are accepted at the shelters with their children, and there is no age limit for children. Older women, women with disabilities, lesbian and/or transgender women, women coming from other provinces of the country, asylum seeking women or migrant women, minority ethnic women, or from other EU countries are welcomed at the shelters. Migrant women are accommodated at the shelters, provided that their situation has been regularized.

Domestic Violence Shelters and Other Shelters

The housing project called *Phase II* aims to support women facing challenges to find affordable housing after leaving the shelter. This special housing program aims to provide second-stage or transitional housing for women survivors of violence, and it also accommodate people with low income.

Women's Centres

There are 13 counselling centres in Luxembourg, accessible to all women and widely spread throughout the country. Seven centres are run by the women's NGO Femmes en détresse a.s.b.l. All of the women's centres provide counselling, information and advice, court accompaniment, outreach and resettlement support. Most of the centres provide independent domestic violence advice, and one centre provides specialist child support. Only one of the centres offers intervention safety and legal advice. One centre for survivors of sexual violence is available in Luxembourg called Planning Familial, which accepts calls from women and helps with transfers to the police¹⁰².

Women's Networks

There is currently no national women's network addressing violence against women in Luxembourg; the country being rather small, there has been little interest in forming one so far.

Policy & Funding

The [Gender Equality Plan 2015-2018](#) (Plan d'égalité des femmes et des hommes 2015-2018) addresses violence within the family or domestic violence. The plan includes education projects targeted at staff of the social sector, and a study on the incidence of domestic violence in Luxembourg is expected to lead to new measures in the area of combating domestic violence. The NAP does not address the issue of the protection of children as witnesses of violence, despite it being highlighted as a problem through the study. Overall, the policy remains very general, and does not include concrete steps.

In Luxembourg, the national body responsible for implementing policies and measures on combating violence against women, as well as monitoring and evaluation of strategies on gender equality including domestic violence, is the [Comité de coopération entre les professionnels dans le domaine de la lutte contre la violence domestique](#) (Cooperation Committee of Professionals on Fighting Violence), under the responsibility of the Ministère de l'Égalité des Chances (Ministry of equal opportunities). Women's NGOs are also involved in the work of the coordinating and monitoring body, along with the police, judges, prosecutors, Ministry of Equal Chances or different services active in the domestic violence area. Their involvement includes taking part in the decision-making process of the Committee, giving advice when it comes to new legislative or administrative proposals, and other activities.

The last [evaluation report](#) on by the Comité de coopération entre les professionnels dans le domaine de la lutte contre la violence domestique was published in 2012 – this includes assessment of the Service d'Assistance aux Victimes de Violence Domestique (SAVVD) (*Assistance Services to Victims of Domestic Violence*).

Governmental funding of women's support services is [mandated by law/regulation](#), and the most common form of funding is annual core funding.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

¹⁰² Women against Violence Europe (WAVE). 2015. **WAVE Report 2014 – Specialized women's support services and new tools for combatting gender-based violence in Europe**. P.66.

Some of the women's centres conduct work in the area of prevention, awareness-raising and campaigning. There are no women's NGOs that work exclusively in the area of prevention work in Luxembourg.

Training

Some of the women's services conduct work in the area of training of professionals, for which they always receive state funding.

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Basic Information

Population: 2,065,769

Female Population: 1,030,928

Member of Council of Europe: Yes (1995)

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: Yes (2003)

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: Yes (2003)

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2011); ratified: no

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/COUNTRY_REPORT_2012.pdf)

Gender Equality Index: 0.747, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/MKD>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/the-former-yugoslav-republic-of-macedonia>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2013:

Violence against women

22. While noting the amendments to the State party's 2008 Family Law, which extend the definition of a victim of family violence, the Committee remains concerned that this law does not protect all victims of violence, that family violence remains criminalized as an aggravating circumstance only and that specific and comprehensive legislation covering all forms of violence against women, in particular domestic, sexual and psychological violence, is absent. Furthermore, while commending the adoption of the National Strategy for Prevention and Protection from Family Violence 2012–2015 and the National Coordination Body for the Prevention and Protection from Family Violence, the Committee expresses its concern about the increasing incidence of all forms of violence which are underreported, in particular psychological, physical and sexual violence against women and girls; the limited use of protection orders; the limited number of State-run shelters and the lack of data on violence against women.

23. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Strengthen existing criminal and family law or adopt a comprehensive law addressing all forms of violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence, and ensure that all women and girls who are victims of violence are protected by such legislation and have access to immediate means of redress and protection and further ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished;

(b) Raise public awareness, through the media and educational programmes and provide mandatory training for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers, health-service providers and social services and teaching staff in order to ensure that they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and girls and can provide adequate gender-sensitive support to victims;

(c) Encourage women to report incidents of domestic and sexual violence by raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts and provide adequate assistance and protection to women victims of violence, including Roma women and women from other ethnic minorities;

(d) Increase the number and funding of shelters and guarantee national coverage, including for women from ethnic minorities and women from other disadvantaged groups affected by violence;

(e) Enhance the system of data collection to ensure that data are disaggregated by type of violence and by the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim, support research in this field and ensure that information and collected data are available to the public; and

(f) Expeditiously ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and introduce criminal sanctions for non-compliance with restraining orders.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up Skype interview. The profile includes information on women's networks, shelters, centres, and policy and funding.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There are a total of three women's helplines in Macedonia: one national mobile SOS helpline for victims of domestic violence (141 700, free of charge only from mobile phones, operating 24/7), and two

national SOS helplines for victims of domestic violence (15 700, 15 315, both operating 24/7 and not free of charge).

The helplines do not provide multi-lingual assistance 24/7, assistance is available only in Macedonian. Two of the helplines are supported by the state, but budgetary information was not available. The helplines are operated by three NGOs: National Council for Gender Equality (141700), Organization of Women Skopje (15700), and Crisis Centre “Hope” (15315).

Other national helplines for victims

Additionally, there is a helpline for children called SOS Line for Children and Youth (NGOM), operated by the NGO “First Children's Embassy in the World Megjashi”. It is available 24/7, but not free of charge.

Women’s Shelters

There are a total of six women’s shelters in Macedonia. Four are state funded shelters providing accommodation of up to six months and two are crisis centres run by NGOs, one providing accommodation of up to 6 months and the other providing emergency housing for up to 48 hours. The state funded shelters are in Skopje, Sveti Nikole, Kochani and Bitola, and the two crisis centres are in Skopje. The shelters are free of charge for women victims of domestic violence and their children. The state funded shelters are open constantly, while the crisis centre ran by NGO is only open when the needed financial resources are allocated. There is one additional shelter for victims of sex trafficking. Some shelters have the age limit of 16 for boys staying with their mothers.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy has developed regulations on the standards for establishing services for survivors of domestic violence, and women must first go through the Centres for Social Work to be allotted a place in women’s shelters.

Two women’s shelters had to close in the past three years, due to a lack of financial resources.

Elderly women are placed in elderly homes and do not have access to women’s shelters, while undocumented migrant women do not have any access to women shelters either. Some, but not all women’s shelters accept lesbian and transgender women, while most shelters are not accessible for women with disabilities. This summary shows that access to shelters is still quite difficult for most marginalized groups of women.

Some of the shelters (family shelters) allow men to be accommodated, as well as women.

Women’s Centres

There is no information available on the number of women’s centres in Macedonia.

Other services

Other services include counselling centres, centres for survivors of sex trafficking and intervention centres with a pro-active approach.

All the services are only available in Skopje. All of the centres offer information and advice, most have counselling services and some have advocacy, empowering and practical support, risk assessment and

safety planning, legal advice, legal representation, court accompaniment, outreach, and support concerning income and work. Furthermore, some shelters offer multi-agency support for survivors and systemic/family support, and cooperate with perpetrator programs.

Women's Networks

There is one national women's network in Macedonia called Voice against Violence – National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence¹⁰³. The Network is formed by 20 civil society organizations working in the field of prevention and dealing with the issue of violence against women, including domestic violence. The activities of the network include advocacy, monitoring, research, awareness-raising and education.

Policy & Funding

The National Strategy for *Prevention and Protection against Domestic Violence* 2012-2015 is the current national policy targeted at domestic violence. Additionally, two other policies, the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2013-2020 and the National Action Plan for Gender Equality 2013-2016, are in place in Macedonia.

The national coordinating body for prevention and protection from domestic violence of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy is in charge of implementing the policies and measures to prevent violence against women, as well as evaluating their own work. The interviewed NGOs did not feel that this body was doing effective work on behalf of survivors of domestic violence.

State funding to women's NGOs in Macedonia is not sufficient. There is a National Strategy for Cooperation among Government and Civil Society Organizations, and Law for Associations and Foundations, but women's NGOs are not specifically addressed in the National Strategy.

MALTA

Basic Information

Population: 425,384
Female Population: 212,960
Member of Council of Europe: 1965
Member of European Union: 2004
CEDAW ratified: 1991

¹⁰³ <http://www.glasprotivnasilstvo.org.mk/en/>

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: No

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2012); ratified: yes (2014)

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 46.8, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/malta>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2010:

Violence against women

22. While noting the efforts undertaken by the State party to prevent and address violence against women through, inter alia, the enactment of the Domestic Violence Act in 2005 and the establishment of the Commission on Domestic Violence, the Committee, however, remains concerned at the high prevalence of violence against women and the persistence of sociocultural attitudes still condoning domestic violence and deterring women from reporting cases to the police. It is further concerned that, while the Domestic Violence Act empowers the police to start court proceedings on domestic violence without the victim having to file a report, the courts consider that they have discretionary powers to stay the proceedings when the victim refuses to testify before the court, even when the perpetrator has admitted the offence and evidence is available. It is also concerned about the remaining gaps in data collection on all forms and manifestations of violence against women.

23. In accordance with its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party to continue to put emphasis on comprehensive measures to address violence against women in the family and in society. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure that female victims of violence have immediate protection, including the possibility of expelling the perpetrator from the family home, effective recourse to a shelter, and access to free legal aid and psycho-social counseling. It recommends ensuring that public officials, especially law enforcement officials, members of the judiciary, health-care providers and social workers, are fully sensitized to all forms of violence against women. The Committee calls on the State party to systematize data collection on violence against women, including domestic violence. It recommends that structures be established to help female victims of violence rebuild their lives, including through the creation of job opportunities. The Committee invites the State party to further pursue, in collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders, including women's and other civil society organizations, awareness-raising campaigns through the media and public education programmes to make such violence socially unacceptable.

24. The Committee reiterates the concern expressed in the Committee's previous concluding observations that the crime of rape must be associated with violence and that rape as well as violent assault are considered in the Criminal Code under the title "Of crimes against the Peace and Honour of Families and against Morals".

25. The Committee urges the State party to define the crimes of rape and violent assault as crimes against the physical and mental integrity of women and as a form of sex and gender based-discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy their human rights and fundamental

freedoms on a basis of equality with men. It further urges the State party to review the definition of rape so as to place the lack of consent at its centre.

[Introduction](#)

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the [WAVE Report](#) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines, shelters, centres, networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising and campaigning, and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is currently no National Women's Helpline in Malta.

Other helplines for victims

The general victims' helpline [Supportline 179](#) provides support and information on local social welfare services and other agencies, as well as referral service to callers requiring support.¹⁰⁴ The helpline runs 24/7 and is free of charge. Operated by [Agenziija Appogg](#) (Foundation for Social Welfare Services), it is partially funded by the state.

Women's Shelters

There are four women's shelters in Malta, including three 24/7 access emergency shelters (*Dar Ghabex*, *Dar Emmaus* and *Dar Merhba Bik*) and one second stage shelter (*Dar Qalb ta' Gesu*). Three of the four shelters are run by faith-based organisations, and the fourth women's shelter (*Dar Ghabex*) is run by the state. Access to all shelters is free of charge, and victims of human trafficking are accommodated together with victims of domestic violence (DV), predominantly at *Dar Ghabex*.

There are 41 shelter beds available at the four women's shelters. In 2014, a total of 214 women and 204 children were accommodated at women's shelters in Malta – excluding *Dar Emmaus* – and five women were admitted more than once. The last women's shelter for survivors of DV is *Dar Emmaus*, which was opened in 2014 on Malta's sister island of Gozo.

When there is no space available at women's shelters, women and children may be accommodated at the shelter *Dar Niki Cassar* (YMCA), which accepts both women and men with various problems (i.e. homelessness, domestic violence) – there, they are provided with accommodation, food, clothing, if necessary medication, as well as support with legal proceedings and psychological support.

Women's Centres

¹⁰⁴ Foundation for Social Welfare Services – Government of Malta, *Supportline 179*, available at - <http://www.fsws.gov.mt/en/appogg/Pages/support-line-179.aspx>

Malta has one women's centre called the [Domestic Violence Unit](#), which supports women and children victims of family and intimate relationships abuse. The Domestic Violence Unit supports victims in crisis situations by providing them with immediate assistance to meet their immediate needs, helping them develop a safety plan, accessing shelters if needed, formulating multi-agency DV procedures and working in liaison with concerned agencies, and providing ongoing support, among other services. This unit falls within the remit of *Agenzija Appogg*.

Non-governmental organisations such as SOAR, Women's Rights Foundation (WRF) and Victim Support Malta (VSM) work with victims of DV in providing legal and psycho-social support. The NGO Men Against Violence raises awareness on how men can be empowered to stand against violence against women. In addition, the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality is currently running an ESF project on 'Forms of Violence in Malta – a gender perspective'.

Women's Networks

There is currently no national women's network addressing violence against women in Malta; however, the state-affiliated [Commission on Domestic Violence](#) liaises with shelters and NGOs on issues related to domestic violence and violence against women and activities in the field.

Policy & Funding

Malta has signed and ratified (in 2014) the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). As a result, the country is currently operating a transition and expecting new political direction concurrent to the implementation of the convention. In addition to the recent change in national government, this transition should have an impact on the upcoming National Action Plan (set for 2016), currently being developed with due consultation, and which should address all forms of violence against women as prescribed in the Istanbul Convention. After a three-year gap linked to the aforementioned change in political direction in Malta, the NAP will follow on from the *National Action Plan on Domestic Violence in Malta 2007-2012*. So far, there has been no coordinating and evaluation body to measure the implementation and outcomes of national strategies on DV, however, the Commission on Domestic Violence has been fulfilling this role unofficially. There has been no official evaluation of the previous NAP on DV conducted by the government, and most Maltese women's NGOs providing services do not conduct research work and no evaluation of the mentioned strategies.

Notwithstanding the fact that there is no specific government fund allocated for activities to combat VAW on the national level, the Commission on Domestic Violence generally sets aside a small budget to finance awareness raising campaigns in Malta. There are no provisions in national legislation allowing for state funding going to women's NGOs for service provision, and the main source of funding for women's support services is project-based.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

The Commission on Domestic Violence conducts prevention and awareness raising activities, i.e. seminars and awareness raising campaigns focusing on DV, and addressing specific themes. Such themes aim at providing education messages and information on getting help and on prevention.¹⁰⁵

In addition – however still on the state level – Agenzija Appogg works in the area of prevention and awareness raising through Community Services that aim *“to work closely with the local community to facilitate and encourage a process of change within the community they operate in, through local participation”*¹⁰⁶, and the Domestic Violence Unit that aims to contribute to public education on DV¹⁰⁷.

Training

The Commission on Domestic Violence together with governmental and non-governmental entities conducts educational talks and training to other professionals, such as police, social workers and lawyers on issues related to domestic violence and the protection of victims.

MOLDOVA

Basic Information

Population: 3,559,497

Female Population: 1,847,151

Member of Council of Europe: Yes (1995)

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: Yes (1994)

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: Yes (2006)

Istanbul Convention – signed: No

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/COUNTRY_REPORT_2012.pdf)

Gender Equality Index: 0.248, for further information check: www.hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/republic-of-moldova

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2013:

Violence against women

¹⁰⁵ Social Dialogue – Government of Malta, *Overview*, available at - <https://socialdialogue.gov.mt/en/Commission%20on%20Domestic%20Violence/Pages/Overview.aspx>

¹⁰⁶ Foundation for Social Welfare Services – Government of Malta, *Community Services*, available at - <http://fsws.gov.mt/en/appogg/Pages/community-services.aspx>

¹⁰⁷ Foundation for Social Welfare Services – Government of Malta, *Domestic Violence Unit*, available at - <http://www.fsws.gov.mt/en/appogg/Pages/Intake-and-Protection-Services/Domestic-Violence-Unit.aspx>

19. While welcoming the adoption in 2008 of Law No. 45-XVI on preventing and combating domestic violence, through which new protection measures were introduced, in addition to the amendment to the Criminal Code in 2010 to criminalize domestic violence and marital rape, the Committee reiterates its serious concern about the high prevalence of domestic violence, including against older women, which is coupled with a lack of a comprehensive data on the magnitude and forms of violence against women. The Committee further expresses its concern at:

(a) The inconsistent application by courts, prosecutors and police officers of laws aimed at combating domestic violence, which undermines women's trust in the judicial system, in addition to the lack of awareness among women of existing legal remedies;

(b) The failure of the police and prosecutors to pay attention to low-level injuries and the fact that it often takes repeated acts of violence to initiate criminal investigations, in addition to the reluctance of the police to intervene in cases of domestic violence within the Roma community;

(c) The ineffectiveness of protection orders against alleged perpetrators, which are either not issued by courts or issued with delays; the failure of police officers to enforce such orders; the lack of sufficient services, including shelters, to support victims from rural areas and Transnistria; and the non-coverage by the State system of legal aid to victims of gender-based violence;

(d) The low rate of reporting of cases of sexual violence, including rape, and ineffective investigation and prosecution in such cases;

(e) Reports concerning some Moldovan migrant women who upon return to the State party are stigmatized and at risk of sexual violence.

20. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party:

(a) To strengthen the enforcement of the Criminal Code, Law No. 45-XVI on preventing and combating domestic violence and other relevant national legislation; ensure that all women and girls, including in particular older women, Roma women and girls and women and girls with disabilities, are protected from violence and have access to immediate means of redress; and launch ex officio investigations into all such crimes and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished commensurate with the gravity of the crime;

(b) To expedite its efforts to amend Law No. 45-XVI on preventing and combating domestic violence so as to supplement court-ordered protection with a system of police-ordered protection and enable the issuance of police emergency protection orders;

(c) To remove any impediments faced by women in gaining access to justice; ensure that legal aid is made available to all victims of violence; encourage women to report incidents of domestic and sexual violence by raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts; provide adequate assistance and protection to women victims of violence, including Roma women; and increase the number and

funding of shelters and guarantee national coverage extending to women from rural areas and Transnistria;

(d) To ensure that all investigations into acts of sexual violence, including those committed against Moldovan migrant women, are carried out in line with international standards of investigation, including by amending the existing guidelines on investigation of rape and other forms of sexual assault;

(e) To enhance the system of data collection to ensure that data are disaggregated by type of violence and by relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, support research in this field and ensure that the information and data collected are made available to the public;

(f) To ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.¹⁰⁸ The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview, as needed. The country profile includes information on women's helplines, women's shelters, women's centres, national women's networks, policy and funding, prevention and training.

Women's Helplines

The Republic of Moldova has one women's helpline called 'The Trust Line for Women Run by Women'¹⁰⁹, organized by the International Centre for Women's Rights Protection and Promotion 'La Strada' (NGO). The number of the helpline is 0 8008 8008, it exists since November 2009 and operates 24/7, free of charge with multi-lingual support.

The Trust Line for Women is funded exclusively by external donors and through projects implemented by the International Centre for Women's Rights Protection and Promotion 'La Strada'. The funding received in 2014 was under EUR 35,000.

Other Helplines for Victims

There is another national helpline in Moldova. The Child Helpline 116 111 is managed by the Ministry of Labour Social Protection and Family funded from the state budget and is run by the International Centre for Women's Rights Protection and Promotion 'La Strada' based on the contract signed between the two parties on May 2014.

The funding for the Child Helpline totalled about EUR 27,000 in 2014.

¹⁰⁸ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

¹⁰⁹ Telefonul de încredere pentru femei (original)

Women's Shelters

There are eight shelters (four are maternal centres, three are shelters, one is a shelter and a maternal centre) in Moldova with about 181 shelter places available. Only one of them is a woman's shelter serving women and children survivors of domestic violence exclusively. The other seven shelters are public institutions and offer various services, including services to victims of violence.

The one specialised women's shelter has approximately 25 shelter places available. The name of the shelter is Casa Marioarei and was first opened in 2004. The shelter is run by a women's NGO and specifically assists women survivors of domestic violence and accepts children of the survivors. Women can be accommodated for up to six months, with each individual case considered, if there is a need to prolong the stay. The seven public institutional shelters are predominantly funded by the state (80%), with additional foreign donations (10%), and private donations (10%). The single women's shelter run by the Association "Casa Marioarei" is funded through foreign and private donations, and through a fundraising campaign.

These five shelters include two other specialised shelters: the NGO 'Centre of Protection and Assistance for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings and Potential Victims' and the family crisis centre 'SOTIS'.

The target groups of the trafficking victims centre are women (18 years or above) with their children as well as women without children, who are also either victims of intimate partner violence, domestic violence, potential trafficking victims and trafficking victims (main group), single mothers and migrants in difficult situations, women with mental health issues, and women affected by homelessness. The centre also assists men (18 years and above), who are victims of trafficking or victims of violence. Children, both accompanied and unaccompanied, who are victims are also assisted by the centre.

At 'SOTIS' the target groups are women (18 years or above) with their children or women without children, who are victims of intimate partner violence or domestic violence, victims of trafficking in human beings, single mothers, women with HIV/AIDS, elderly women in a crisis situation, young women in a crisis situation and migrant women in crisis situations.

Women's shelters, although spread out through all regions of the country, are only available in major cities. They provide 24/7 services free of charge, but not all shelters accept asylum-seeking women, migrant women or undocumented migrant women.

Women's Centres

The Republic of Moldova has a total of 16 women's centres, seven of which are centres for women victims of trafficking, run by the state. The other nine are run by women's NGOs and entail one sexual assault centre, one centre for girls experiencing sexual abuse and one intervention centre with a proactive approach. All provinces have sexual assault centres, although information about those is not available.

The women's centres cover all of the country's regions and rely on private donations for funding, except for the state run institutions which receive public funding.

All women's centres offer counselling and advocacy services, as well as, practical and empowering support. Most of the centres provide multi-lingual support, risk assessment and safety planning, and support concerning child care and work. Some centres supply specialist support for children, specialist support for black/minority ethnic/migrant/asylum-seeking women, legal advice, legal representation, court accompaniment, outreach activities, floating/mobile support and support concerning income, housing, and health care.

There is one other service – a children and youth welfare office called 'Dacia' in the district of Soroca, run by an NGO for which there was no further information available.

Women's Networks

There is one national women's network in Moldova, the national coalition 'Life without Domestic violence!', a joint platform which comprises of 18 non-governmental organisations and public institutions active in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women and children.¹¹⁰ The network's activities focus on lobbying and advocacy activities.

For further information check www.cnaigs.md

Policy & Funding

The Republic of Moldova has two policy documents: a draft for a National Action Plan (NAP) for preventing and combating domestic violence 2015 -2018, developed in 2014, and the 2010-2015 National Program for Gender Equality (PNAEG).¹¹¹

At the moment, the Ministry of Social Protection and Family is in the process of further developing a National Strategy to Prevent and Combat Domestic Violence. The NAP includes the following objectives: the adoption of the Draft Law amending the domestic violence legislation and the signature and ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

The draft for the NAP was developed with the assistance of the Ministry of Social Protection and Family in cooperation with 35 professionals from the area of work against violence against women and children.

At the national level, the main role in coordination and monitoring of all the actions, programs, initiatives, and policies related to gender equality is assigned to the Government Commission for Equality between Women and Men. Strategies are to be implemented by the Ministry of Social Protection, Family, and Child by coordinating the efforts with competent ministries, other responsible governmental institutions, and persons with competences in the field of gender equality.¹¹²

¹¹⁰ Women's Law Center "Stop Violence Newsletter" (n.1, 2015), p.2 and p.8
http://www.cnaigs.md/uploads/asset/file/ro/656/Stopviolence_Newsletter_ENG_1_.pdf
[accessed: 4.8.2015]

¹¹¹ <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=333441>, the Decision of Government Nr. 933 from 31.12.2009 on approval of 2010-2015 National Program on Gender Equality

¹¹² <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=333441>, the Decision of Government Nr. 933 from 31.12.2009 on approval of 2010-2015 National Program on Gender Equality

According to Law 45¹¹³ on preventing and combating domestic violence, a new coordinating body on domestic violence was established in 2010, namely the Inter-ministerial Council to prevent and combat domestic violence.

The objectives of the 2010-2015 National Program for Gender Equality (PNAEG) were met and an evaluation of the program is partially available under http://www.coe.int/t/DGHL/STANDARDSETTING/EQUALITY/06resources/GE%20activities%20in%20MS/Moldova/Moldova_Round%20table%20information.pdf. In addition, a full evaluation is available upon request.

Even though an average of EUR 12,000 in government funding was allocated, there are still approximately 178 shelter places missing. The problem in funding is that the government feels the NGOs should be funded by local authorities and not by the state government. An ongoing decentralization reform should help with this problem.

The questioned NGOs feel that the government sees them as partners and respects their demands. Some of the NGOs such as WLC, La Strada, Promo-LEX and Centre Memoria (members of the National Coalition) are recognized as experts in legislation and are invited to provide legal advice on relevant draft laws developed by Ministry of Justice.

State funding to end violence against women is not sufficient in Moldova. In 2014, independent women's organizations were not funded by the state, even though Law 45 allows for state funding in these cases. In total the government funded state-run facilities with EUR 12.000 in 2014. Women's NGOs can apply for a certificate of public utility to become providers of women's services the state does not offer. This application is a long, complicated and unclear process, though.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

All networks, shelters, centres, and helplines in Moldova are involved in prevention work.

For example, the International Center 'La Strada' efforts to promote harmonious relationship among youth have been supported by 78 outreach activities in schools for 2,154 youths carried within schools in the country by peer to peer educators specially trained during few days training and evaluation sessions.

Training

Some networks, shelters, centres, and helplines are also involved in training activities.

For example, in 2015 the Women's Law Center organized "training sessions for policemen, judges and prosecutors in the field of implementing the provisions of the Law on preventing and combating of domestic violence, in partnership with the National Institute of Justice, the Police Academy 'Ștefan cel Mare' and Police Inspectorates of Rîșcani and Ciocana district."¹¹⁴

¹¹³ <http://lex.justice.md/md/327246/> Law to Prevent and Combat Family Violence, Law No.45 of 1 March 2007, No. 178, Official Monitor No. 55-56, 18 March 2008. (Hereafter Law 45.)

¹¹⁴ Women's Law Center "Stop Violence Newsletter" (n.1, 2015), p.13
http://www.cnaigs.md/uploads/asset/file/ro/656/Stopviolence_Newsletter_ENG_1_.pdf
[accessed: 4.8.2015]

MONTENEGRO

Basic Information

Population: 621,521

Female population: 314,366

Member of Council of Europe: yes, as of 2007

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: yes, as of 2006

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: yes, as of 2006

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2013); ratified: no

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (http://fileserver.wave-network.org/researchreports/COUNTRY_REPORT_2012.pdf)

Gender Equality Index: 0.171, for further information see: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/montenegro>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2011:

Violence against women

18. While noting the adoption of the Law on Protection from Family Violence, the Committee is concerned about the high incidence of domestic and sexual violence against women and girls; its underreporting; the lack of prosecutions, the limited use of protection orders; the lenient sentences imposed on perpetrators; the fact that marital rape is subject to private rather than ex officio prosecution; the absence of State-run shelters and psychosocial rehabilitation; the limited support for NGOs providing assistance to women victims of violence; and the lack of research and disaggregated data on violence against women.

19. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Ensure that all reports of domestic and sexual violence against women and girls are effectively investigated and that perpetrators are prosecuted and sentenced commensurate with the gravity of their crimes;

(b) Provide mandatory training to judges, prosecutors and police officers on standardized procedures for dealing with victims in a gender-sensitive manner and on the application of protection orders under the Law on Protection against Family Violence, expedite the adoption of implementing regulations under the Law and identify any gaps in the application of protection orders in criminal proceedings;

(c) Provide adequate assistance and protection to women victims of violence, in particular psychosocial rehabilitation and an adequate number of shelter facilities funded by the State party, as well as funding for NGOs that assist victims;

(d) Conduct research and collect comprehensive statistical data on violence against women, disaggregated by sex, age and relationship between the victim and perpetrator and carry out an in-depth analysis of the research and statistical data and utilize them to design policies and measures to combat violence against women; and

(e) Set a time frame for ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (2011).

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://fileserver.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's shelters, centres, helplines, national women's networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning, and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

Montenegro has the SOS Free Helpline for domestic violence, available as of Sept. 1st 2015 (number: 080 111 111). This has been established by the state and is run by a women's NGO, SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Niksic. It is operating 24/7, free of charge, however currently it does not offer multi-lingual support. The national women's helpline in Montenegro received a number of 1,155 calls between September and December 2015.

Other helplines for victims

There are 5 local SOS helplines for women and children victims of domestic violence: SOS helpline in Niksic, Podgorica, Bijelo Polje, Berane and Ulcinj. Not all of these are available 24/7, and all of them are not free of charge. These local helplines have been established by women's NGOs and are currently also run by women's NGOs. Funding for their operational costs is provided by international donors. These helplines also do not provide multi-lingual support. The local SOS Helpline in Podgorica received 1,020 calls in 2014, and local SOS Helpline in Niksic received 731 (most of the callers to both helplines were women); this information is not available for the other local helplines: SOS helpline in Bijelo Polje; SOS helpline in Ulcinj; SOS helpline in Berane.

Additionally, there is also a victims' helpline for women and children and an SOS helpline for victims of human trafficking run by the Montenegrin Women's Lobby in cooperation with the Office of the National Coordinator for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings.

Women's Shelters

There are currently 3 women's shelters in Montenegro. The information is consistent with the findings of the CoE Monitoring Report 2014. The women's shelters are: SOS Shelter for Women and Children Niksic, Safe Women's House (Podgorica), Open Centre Bona Fide (Pljevlja). There are no other women's shelters. There is one shelter for victims of trafficking in human beings, but that takes in both men and women. The last women's shelter was opened in 2012 (Open Center Bona Fide). No shelters were closed in the past 3 years. The 3 women's shelters have 44 beds in total (SOS Niksic Shelter for Women and Children: 15 beds, Safe Women's House: 17 beds, Open Center Bona Fide: 12 beds). Towards the end of 2015 SOS Shelter Niksic is supposed to have 6 more beds available, however this is not certain.

In 2014 171 women and 198 children have been accommodated in all shelters. There is no data available on the number of women who have not been able to get a place there. Information about the number of nights/days women have spent in women's shelters is available only for the SOS Niksic Help Crisis Centre – 2,457.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is responsible for data collection on women's shelters. Three shelters are run by an NGO with a gender-specific/feminist approach. One shelter is run by the state (the DV shelter which accommodates non-violent parents).

There are no accredited national standards for women's shelters. Women's shelters exist in most regions; there is no shelters to cover the south of Montenegro. The existing shelters are located in the centre and north of the country. Most of the shelters provide 24/7 access. Most of them provide immediate and direct access in emergency situations. One obstacle consists in the fact that the helpline that ensures access to the shelter is not free of charge. Furthermore, helplines are not always available. Shelters are also not distributed adequately throughout the whole territory of Montenegro. Sometimes, a shelter does not have enough places.

In the internal bylaws of the SOS Shelter for Women and Children Victims of Violence Niksic (opened in 2009) it is defined that a woman can stay for a maximum period of 12 months, while the average stay is 40 days. The longest ever recorded stay was of 10 months. No data is available for the other 2 shelters. All women's shelters provide services free of charge and most of them have security precautions. All towns in Montenegro are quite small, so it is difficult to hide the address and keep it secret. Most of the shelters have an alarm system and video monitoring.

Most women's shelters do provide non-residential support, however this depends on the financial resources of each shelter in particular. Most shelters provide helpline counselling, confidants, advocacy within institutions, referrals to other relevant departments, legal aid, but all depends on available funds. All shelters have an age limit for boys (15 years +), and if a girl is younger than 13 she is not allowed to be admitted without her mother or a social worker.

When it comes to access to women's shelters for specific groups, all shelters ensure access to women with or without children, elderly women (70 years +), lesbian or transgender women, women from other provinces of the country, asylum seeking women, migrant or minority ethnic women. Most shelters ensure access to women with disabilities. All shelters take in undocumented migrant women and women from other EU countries.

According to the WAVE Country Report from 2013 shelters are predominantly funded by foreign donations (70%), by the state in the form of temporary funding and public tenders (15%), volunteer work (10%) and private donations (5%). The situation remains the same.

Domestic Violence Shelters and Other Shelters

Montenegro has one shelter for DV, which *takes a family approach*, i.e. the Centre for Support to Children and Families located in Bijelo Polje. The country does not have other shelters for DV. The aforementioned shelter accommodates nonviolent parents and children. The shelter provides access 24/7, however the average waiting time for admission is 3 days to one week, depending on the availability of places and safe transportation. 135 women and 156 children have been accommodated in the DV shelter in 2014.

Currently the sustainability of the services provided by the shelter is weak because of a lack of adequate human resources.

Victims of domestic violence may also be admitted to hospitals, the Centre for Social Care (a state institution) can refer them. Additionally, victims can also go to women's centres.

There are no transitional housing programmes or public housing programmes in place.

Women's Centres

There are no rape crisis centres for women survivors of sexual violence. There are 3 women's counselling centres: The Montenegrin Women's Lobby (centre for women victims of trafficking), the SOS Centre for Women and Children Victims of Violence Niksic (regional crisis centre for victims of DV serving women predominantly with a gender-specific approach), and the Women's Rights Centre (women's centre for all survivors of violence, located in the capital, run by a women's NGO, served 28 women in 2014).

All these centres offer information and advice, counselling, advocacy and empowering support, legal advice, conduct risk assessment and safety planning. They all ensure multi-agency support for survivors. Most centres also offer court accompaniment, some including legal representation. Specialist support for children, multi-lingual support and specialist support for minority ethnic women, migrant or asylum-seeking women is only provided by some centres.

Women's Networks

There is one national women's network in Montenegro, the *Informal National Women's Network to Combat Violence against Women*. The members of this association are two women's helplines, two women's shelters and two women's centres. They engage in advocacy and awareness raising activities. Additionally, they are also involved in education and sharing of resources.

There is a three-year-old initiative to form a national network. A strategic framework has been defined, along with its mission, set of values and strategic objectives. The main obstacle in forming a sustainable national network is the lack of funds.

The CoE Monitoring Report from 2014 indicates that Montenegro has a National Action Plan (NAP). The current situation is consistent with that information. Montenegro presently has an *Action Plan for Achieving Gender Equality 2013-2017*¹¹⁵ and a *Strategy on protection from DV 2011-2015*. The policies and measures for tackling domestic violence mentioned in the CoE Monitoring Report from 2014 are still in place.

Various forms of violence are covered by the existing legislation; however, several gaps remain:

Rape and sexual assault are included in the Criminal Code of Montenegro. Women's NGO representatives believe that the provisions of the Criminal Code should be revised, especially when it comes to the paragraphs which include sexual intercourse and rape between spouses.

The general legal framework regarding violence within the family (DV is only addressed as violence within the family) is satisfactory, but the implementation of laws and strategies part of the national strategy is poor.

The Criminal Code of Montenegro does not define sexual harassment as a criminal offense, but on the other hand in the Law on Protection from DV. (Misdemeanor law, Montenegro, 2010) sexual harassment is recognized as a form of violence within the family.

Because female genital mutilation is not a criminal offense in Montenegro the only way in which sexual mutilation can be recognized as a crime in Montenegro is when somebody sustains seriously bodily injuries from genital mutilation. In that case, perpetrators of this form of violence can be punished for causing serious physical injuries. Nevertheless, such cases are very rare in Montenegro.

When it comes to violence in institutional environments, the law prohibits direct and indirect discrimination by institutions, but the implementation is poor.

In the Criminal Code of Montenegro – in Article 145, forced abortion is recognized as “unlawful abortion”. According to law abortion is allowed until the 10th pregnancy week.

When a “killing in the name of honour” was committed, the Court shall analyze it as an aggravating circumstance.

The latest amendments to Article 444 of the Criminal Code extended the legal definition of human trafficking to include slave trade in the context of unlawful marriages.

Violence in conflict or post-conflict situations is not addressed by the existing legal framework.

¹¹⁵ Available at: <http://www.minmanj.gov.me/organizacija/nap/119190/Usvojen-Plan-aktivnosti-za-postizanje-rodne-ravnopravnosti-2013-2017.html>; English version available at: <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:C3KOo6mHqDwJ:www.mmp.gov.me/ResourceManager/FileDownload.aspx%3Frid%3D125912%26rType%3D2%26file%3DACTION%2520PLAN%2520FOR%2520ACHIEVING%2520GENDER%2520EQUALITY%25202013-2017.pdf+%&cd=1&hl=de&ct=clnk&gl=at>

Policies and measures on women's support services are integrated in the national strategy on achieving gender equality.¹¹⁶ The following provisions are relevant in this respect:

- 1. Establish a free and unique SOS hotline to report cases of domestic violence with a 24-hour duty service;
Establish specific support programmes for women victims of domestic violence (self-support programmes, empowerment, socialization ...);*
- 2. Strengthen the capacity of social services and NGOs to implement the institute of "the person of trust" in accordance with the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence;*
- 3. Establish a sustainable model for funding support services for victims of domestic violence.*

The National SOS helpline should have been established by Sep 2013, at the latest. In June 2015 the Ministry of Social Work and the UNDP Office in Montenegro launched a call for women's NGOs to pilot the national free helpline for victims of domestic violence. At present this is functional, it was launched on the 1st of September 2015, and is being run by the centre in Niksic.

Montenegro has a government body in charge of implementing the national strategy on domestic violence. This situation is also consistent with the information from the CoE Monitoring Report 2014. This body is placed under the responsibility of the Ministry for Labour and Social Welfare.¹¹⁷

This coordinating body was established in 2012. Initially, four women's NGO representatives have been involved in the activities of the body. These are: Biljana Zeković-SOS Hotline for women and children victims of violence Podgorica, and Maja Raicevic-Center for Women Rights, Biljana Zekovic from SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence and Ida Kolinovic from Montenegrin Women Lobby. There is no responsible person specialized only for policy and measures which prevent violence against women in the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. The role of this body is formal and has not produced any concrete results so far, because the report on the implementation of the strategy on DV has not been published yet.

The Ministry for Labour and Social Welfare is also responsible for carrying out monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the national strategy on DV. There is no specific department part of the Ministry, which deals specifically with this task. Generally speaking, the Ministry collects information from key actors in the field of DV on different activities implemented during a year and publishes this information in the annual report on the implementation of the strategy on DV. The Ministry uses NGO resources and expertise by engaging NGO experts in the writing of the report on the implementation of the Strategy against DV. This report however has not been published yet.

¹¹⁶ English version available at:

<http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:C3KOo6mHqDwJ:www.mmp.gov.me/ResourceManager/FileDownload.aspx%3Frid%3D125912%26rType%3D2%26file%3DACTION%2520PLAN%2520FOR%2520ACHIEVING%2520GENDER%2520EQUALITY%25202013-2017.pdf+&cd=1&hl=de&ct=clnk&gl=at>

¹¹⁷ Address: Rimski Trg 46 81000 Podgorica. No specific person is in charge of this task.

For the NAP on gender equality, the coordinating body is the Office for Gender Equality¹¹⁸, part of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights.

When it comes to the evaluation and monitoring body for the NAP on Gender Equality there is the Monitoring Commission of the NAP, which is run by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, to be more precise by the Office for Gender Equality. This Commission has 15 members and includes representatives of two women's NGOs (SOS Helpline for women and children victims of violence Podgorica and Women's Rights Centre). The Ministry collects information from NGO activities on prevention, protection and prosecution of DV. Monitoring and evaluation reports have been published, and are available on the website of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights.¹¹⁹ The evaluation of the NAP on Gender Equality has clearly set outcomes the government is required to achieve, however these have been not met so far. A significant number of activities were implemented by the NGO sector, not by the government sector. Prevention and protection against DV is relying on NGO resources, expertise and services.

The title of the last evaluation report is: *Report on the implementation of the Action Plan for Achieving Gender Equality in Montenegro (APAGE 2013-2017) in 2014 with the Implementation of the Action Plan for the period 2015 - 2016*.¹²⁰ The report is available to the public. Women's NGOs do not conduct a parallel monitoring and evaluation of the national strategy or action plan.

The Montenegrin Government annually announces a competition for funds from the lottery. The Commission for the Allocation of Funds for 2013 has allocated 2.99% (from a total fund of EUR 1 803 359, 64) for organizations generally dealing with women's rights. For organizations that specifically work in the field of violence against women, the approved % was lower than 2.38%. Compared with previous years, it is clear that state funds for addressing violence against women are regressing instead of progressing.

State funding is not sustainable, there are sporadic calls for projects, this depends on priorities of NGOs in general. Starting with September 1st 2015, the National SOS Helpline was launched; some funds were allocated from UN funds in cooperation with the EU. This is a pilot project running for 7 months, implemented through the UNDP Office in Montenegro.

The Plan for Achievement of Gender Equality (APAGE), 2013 – 2017) foresees the resources needed for the implementation of specific activities in Chapter 5: Gender-based violence – planned activity 5.5.8.- *Establish a sustainable funding model of support services to victims of domestic violence*. Anticipated funds for this activity amounted to EUR 30,000. In the annual report of the Government of Montenegro on the implementation of The Action Plan for 2014, it is stated: "Status of the measure: not completed."

Up to a small percentage, NGO funding is provided from public funds at the national and local level, through public tenders, or private donations. Most funds for NGOs come from international donors.

¹¹⁸ Responsible person: Biljana Pejovic, head of the office, Address: Rimski Trg 46 81000 Podgorica

¹¹⁹ <http://www.mmp.gov.me/en/ministry>

¹²⁰ Original title: *Izvještaj o sprovođenju Plana aktivnosti za postizanje rodne ravnopravnosti u Crnoj Gori (PAPRR 2013-2017) za 2014. godinu sa Programom sprovođenja PAPRR-a za period 2015 – 2016*.

The law does allow for funding of women's NGOs; however, the work of women's NGOs is not prioritized. The Law on Social Protection and Child Protection also has relevant provisions regarding this. It allows for funding of specialist support services; however, no special attention is given to women. Government funding for women's support services is not mandated by law. The most common form of government funding for women's support services is project funding. Very rarely relevant ministries provide funding for particular activities, when a certain NGO makes a request for help.

Women's NGOs try to put pressure on the government to accept the standards of democratic societies. NGOs face serious problems because a sustainable model of funding for their services is not available. This results in women's NGOs having been less active in the last fifteen years. All women's NGOs receive funds from international donors who support the development of human rights. Even though the government is implementing women's strategies and action plans, NGOs are still left without financial support to carry out their work.

Cooperation with women's NGOs is recognized by the Government. *The Law on Protection from Domestic Violence* (2010) allows women NGOs to provide protection to victims. Furthermore, these organizations are members of the multidisciplinary team at the Centre for Social Work, also in line with the *Protocol on the treatment, prevention and protection from DV*. According to this, institutions should develop partnerships with women's NGOs. Nevertheless, this cooperation varies from municipality to municipality and takes place sporadically, in an uneven manner. There is no cooperation between women's NGOs and the government on matters related to DV.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

All women's shelters, centres and helplines are doing prevention work. There is no data available about the amount of state funding allocated for this kind of work. No women's NGOs are focusing exclusively on this area.

Prevention – Good practice example 1

Organisation carrying out the activity: *NGO SOS Helpline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Podgorica*

Timeframe of activity: *November- December 2014.*

Goals and target groups: *Training for 20 directors of primary and secondary schools.*

20 directors of primary and secondary schools have received relevant informed in this field.

Description of activity: *Establishing a System for the Protection of Young People from Domestic Violence in Educational Institutions*



Prevention – Good practice example 2

Organisation carrying out the activity: *NGO Safe Women House, Podgorica*

Timeframe of activity: *March- May 2015.*

Goals and target groups: *Education of students from 15 High Schools in Montenegro*

Description of activity: *Training for High School Students on Domestic Violence and Violence in Adolescent Relationships.*



Prevention – Good practice example 3

Organisation carrying out the activity: *NGO SOS Helpline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Podgorica*

Timeframe of activity: *six weeks*

Goals and target groups: *30 young people aged 18 - 30 years.*

Description of activity: *trainings having the general objective of better understanding and developing the skills for nonviolent conflict resolution.*



Training

All women's shelters, centres and some helplines are engaged in the training of professionals such as: police officers, judges, prosecutors and social workers. They rarely receive state funding for these activities.

Training – Good practice example 1

Organisation carrying out the training: *Women Rights Centre*

Goals and target groups: *25 Lawyers' members of the Bar Association; Goals: Information about implementation of national legislation in the area of violence against women and domestic violence*

Training framework ((a) in vocational/basic training, b) advanced training/continuing education, c) in-house training in the institution):

Description of activity: *Organized a two-day training for 25 lawyers, members of the Bar Association of Montenegro*

Main results: *Training on the following topics: violence against women, application of national legislation in the area of violence against women, the practice of the European Court of Human Rights through case studies, the Istanbul Convention.*



Training – Good practice example 2

Organisation carrying out the training: *NGO SOS Helpline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Podgorica and NGO SOS Helpline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Berane*

Goals and target groups: *Compliance with the Protocol; 30 representatives from all relevant services in Berane*



Training – Good practice example 3

Organisation carrying out the training: *NGO SOS Helpline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Podgorica*

Timeframe:

Goals and target groups: *Training for police officers on the implementation of the Protocol on the treatment, prevention and protection from DV; share experiences of good practices and receive instructions on how to effectively act in accordance with the Protocol.*



NETHERLANDS

Basic Information

Population: 16,829,289

Female Population: 8,494,904

Member of Council of Europe: 1949

Member of European Union: 1952

CEDAW ratified: 1991

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2002

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2012); ratified: yes (2015)

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 68.5, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012/NL>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/netherlands>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2010:

Violence against Women

26. The Committee notes the recent creation in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba of systems of data collection on violence against women and the planned adoption of temporary restraining legislation. However, the Committee is concerned that police officers in Aruba have not yet received training in dealing with domestic violence. While noting the progress made in the Netherlands in creating a national framework for combating domestic violence, the Committee remains concerned that the formulation of the framework remains gender neutral, undermining the notion that such violence is a clear manifestation of discrimination against women. The Committee is also concerned that while perpetrators of domestic violence in the Netherlands have access to free legal aid, victims of domestic violence can avail themselves of it only in exceptional circumstances. It expresses further concern at the obligation, in force since March 2009 that couples draw up a joint plan for parenthood before starting proceedings and considers that such an obligation may limit access to divorce proceedings, particularly for women victims of domestic violence.

27. The Committee urges the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba to promptly enact legislation providing for temporary restraining orders to be imposed on perpetrators of domestic violence. The Committee also calls upon Aruba to provide training to the police, law enforcement personnel and health personnel so that they may properly investigate and deal with domestic violence. The Committee urges the Netherlands to ensure that the specificities of domestic violence targeting women be fully taken into consideration in the formulation of the new plan of action against domestic violence starting in 2011. It also reiterates its call on the Netherlands to ensure without any further delay that free legal aid is provided to all victims of domestic violence. While acknowledging the need to respect the best interests of children, the Committee urges the State party not to use the joint plan for parenthood as a legal precondition for starting divorce proceedings and in no case to impose it on women victims of domestic violence.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.¹²¹ The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's networks, shelters, helplines, centres, and policy and funding. It was not possible to gather any data on prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is no national women's helpline in the Netherlands.

Other helplines for victims

Veilig Thuis (Safe Home; 0800 2000; for victims of domestic violence or child abuse; free of charge, 24/7).¹²² This number merged the children's helpline Meldpunt kindermishandeling, and the dv helpline (Steunpunt huiselijk geweld).

Other helplines are [Slachtofferhulp Nederland](#) (0900 0101; help after a crime, traffic accident, or disaster, including sexual assault and stalking; not free of charge; 9-5pm), [Sensoor](#) (0900 0767; for the lonely, depressed and people with relationship problems; not free of charge; 24/7), [Korrelatie](#) (0900 1450; support for elderly people who experience abuse; not free of charge; 9-6pm) and the [Kindertelefoon](#) (0800 0432; support for children ; free of charge).

Women's Shelters

There are 28 organisations with in total 96 women's shelters, member of Federatie Opgang, the federation of shelters. The shelters have 1608 beds in total.

All the municipalities in the Netherlands, which have a contingency arrangement, must give urgency for victims of domestic violence who reside in shelters. This is stated in Article 12 of the new Housing Act. The new Housing Act took effect on 1 January 2015. The municipalities have been given time until 1 July 2015 to adjust their housing regulation accordingly. The Housing offers residents of the women's ability to return after their stay in the shelter to their familiar surroundings or just go somewhere else where they life is safe.

Women's Centres

There are 44 women's centres in total.

There are eight centres for survivors of sexual violence run by Het Centrum [Seksueel Geweld](#) (The Centre Sexual Violence), which offers medical, forensic and psychological help to everyone who has recently

¹²¹ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

¹²² According to WAVE email correspondence with Dutch contact Emily van Eerten of American Women's Club of the Hague, in January the Support Center for Domestic Violence (Steunpunt Huiselijk Geweld SHG) merged with the one for child abuse (AMK) into one organization with a new toll free number. Offers advice and emotional support, and organize necessary support.

experienced an assault or rape in the province of Utrecht. Recent victims of sexual violence, family or friends and professionals in the province of Utrecht can call the Centre Sexual Violence 24/7 (**0800 0188**). Victims who do not want to report to the police are also [welcome](#).

[Movisie](#) is a center for national information, advice, and expertise regarding issues related to welfare, participation, social services and social safety. They try to help facilitate cooperation and exchange of information between lots of other social service organizations. Movisie is also part of many international [networks](#).

There are 35 Domestic Violence Crisis Centers, nowadays called Veilig Thuis (no beds), one in each region of the Netherlands.

Other services

There are [services for children](#), such as children and youth welfare offices and organizations, which support children.

Women's Networks

There is one national women's network in Netherlands.

[Federatie Opvang](#) is an umbrella organization for shelters, the homeless, victims of domestic violence, teen mothers, children who have experienced traumatic events, victims of human trafficking, former prisoners, etc. This network has 70 members and 30 of the network's members have more than one shelter.

Policy & Funding

Netherlands does not currently have any NAPs, however it previously did:

"Plan van aanpak Huiselijk Geweld tot"/Action Plan on Domestic Violence (2008-2011).

NORWAY

Basic Information

Population: 5,107,970
Female Population: 2,540,963
Member of Council of Europe: 1949
Member of European Union: No
CEDAW ratified: 1981

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2002

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2011); ratified: No

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/COUNTRY_REPORT_2012.pdf)

Gender Equality Index: 0.067, [for further information see: http://www.hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII](http://www.hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII)

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/norway>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2012:

Violence against women

23. While welcoming the launch in January 2012 of the new Plan of Action to Combat Domestic Violence and the establishment of the duty to contact the police or otherwise attempt to prevent domestic violence (sect. 139 of the Penal Code), the Committee expresses its concern at the high prevalence of violence against women in the State party, in particular, domestic and sexual violence, including rape and marital rape in some communities, the high level of acquittals, the lenient sentences imposed on perpetrators which may be partly attributed to lack of gender training of lay judges who serve as jury in criminal cases, the absence of surveys and research on root causes of violence against women. It is also concerned at the apparent lack of awareness among women that marital rape is criminalized in the State party. The Committee reiterates its previous concerns at the lack of a comprehensive law on prevention of violence against women. The Committee is also concerned that the definition of rape contained in the General Penal Code maintains the requirement of the use of threat or force. While noting the adoption in 2009 of the new Act relating to provision of municipal crisis centres (Crisis Centre Act), which directs all municipalities to have a shelter for women, men and children victims of violence and abuse in close relationships, the Committee is concerned that, of 51 shelters, 22 shelters are for men and 10 of them remain empty, apparently due to inadequate estimation of the needs for this type of establishment, and that only half are accessible for women with physical disabilities.

24. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Give high priority to the enactment of comprehensive specific legislation on domestic violence, to put in place comprehensive measures to prevent and address violence against women and girls, including marital rape, to ensure that perpetrators___accordance with the Committee’s general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women and to raise awareness among women that marital rape is criminalized;

(b) Adopt a legal definition of rape in the Penal Code so as to place the lack of consent at its centre, in line with the Committee’s general recommendation No. 19, and the Vertido case (communication No. 18/2008);

(c) Train lay judges on the subject of violence against women;

(d) Provide adequate assistance and protection to women victims of violence, including to women with disabilities, by strengthening the capacity of shelters and crisis centres, and ensure that the need to help men victims of violence is addressed without detriment to the needs of women victims of violence; and

(e) Set a time frame for ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.¹²³ The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's networks, shelters, centres, helplines, and policy and funding. It was not possible to gather any data on prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is no national women's helpline in Norway. Instead, each women's shelter operates a regional helpline assisting women survivors of violence.

Other helplines for victims

[Protective Services for the Elderly](#) (800 30 60) for people over 62 years; free of charge; Mo-Fri 9-3pm; [National Helpline for Victims of Incest and Other Sexual Abuse](#) (800 57 000) free of charge; [National Helpline for Victims of any Criminal Act](#) (800 40 008) every day 9-3pm; [Alarmtelefonen](#) (116 111) emergency telephone for children and youth, weekdays 3pm-8am, weekends and public holidays 24/7; The Red Cross Helpline (about forced marriage and female genital mutilation), the [National Helpline for Survivors of Sexual Abuse](#) (800 57 000) free of charge - run by one of the support centres on behalf of the Department of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion, and the Crisis Situation Helpline (0800 40 008).

Women's Shelters

There are 45 women's shelters in Norway, with 907 beds. 24 shelters are run by the municipality or as inter-communal businesses. The rest are run by foundations, private corporations, or NGOs. In addition, 24 shelters are members of the Secretariat for the Shelter Movement. Women's shelters exist in all regions, and all are available 24/7, including direct access in emergency situations. The usual length of stay in women's shelters is 4-6 weeks, but the length of stay varies from shelter to shelter, and depends on the services. If cooperation with social services exists, the police and other relevant actors work well, the stay will be shorter. Most shelters have a limit of three months. Women's shelters are free of charge, however, it is unsure under which circumstances women need to pay. All women's shelters provide non-residential support.

¹²³ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

According to the Municipal Crisis Centre Act, the purpose of the Act (as of 2010), is to protect women, children, and men. The already-existing shelters were given the task to provide a service to men as well as women. However, accommodation for women and accommodation for men shall be physically separate. Therefore, all shelters must give service to men and are not for women only. Victims of trafficking stay at the same shelters as other women victims of violence. The same apply for victims of forced marriage.

Women's Centres

There are 22 women's support centres for women survivors of sexual violence, including a rape crisis centre run by a foundation with and funded by the municipality and the state. These centres are organized by [FMSO](#).

Women's Networks

The [Secretariat of the Women's Shelter Movement](#) is a network of 24 crisis centres, working on preventing violence by sharing information and experience, organizing meetings, and forming national task groups.

[FOKUS](#) is a network of 62 member women's organizations and committees in political parties, trade unions, aid organizations in Norway facilitating international engagement.

"Felleskap mot seksuelle overgrep"/"[The Norwegian Foundation against Sexual Abuse](#)" (FMSO) is an NGO which organizes women's centres for women survivors of sexual violence, including a rape crisis centre run by a Foundation with and funded by the municipality and the State.

Policy & Funding

There is one National Action Plan in Norway, called "Et Liv Uten Vold" / "A Life Without Violence" (2014 - 2017).

Provisions in national legislation allow for State funding of women's non-governmental organizations for service provision, and governmental funding of women's support services is mandated by law/regulation. Municipalities are the funders. Most funding of other services is provided by foundations, and non-governmental organizations are funded by the State and the municipalities together. The municipality pays 20% and the State pays 80%. However, it is only funding for the crisis centres that is mandated by law, the financial support for other women's support services is not. In consequence, the municipality funds these crisis centres 100%. Other services, the ones that are not mandated by law, such as the rape crisis centres, are funded 20% by the municipality and 80% by the national government.

POLAND

Basic Information

Population: 38,017,856

Female Population: 19,613,892

Member of Council of Europe: 1991

Member of European Union: 2004

CEDAW ratified: 1980

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2003

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2012); ratified: yes (2015)

Violence prevalence data: for information, visit: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 43.7, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/poland>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2014:

Violence against women, including domestic violence

24. The Committee notes that the State party signed the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in December 2012. It is, however, concerned at the high prevalence of violence against women in the State party and the absence of a comprehensive strategy aimed at eliminating all forms of sex- and gender-based violence against women. The Committee is particularly concerned at the remaining gaps in the legal framework to combat such violence, the limited effectiveness of protection orders and the low number of prosecutions and sentences in cases of domestic violence, all of which result in inadequate protection for women who are victims of violence.

25. Reiterating its previous recommendation on the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports and the sixth periodic report (CEDAW/C/POL/CO/6, para. 19)

and recalling general recommendation No. 19 on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party:

(a) To expedite the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, as well as the harmonization of legislation with the Convention;

(b) To adopt a comprehensive strategy aimed at preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women, including older women and women with disabilities, in public and private life, and set up an adequate coordinating and monitoring mechanism to effectively prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women;

(c) To amend the Criminal Code with a view to specifically criminalizing domestic violence and marital rape and include a definition of violence against women in the Act on countering domestic violence so as to ensure that relevant laws and policies are implemented in a gender-sensitive manner;

(d)To effectively enforce and monitor compliance with protection orders issued against perpetrators of, in particular, domestic violence;

(e)To systematically institute criminal proceedings, end the use of reconciliatory mediation for victims of domestic violence and prosecute and punish perpetrators of such acts;

(f)To provide crisis centres and walk-in centres that offer protection and assistance to women who are victims of violence and ensure the adequate geographical distribution of shelters, as well as the provision of legal aid and other assistance for victims;

(g)To regularly collect, analyse and publish data on the reporting, investigation and prosecution of cases of violence against women and girls.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview, as needed. The country profile includes information on women's helplines, women's shelters, women's centres, national women's networks, policy and funding. It was not possible to gather any data on prevention, awareness raising, campaigning, and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is no national women's helpline in Poland.

Other helplines for victims

There are two general helplines in Poland. Once, the National Emergency Service for Survivors of Family Violence Blue Line (22 668 70 00), was set up in 1995. It is run by the State Institute for Psychological Health of the Polish Psychology Association. The second, also called the National Emergency Service for Survivors of Family Violence (801 12 00 02), was set up in 2007. It is run by the State Agency for alcohol abuse problems.¹²⁴

Women's Shelters

There is one women's shelter in Poland run by a feminist women's NGO named 'Centrum Praw Kobiet' (Women's Rights Centre). The shelter was established in 1999.¹²⁵ There are 26 places available in the

¹²⁴ Women against Violence Europe (WAVE). (2014). Country Report 2013: Reality Check on European Services for Women and Children Survivors of Violence – A Right for Protection and Support? Pg. 162.

¹²⁵ Ibid. Pg. 161.

shelter for women survivors of violence and their children.¹²⁶ The shelter is located in the capital city of Warsaw. The shelter allows a stay of up to three months with a possibility of extension, if necessary. There is an age limit (15 years of age) for boys accommodated with their mothers.¹²⁷ The shelter provides services free of charge. The shelter has security precautions such as video monitoring and/or an alarm system. The organization also provides non-residential support such as counselling.

Additionally, there are 34 domestic violence shelters in Poland supporting all survivors of domestic violence. There are also other shelters and centers in Poland. These include Mother and Child Homes, Family Shelters and Homeless Shelters.¹²⁸ In total, there are about 700 such facilities in Poland.¹²⁹

Women's Centres

There is one women's center in Poland run by the Women's Rights Center in Warsaw. The services offered for women include legal advice, psychological counselling, and educational seminars, for example in the area of financial management.¹³⁰

Poland also has numerous gender neutral Counselling Centers for survivors of domestic violence with majority of them run by the state.¹³¹

Women's Networks

There is a network of women's support centres in Poland located under the women's rights organization called 'Centrum Praw Kobiet' (Women's Rights Centre). The network includes seven organizations in different cities (Gdańsk, Grójec, Łódź, Sochaczew-Teresin, Warszawa, Wrocław and Żyrardów).¹³² The centres provide various services to women, including women survivors of violence, including counselling and trainings/skills building, among others.

Policy & Funding

According to the Council of Europe monitoring report, there is a national action plan or strategy called the National Plan for Prevention of Family Violence as well as a National Action Plan for Prevention of Alcohol Related Problems, with a section on family violence.¹³³ The Action Plan on Family Violence has a timeframe of 2006-2016.¹³⁴ The plan covers rape and sexual assault, violence within the family or

¹²⁶ Women against Violence Europe (WAVE). (2015). WAVE Report 2014 – Specialized Women's Support Services and New Tools for Combatting Gender-Based Violence in Europe. Pg. 70.

¹²⁷ Women against Violence Europe (WAVE). (2014). Country Report 2013: Reality Check on European Services for Women and Children Survivors of Violence – A Right for Protection and Support? Pg. 161.

¹²⁸ Ibid. Pg. 162.

¹²⁹ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). (2012). Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU Member States: Violence against Women – Victim Support. Pg. 121.

¹³⁰ Women against Violence Europe (WAVE). (2014). Country Report 2013: Reality Check on European Services for Women and Children Survivors of Violence – A Right for Protection and Support? Pg. 162.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² www.cpk.org.pl/251,placowki.html

¹³³ Hagemann-White, Carol. (2014). Analytical study of the results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation of recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states. Pg. 54.

¹³⁴ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). (2012). Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU Member States: Violence against Women – Victim Support. Pg. 21.

domestic violence, and sexual harassment.¹³⁵ The action plan addresses polices and measures related to specialist women support services. There is both a coordinating body and an institution entrusted with monitoring/evaluation of the national action plan.¹³⁶ These responsibilities sit with the Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs. An evaluation of the plan has been conducted in the past with the most recent one published in 2013 and available online.¹³⁷

According to the Council of Europe monitoring report, state funding at national level is allocated for both governmental and NGO activities in the area of combating violence against women.¹³⁸

PORTUGAL

Basic Information

Population: 10.427.301

Female Population: 5.469.281

Member of Council of Europe: 1976

Member of European Union: 1986

CEDAW ratified: 1980

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2002

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2011); ratified: yes (2013)

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 37.9, for further information see <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/portugal?unstatscountry=a974050c8d564f11a35b4bf764d419d1>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2015:

Violence against women

22. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the fifth national plan to prevent and combat domestic and gender-based violence (2014-2017) and the use of electronic bracelets to prevent domestic violence. However, it is concerned about the following:

(a) The prevalence of gender-based violence against women in the domestic sphere and the disproportionately low (albeit increasing) numbers of prosecutions and convictions of perpetrators, compared with the high numbers of reported cases of domestic violence;

¹³⁵ Hagemann-White, Carol. (2014). Analytical study of the results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation of recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states. Pg. 58.

¹³⁶ Ibid. Pg. 59.

¹³⁷ www.mpips.gov.pl/przeciwdzialanie-przemocy-w-rodzinie-nowa/ogolne/sprawozdania-z-realizacji-krajowego-programu-przeciwdzialania-przemocy-w-rodzinie

¹³⁸ Hagemann-White, Carol. (2014). Analytical study of the results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation of recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states. Pg. 60.

(b) The limited use of protection orders;

(c) The lack of coordination between family and criminal courts in cases of domestic violence. As a result, there are limited options available for women who need immediate protection orders, which require that they bring formal criminal charges against their abusers.

23. The Committee urges the State party:

(a) To ensure the strict application of laws criminalizing violence against women, and take additional measures to prevent and protect women and girls from gender-based violence against women in the domestic sphere, including by effectively prosecuting and convicting perpetrators;

(b) To apply protection orders against abusive partners;

(c) To establish a mechanism for ensuring effective cooperation and coordination between family and criminal courts in order to ensure that women have immediate recourse to protection orders and injunctions against abusive partners, without the need to engage in criminal proceedings.

24. The Committee welcomes Law No. 83/2015, aimed at implementing provisions of the Istanbul Convention, but remains concerned that, despite the improvements, the legislation of the State party is not fully in compliance with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention, given that it does not cover all forms of non-consensual sexual acts. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of crisis centres and emergency services for victims of rape, as well as the absence of standard protocols for hospital staff and police officers on gender-sensitive ways to deal with victims of rape. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that marital rape is rarely prosecuted as a specific crime, in most cases being prosecuted as a form of domestic violence.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take the measures necessary to adequately address sexual violence in its laws and policies and to ensure that all forms of non-consensual sexual acts are included in the definition of rape under the Penal Code;

(b) Establish crisis centres and emergency services for victims of rape and raise the awareness of hospital staff and police officers about the assistance required in such cases, as well as establish standard protocols dealing with victims of rape;

(c) Review its sentencing policy in cases of marital rape in order to ensure that it is punished in a way that is commensurate with the gravity of the crime.

26. The Committee welcomes the recent amendments to the Penal Code specifically criminalizing female genital mutilation. However, the Committee is concerned about the reports that that crime is being committed against its citizens or residents abroad, and regrets the lack of information concerning the application of extraterritorial jurisdiction in the State party with respect to that crime. The Committee notes the State party's efforts to raise awareness about the harmful effects of female genital mutilation on the health and the lives of women, both within and outside its territory, but expresses concern that those efforts may not be sufficient.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the strict application of legislation criminalizing female genital mutilation, including by prosecuting and adequately punishing perpetrators, and ensure extraterritorial jurisdiction with respect to female genital mutilation perpetrated outside its territory. The Committee also recommends that the State party strengthen targeted prevention

strategies, including education and awareness-raising programmes, in particular for communities in which such harmful practices are prevalent. In doing so, the State party should take into account joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on harmful practices (2014).

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the [WAVE Report](#) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's networks, helplines, shelters, centres, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is a helpline for domestic violence in Portugal (800 202 148) free of charge 24/7.

Other helplines for victims

There is a national trafficking helpline and a 24/7 social emergency line (144) which responds to all social emergencies including domestic violence but is gender neutral.

Women's Shelters

There are 37 women's shelters in Portugal along with one women's shelter for victims of trafficking. These shelters are located in all regions of Portugal.

Women's Centres

In Portugal (continental and islands), there are 123 centres that are structures for victims of domestic violence. The majority support women and men survivors of DV, without a gender specific approach, and only two centres – run by [AMCV – Association of Women against Violence](#) and [UMAR – Union of Women, Alternatives and Solutions](#) – apply a gender specific approach when supporting women and their children only. Some centres also support survivors of trafficking and other forms of violence. The centres are funded by the state and available in every region and provide a range of support including crisis counselling, information and advice.

Women's Networks

There are currently no women's networks in Portugal.

Policy & Funding

Currently, there are five National Action Plans in Portugal: [National Action Plan for Gender Equality, Citizenship and Non-Discrimination \(V PNI\) 2014-2017](#), [National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat](#)

[Domestic and Gender-Based Violence \(V PNPCVDG\) 2014-2017](#), [Programme of Action for the Prevention and Elimination of FGM 2014-2017](#), [National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings \(III PNPTSH\) 2014-2017](#), and the [National Action Plan for the Implementation of the of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 \(2000\) on Women, Peace and Security within the timeframe 2014-2018](#).

The coordinating body is the Commission for Citizenship and Gender (CIG) which is attached to the [Secretary of State for Citizenship and Equality](#). A working group composed of several entities including NGOs is involved in the work of the coordinating body for each of the NAPs within the timeframe 2014-2017. AMCV, UMAR and the Association of Women Jurists are the three women's NGOs members of the working group for the NAP to Prevent and Combat Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (V PNPCVDG). An [evaluation report](#) of the IV National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence 2011-2013 was published in 2013.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

Several campaigns are organised annually, promoted by various organisations including government entities – examples of government-led campaigns include [“Nunca é tarde”](#), which addresses violence against elderly women, and [“Quem Te Ama Não te Agride”](#), which addresses date violence. Several women's organisations are also engaged in prevention work. In 2015, the [Association Supporting Victims of Crime \(APAV\)](#) led a campaign using a home furniture catalogue (ex. IKEA catalogue) to illustrate violence in the domestic sphere. More examples of APAV-led campaigns are available [here](#). The organisation [UMAR](#) also organises initiatives regularly such as marches and debates on the issue of violence against women, and [AMCV](#) has led a number of campaigns on that issue.

Training

AMCV, UMAR and other NGOs with training certificates are engaged in organizing trainings for professionals involved in victim support interventions.

ROMANIA

Basic Information

Population: 19,947,311

Female population: 10,201,259

Member of Council of Europe: yes

Member of European Union: 2007

CEDAW ratified: 1982

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2003

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2014); ratified: yes (2016)

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 33.7, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/romania>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2006:

Violence Against Women

20. While welcoming the legislative and other measures taken by the State party to prevent and eliminate domestic violence, including the introduction, by the Ministry of Justice, of a statistical indicator to monitor cases of domestic violence pending before the courts, the Committee expresses concern about the insufficient implementation of those measures, including limited availability of protection and support services for victims, in particular in rural areas. The Committee is concerned that the State party was able to provide only limited information about the prevalence of domestic violence, and that Law 217/2003 does not address other forms of violence against women.

21. The Committee urges the State party to enhance the effective enforcement of its domestic violence legislation so as to ensure that all women who are victims of violence, including those living in rural areas, have access to immediate means of redress and protection, including protection orders, access to a sufficient number of safe shelters funded by the Government within a sufficiently wide geographical distribution, and to legal aid. The Committee calls upon the State party to provide adequate funding for such efforts, as well as for the establishment of a free hotline operating 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The Committee also recommends that the State party enhance its action beyond domestic violence to all forms of violence against women, in the light of the Committee's general recommendation 19.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's shelters, centres, helplines, national women's networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning, and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

The national women's helpline (0800 500 333) has been launched on November 25th 2015, and according to government sources it is for violence within the family. The helpline is available 24/7 free of charge.

Other national helplines for victims

There are other national helplines for victims, like for example a children's' helpline (116111) and an anti-trafficking helpline (international free number: +40 21 313 31 00 and national free number: 0 800 800 678 - National Agency against Trafficking in Persons).

Women's Shelters

There are currently 73 shelters dealing specifically with victims of family violence, however less than a handful of them are addressing the problem from a gender perspective. In theory, men could be allowed to stay there too, as the quality standards according to which shelters get their licence are gender-blind. However, in practice, they are not among the solicitors. Most shelters are run by public organizations. To be more precise, 49 shelters are run by public organizations (local councils or child protection authorities). They were set up in the last couple of years with the help of EU funding and Norway grants. They apply the family approach foreseen by Law 217/2003. 5 shelters are run by religious organizations. 19 shelters are run by NGOs who are accredited as social service providers. 9 shelters are run by women's NGOs with a gender-specific/feminist approach. 10 shelters are run by other NGOs.

Additionally, there are 7 women's shelters for victims of human trafficking. All in all, there is a total of 80 women's shelters. The latest women's shelter was opened in 2015 in Cluj-Napoca. Thanks to the support of the EEEA and the Norway Grants Romania is now in the position of having many new shelters, but most of them were opened and managed by public authorities (e.g. child protection) as they were the eligible applicants under the specific call on domestic violence operating through the Ministry of Justice.

The 73 shelters for victims of DV have a total of approximately 828 beds available. The responsible institution for data collection on women's shelters in the country is the Agency for Equal Opportunities Between Men and Women (ANES).

The following data on service usage has been provided by ANES. It reflects the number of service beneficiaries recorded through Ministry of Labour, but not the number of individual women using services of shelters. The number of victims in 2014 as recorded through Ministry of Labour includes: 11,598 (children, women and men) of which 6,502 female and 5,096 male (mostly male children). There was a total number of 41, 332 services provided, primary counselling, psychological and juridical, service mediation, legal representation and medical assistance was also provided. 2232 serviced were provided in the shelters.

There is also a set of legally-binding national quality standards according to which services are checked when receiving their licence. Nevertheless, they are gender-blind and not based on a women's rights perspective. These were developed by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection. All accredited 73 shelters are applying them. Some shelters are located in big cities, and some in small towns (like Codlea), but large regions are not covered. For instance, the south of the country is lacking specialist services except for Bucharest. According to national NGO experts there are 14 counties out of 41 without any shelter.

Some shelters provide immediate and direct access to women in emergency situations. In state-run shelters there are bureaucratic procedures in place (e.g. in the shelters run by the Child Protection Authority the approval of the Director of the County Child Protection authority is required, as well as identification papers and legal medical certificates). According to ANES the average length of stay in

women's shelters is 30 days. According to law, there are 2 types of shelters: centres for emergency situations, where the length of stay is up to 60 days (2 months), and recovery centres, where the length of stay is up to 180 days (6 months). Most shelters provide services free of charge. However, the practice is that when a woman is working she would contribute to food and utilities' expenses, provided she can afford it. Most shelters take security precautions, such as having a secret address; however, some do publish their address. Most shelters in Romania also provide non-residential support. When it comes to accessibility for specific groups, the age limit for children of both sexes is 18 years. All shelters provide access for women with or without children and for older women. Some shelters ensure access for women with disabilities; nevertheless, there is no data available on how many shelters have adequate facilities in this respect. In theory, all shelters are supposed to ensure access to lesbian and/or transgender women, as they are not allowed to discriminate against anyone, but homophobic attitudes are prevalent among professional staff. Some shelters provide access to asylum-seeking and migrant women and also to women from other provinces of the country, depending on their source of funding. Access is provided by some shelters also to undocumented migrant women and to women from other EU countries. All shelters are required to ensure access to minority ethnic women but discriminatory attitudes are present. In theory, all shelters are required not to discriminate on any grounds; in practice language barriers and discriminatory attitudes might prevent access for many disadvantaged groups.

The amount of state funding provided to family violence shelters in 2014 was 2679724.94 LEI (based on reporting from 27 counties out of 41), which is approximately 609.028 EUR (1 EUR= 4.4 lei).

As stated above, according to the legal definition, shelters in Romania are for "victims of family violence" (not specifically women), but according to national women's NGO experts no man has requested admission to these shelters so far, although the law allows this.

Social housing is up to the local budgets. Being a victim of family violence is a criterion for priority in accessing social housing. There is no information available about specific housing programs for survivors of violence. This issue also depends on the shelter. This is one of the services they coordinate, offering support in finding affordable housing, this however requires multi-agency cooperation which is still in an incipient stage.

Women's Centres

According to ANES, "all centres for victims of family violence are open to victims of sexual assault too". In fact access is limited to those who experience sexual violence in a family context. According to national women's NGO experts, there is little awareness among authorities on the need of specialist training for professionals, in order to support victims of sexual assault outside a family context in a meaningful manner and avoid secondary victimization. No specific quality standards are available yet for specialised services for sexual assault survivors but the NGO pilot project of A.L.E.G. has made recommendations in this respect.

There are 21 centres providing non-residential specialist support services such as counselling and other services to women survivors of domestic violence. Five of these centres are also providing assistance to women survivors of sexual violence and one centre is specifically dedicated to women survivors of sexual violence (A.L.E.G.) and its staff were trained with the support of WAVE member Stigamot in Iceland. These five centres are all non-residential support services run by NGOs that are part of the network *Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence*. Services provided by the aforementioned sexual assault centres include: psychological counselling, information and legal assistance.

All women's centres¹³⁹ provide various services, such as information and advice, counselling, advocacy, legal advice. Some provide specialist support for children, empowering support, multi-lingual support, risk-assessment and safety planning, legal representation, court accompaniment, outreach, floating and mobile support, support concerning social rights (concerning income, work, housing, child care, health care and independent residence permit), multi-agency support for survivors, cooperation with services working with perpetrators (very few), and systemic family support.

National Women's Networks

There are three national NGO networks in Romania working in the area of violence against women, however all of them are informal networks. *The Network for Prevention and Combating Violence Against Women* encompasses organizations which engage in advocacy regarding violence against women (VAW), women's shelters, organizations which provide mixed services and lastly human rights organizations. This is the oldest network in the country; originally, it focused on violence within the family. At the moment it is monitoring the implementation of legislation and engages in awareness-raising and lobbying activities, particularly on the emergency protection order.

The second network is called *Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence* (SV). It encompasses organizations that provide services to survivors of sexual violence, organizations working in the field of VAW and human rights organizations. The network was set up in 2014 by WAVE member A.L.E.G. to focus specifically on sexual violence, due to the lack of an appropriate legal framework for addressing this issue. The network engages in casework cooperation, awareness raising and carries out advocacy for improvements of legislation and policies in the area of SV. The establishment of rape crisis centres and provision of specialized services represent its priorities.

The third network is called *Coalition for Gender Equality*, and its members are organizations carrying out advocacy on VAW and gender equality. This network was also set up in 2014 and is advocating for improvements in the legislation and policies dealing with gender equality. Its priorities are women's work and life balance, the introduction of comprehensive sexual education and combating VAW. All of these networks are project based, and have no regular paid staff. The *Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence* network had a budget of 34,000 EUR in 2014. The *Coalition for Gender Equality* had a budget of 42,000 EUR in 2014. The *Network for Prevention and Combating Violence Against Women* also had an annual funding in 2014 below 50,000 EUR.

Recently a fourth informal network was established in Transylvania, which is a federation of shelters.

The networks have no plans to become legal entities. One of the key obstacles is the lack of core funding which could ensure their operation beyond a project-based system. Currently all networks rely on grants as there is no government funding available to support NGO networking.

Policy and Funding

¹³⁹ According to law, the centres can be licensed as 1. "counselling centres on family violence" and 2. "centres for information and awareness on family violence". They do serve women and children but as the law is gender-blind officially they are not called women's centres.

The current national action plan is called the National Strategy on Preventing and Combating Family Violence and the Operational Plan for its Implementation (2013-2017). The objectives of the strategy relate exclusively to the issue of family violence, which is in accordance with the existing definition of family violence provided by the Romanian legislation. This is presently not in line with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention, as it relies on Law 217/2003 on “family violence” so the forms of violence against women are not correctly and comprehensively defined. When explaining the causes of violence, it refers to relevant declarations and instruments, it is aware of gender differences. Limitations consist in the legal definition of family violence which has an impact on access to specialist services and protection orders, available only if the victim is living or has lived with the perpetrator (who may be the current or former partner or a family member) Sexual harassment, sexual violence, stalking and many other forms of violence are not covered by the strategy.

When it comes to the scope and forms of violence covered, rape and sexual assault by a perpetrator outside the family is not within the scope of the strategy. There is no specific objective or measure in the action plan dealing with rape and sexual assault. When it comes to violence within the family a relative within the family circle is also covered, such as a brother or uncle, as long as there is cohabitation. There is no specific objective or measure in the action plan dealing with other forms of violence such as sexual harassment, FGM, violence in conflict or violence in institutional environments. Forced and early marriage is a problem encountered within the Roma community; however, this issue is addressed by the Child Protection Strategy.

There are various policies and measures concerning specialist women’s support services integrated into the NAP. One of the key outcomes of the NAP concerns the *“existence of a unitary system of social services specialized in the area of prevention and combating of family violence and ensuring their quality, through a gender/culture/age-sensitive approach”*.

The indicators are *“quality standards for services for victims and services for perpetrators. A methodology regarding procedures for registration, reporting and management of cases of family violence, approved by a joint ministerial order (labour, internal affairs, justice, health)”* is in place. Existing quality standards for specialist family violence services are found in Order No. 383, dating 6th of June 2005, but ANES has been working on developing new quality standards to be published in 2016. NGOs active in the field have been consulted.

The name of the coordinating body is called the Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES), part of the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection. Having previously been a department, the agency now has a more prominent status, and may be allocated more funding in the future. The coordinating body shows openness to NGOs in the field but there is still a need for significant improvements when it comes to having transparent and wide consultation processes with NGOs during the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of public policies. Few NGO experts were contracted in a recent governmental EU project headed by the coordinating body on the establishment of a system of reporting and data collection on family violence, while all experts trained and certified in the project were civil servants. Little is however communicated about the outcomes and follow-up of this project. Presently a culture of wide public consultations and ongoing dialogue with NGOs throughout the decision-making process still needs to be developed.

Additionally, there is also a monitoring body, charged with the monitoring of the implementation of the national strategy. This monitoring body is composed of two entities, ANES and the National Directing Committee (CND) for preventing and combating children's exploitation through labour. This is placed under the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection.

Through Governmental Ordinance no. 6 from 2015, which is amending the family violence legislation, ANES became responsible for the elaboration and implementation of legislation, policies and national programs in the area of family violence. This includes monitoring the activities foreseen by the NS. ANES will draft the monitoring report for the implementation of the strategy within the timeframe 2015-2016.

Women's NGOs monitor different aspects of the NAP distinctly, but there is no evaluation of the NAP overall as a single document. When it comes to meeting the outcomes set by the NS, women's NGO experts believe that few of the measures have been implemented at this point, but the timeframe is until 2017. Overall, no evaluation reports are available.

Having a pro-active public consultation process involving all NGOs working in the field of VAW in the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of policies at the national level is not yet common practice. For example, although NGOs were included in the working group drafting the National Strategy, no NGO has been nominated for the committee which is monitoring the implementation of the NS and NAP. Public consultation on new pieces of legislation is often limited to posting the draft on the website of the Ministry of Labour, with few pro-active actions being taken to consult the opinions of NGOs.

When it comes to funding, financial resources allocated to combat VAW are insufficient. ANES was legally mandated only in 2015 to finance or co-finance programs of national interest in the field, from the state budget or external grants and funding programs. Due to budgetary regulations, a governmental decision will be drafted in the course of this year to establish the details for allocating these funds in 2016. Up until present day the setting-up and funding of services in the area of family violence has been the responsibility of local authorities. This led to great disparities and very little or no allocation of funds into this field in many municipalities around the country (according to NGO data from 2014, 14 out of 41 counties in Romania did not have any shelter for DV).

Services for other forms of VAW (with the exception of trafficking) have no possibility to receive public funding due to the lack of a legal framework. Specific government funds are allocated on a national level for activities aimed at combating VAW. Information on governmental budget allocation in 2014 and 2015 is not available. However, a large EU structural funds project entitled *START* has been implemented by ANES during the timeframe 2014 – 2015, for setting up the reporting and monitoring system and a national helpline.

Despite good intentions and improved communication with NGOs working in the field of VAW, recognition, encouragement and support is not yet manifested through funding possibilities for specialist services run by NGOs from a gender perspective outside the framework of "family violence". This leaves many NGOs having to deal with difficult challenges both in terms of serving all women in need of support and ensuring continuity and sustainability of independent services.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

Most women's shelters, women's centers and women's networks are doing prevention work. When it comes to state funding allocated to women's services for prevention activities there is no accurate data available, but most of the work is done with the help of small project funding.

Prevention – Good practice example

Gender Equality Festival held in Sibiu, Romania, 19-21 September 2014

The Gender Equality Festival is an annual awareness-raising campaign. In 2014 this was organised by A.L.E.G. as part of the Coalition for Gender Equality project funded by EEA Grants 2009-2014 under the Romanian NGO Fund.

Organisation carrying out the activity: A.L.E.G.

Goals and target groups: The main aim was to draw attention to the fact that violence against women is favoured by prejudices and stereotypes about gender roles. The festival reaches out mostly to young people, male and female, including boys and girls.

Training framework ((a) in vocational/basic training, b) advanced training/continuing education, c) in-house training in the institution): a. basic training

Timeframe: the festival was organized for the first time in Sibiu, Romania in 2004. The 2014 edition was the 9th edition.

Description of activity: the festival is based on non-formal education methods and includes interactive activities such as: movie screening followed by debates, forum theatre, interactive map of urban discrimination, gender treasure hunt, living library, marches and artwork or sports competitions.

Main results: raising public awareness, eliminating prejudices and stereotypes regarding gender, gender roles, gender equality, changing public perceptions about appropriate patterns of behaviour for men and women. One proof of the larger impact of this activity is the fact that the festival was organized in Bucharest in 2015, within the framework of the project on Gender Equality Coalition during the NGO Festival (a large civil society event).

Training

Some women's shelters, women's centers and women's networks are engaged in the training of professionals.

RUSSIA

Basic Information

Population: 142,856, 536

Female Population: 76,809,957

Member of Council of Europe: 1996

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1981

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2004

Istanbul Convention – signed: no

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/COUNTRY_REPORT_2012.pdf)

Gender Inequality Index: 0.276, for further information see: www.hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women:

www.evaw-globaldatabase.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/russian-federation

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2015:

Violence against women

21. The Committee remains concerned at the high prevalence of violence against women, in particular domestic and sexual violence, in the State party and the lack of statistics disaggregated by age, nationality and relationship between the victim and the perpetrator of violence against women and of studies on its causes and consequences. While noting the information provided by the delegation during the dialogue that the draft law on domestic violence is currently undergoing a second reading in Parliament, the Committee is concerned that cases of violence against women are underreported, as they are considered a private matter, and that victim protection services, such as crisis centres and shelters, are insufficient.

22. Recalling its General Recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Adopt comprehensive legislation to prevent and address violence against women, including domestic violence, introduce ex officio prosecution of domestic and sexual violence and ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection and that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished;

(b) Provide mandatory training for judges, prosecutors, the police and other law enforcement officials on the strict application of criminal law provisions on violence against women and on gender-sensitive procedures to deal with women victims of violence;

(c) Provide adequate assistance and protection to women victims of violence, including sexual violence, by establishing shelters both in urban and rural areas, and enhancing cooperation with non-governmental organizations providing assistance to victims; and

(d) Collect statistical data on domestic and sexual violence disaggregated by sex, age, nationality and relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

Harmful practices and violence against women in the Northern Caucasus

23. The Committee remains concerned at the increasing prevalence of violence against women in the Northern Caucasus, as well as of harmful practices, such as child and/or forced marriages, abduction of women and girls for forced marriages, crimes in the name of so-called honour, female genital mutilation and polygamy, despite the criminalization of such practices by federal law. The Committee is concerned that harmful practices appear to be socially legitimized and surrounded by a culture of silence and impunity. The Committee reiterates its previous concern (CEDAW/C/USR/CO/7, para.10) that the Federal government may lack the will and an efficient mechanism to ensure the application of federal

legislation in the regions and autonomous entities to fully implement the Convention in a coherent and consistent manner.

24. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Conduct research on the extent of harmful practices in the Northern Caucasus and develop a comprehensive strategy to eliminate them including through education and awareness-raising campaigns for community and religious leaders and the general public to ensure the effective prosecution and conviction of perpetrators as well as the provision of remedies and support services for victims, in particular shelters;

(b) Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement authorities to protect women and girls from violence, and adopt standardized procedures for the police in all regions of the State party on gender-sensitive investigations and treatment of victims, and encourage women to file complaints without having to fear retribution or stigma;

(c) Provide systematic training to legal professionals, law enforcement officials and medical personnel in addressing effectively the criminal nature of child and/or forced marriages, abduction of women, crimes in the name of so-called honour, female genital mutilation and polygamy and their adverse effects on women's rights; and

(d) Ensure that women victims of abduction for forced marriages, crimes in the name of so-called honour, female genital mutilation and polygamy can report cases without having to fear retribution or stigma and can access legal, social, medical and psychological support.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://fileserver.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.¹⁴⁰ The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines, shelters, centres, networks, policy and funding, prevention and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

The national women's helpline is called the 'All-Russia Helpline for Women Suffering from DV'. The number of the helpline is 0800 7000 600. It has been operational since March 2011. It is run by the women's NGO 'ANNA'. Due to a lack of resources it does not operate 24/7¹⁴¹, however it is free of charge, but no multi-lingual support is provided. The helpline received a total of 8,242 calls in 2014. 4,063 of these calls were made by women.

Other national helplines for victims

¹⁴⁰ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

¹⁴¹ The helpline operates Monday to Friday 07:00-21:00, excluding holidays.

There are no other national helplines for victims in the Russian Federation.

Women's Shelters

The Russian Federation currently has 95 women's shelters. There are no specific women's shelters for victims of human trafficking, girls and young women victims of forced marriage, minority ethnic women or migrant/asylum-seeking women victims of violence. The last women's shelter was opened in 2015. The aforementioned shelters have a total capacity of 434 beds.

There are no specific human resources for data collection on support services from women survivors of DV. All information regarding shelters and other services has been collected by ANNA Centre on a voluntary basis. Six women's shelters are run by NGOs with a gender-specific, feminist approach. Eighty-nine are run by the State. These are available only in major cities across the Russian Federation. Currently there is no set of accredited national standards for women's shelters. Some women's shelters provide 24/7 access and immediate and direct access in emergency situations. Difficulties in this respect can be encountered due to a lack of specific unified standards regarding services for women and children survivors of DV. The length of stay in such facilities varies from one to six months. Services are provided free of charge by all women's shelters. Women are only requested to pay when they seek to access a shelter which is located in a different region from the one in which they are registered. This is in accordance with Russian legislation, which states that state-run organizations can provide accommodation services only to persons registered in the city/town/village in which the respective facility is located.

Most women's shelters also have security precautions, however this depends on availability of resources. Most women's shelters are also providing non-residential support. Boys above the age of 14 cannot be admitted to a women's shelter, however there are no restrictions for girls' access. There are no shelters for lesbian/transgender women, asylum-seeking women, minority ethnic or undocumented migrant women. All shelters ensure access to women with children, most shelters take in women without children and elderly women (above 70), and some shelters ensure access to women with disabilities and women from other provinces of the country.

It is not known how much state funding was allocated to women's shelters in 2014.

Finally, when it comes to domestic violence shelters, there are no second-stage or transitional housing programmes in Russia, nor are any public housing programmes.

Women's Centres

There are 19 women's centres, one being specifically dedicated to victims of sexual violence called 'Sisters' Independent Charitable Centre for Assistance to Survivors of Sexual Violence'.

Women's Networks

Russia has three national women's networks: ANNA, the coalition of crisis centres in the Urals and Siberia called "Together We are Strong!" and the Network of the Southern Region of Russia. The ANNA network is not a legal entity and its members include state-run services for women and children, NGOs from Russia and also from ex-Soviet republics and regions: Tajikistan, Moldova or Belarus. The network engages in awareness-raising activities, monitoring, dissemination of information, organizes conferences, and mobilizes communities. All in all it has over 150 members and coordinates its activities from the national office, however it does not receive any government funding.

The coalition 'Together We are Strong' engages in activities aimed at the development of the regional network of services for women survivors of domestic violence. Additionally, it also carries out awareness-raising activities related to domestic violence, and contributes to the development of a coordinated response system to domestic violence cases on behalf of state-run agencies, NGOs and service-providers. Its members include crisis centres for women, including shelters that provide temporary housing for women survivors of domestic violence.

The Network of the Southern Region of Russia was founded and is being coordinated by the 'Rostov-on-Don Resource Centre for the Prevention of Violence'. Its members include: crisis shelters for women including those with a shelter, centres of social assistance to families and children, NGOs focusing on women's and children's rights. It engages in the following activities: information exchange, public awareness-raising on women's human rights and VAW in the region, provides training on addressing domestic violence by and for professionals, university and college students, and local authorities from the region.

Policy & Funding

Russia currently has no national action plan (NAP) or national strategy on preventing and addressing violence against women. Hence, there is no national body or institution in Russia entrusted with the evaluation and monitoring of the national strategy/NAP.

In 2012, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development established a working group within the Council on Gender Issues for drafting legislation on domestic violence. In the initial stage the legislation was drafted by lawyers and NGO representatives and afterwards by state representatives from the Government Commission on Public Health, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Legislative Committee of the State Parliament (Duma), Labour and Social Development, and other government agencies. The law was based on best practices that were identified in Russia and the UN model law.

There is a coordinating body in charge of implementing policies and measures to prevent violence against women – the Council on Gender Issues under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Russian Federation. Representatives from leading women's NGOs are involved in the work of the coordinating body, and are recognized as experts on women's human rights and violence against women.

Unfortunately, the current status of the Council makes a more consultative body, lacking power and resources to influence policy makers on the state level in the field of advancing women's rights and achieving gender equality.

No specific government funds are being allocated for activities to combat VAW on the national level. The law does allow for funding of women's NGOs, however, government funding for women's support services is not mandated by any law or regulation. The most common type of government funding for women's support services is project funding.

Generally speaking, the state does not provide funding for women's NGOs working in the field of violence against women. Neither has the work on the development and adoption of the NAP against violence against women been initiated. The government mainly focuses on problems concerning children and senior citizens, including abandoned children. Women's issues are not included in the government agenda and hence there is no cooperation between the government and women's NGOs.

Prevention, Awareness-raising and Campaigning

In Russia some of the women support services are engaged in prevention activities. In more specific, 'ANNA' together with other NGOs and governmental organizations organized a national campaign against violence, which aimed to raise awareness on violence. 'ANNA' also produces awareness material (posters, brochures, stickers, among others).

As example of an activity, since 1997, 'ANNA' has been raising awareness on the issue of violence against women and domestic violence, among the general public. The activity is a national campaign called 'There is No Excuse for Domestic Violence!' Since the start of the campaign, the number of services for women and children victims of violence has increased, public awareness of violence against women has been repeatedly raised, and attitudes towards women victims of domestic violence have changed in the way they are reported in the media. Additionally, the number of women turning for support to crisis centres, helplines, and other services has also increased.



Another example of an activity was carried out by the Rostov-on-Don Resource Centre for the Prevention of Violence, in 2015. The activity involved a street campaign aimed at the general public, along with round-table meetings focused on collecting signatures for opening a shelter for survivors of domestic violence in Rostov-on-Don. The activity resulted not only in raised awareness about violence against women, but also in opening of a small shelter for six women with children.



Training

Most of national women's networks, women's shelters and centres organize and conduct trainings, which address various key professionals such as police, lawyers, health care workers, civil servants, psychologists, pedagogues, therapists, teachers etc. The trainings are provided by NGOs dealing with VAW/DV as part of their organizations' projects.

As example, 'ANNA' organized an International Lawyers' School on Women's Human Rights and Violence against Women, from 18-23 October 2014. The aim of the training was to educate lawyers on legal instruments for the protection of women in cases of violence against women, and on supporting women in filing complaints with the European Court of Human Rights.



Another example of training was conducted by the Pskov Independent Women's Centre in 2014. The groups receiving training were professionals from law enforcement agencies, schools, universities, and representatives of social services. The training were conducted over time as a series of workshops. The trainings also raised awareness among the professionals for the need of inter-agency responses to violence against women.



SERBIA

Basic Information

Population: 7,146,759

Female Population: 3,666,896

Member of Council of Europe: 2003

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 2001

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2003

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2012); ratified: yes (2013)

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/COUNTRY_REPORT_2012.pdf)

Gender Inequality Index: 0.176, further information under: www.hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/serbia

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2013:

Violence against women

22. While noting the adoption of a national strategy for prevention and elimination of violence against women in the family and intimate partner relationships in 2011, together with protocols at the level of ministries, the Committee remains concerned about: (a) The increasing number of women murdered by their husbands, ex-husbands or partners and women victims of other forms of violence, including psychological, physical, economic and sexual violence;

- (b) The significant disparity between the number of police interventions, the number of criminal charges filed and the number of persons convicted of domestic violence against women;
- (c) The significant obstacles faced by women, in particular Roma women and women with disabilities, seeking protection from violence;
- (d) The lack of emergency protection orders;
- (e) The lack of disaggregated data on all forms of violence against women.

23. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 (1992), on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party:

- (a) To review and revise the Criminal Code, the Family Code and other relevant laws with a view to effectively preventing all forms of violence against women and protecting victims;
- (b) To encourage women to report incidents of domestic and sexual violence by raising awareness of the criminal nature of such acts;
- (c) To ensure effective investigation of cases of violence against women and to prosecute and punish perpetrators of such crimes with sanctions commensurate with the gravity of the crime;
- (d) To ensure that all women victims of violence have adequate assistance and unhampered access to effective protection from violence, including by ensuring a sufficient number of shelters funded by the State and improving cooperation with relevant non-governmental organizations in this respect;
- (e) To ensure that the relevant authorities are aware of the importance of issuing emergency protection orders for women at risk and of maintaining such orders until the women are no longer at risk;
- (f) To enhance the system of data collection by ensuring that the data are disaggregated by type of violence and by relationship between perpetrator and victim, supporting research in this field and ensuring that such information and data are available to the public;
- (g) To expeditiously ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.¹⁴² The research methodology involved an

¹⁴² Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines, women's shelters, women's centres, women's networks, and policy and funding.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is no national women's helpline.

Other helplines for victims

There is a Serbian children's helpline (+381 (0)800 123456). It is available 24/7.

Women's Shelters

There are a total of twelve women's shelters in Serbia, all of which are shelters that can house domestic violence victims, with 257 beds. Six of these shelters responded saying they had 24/7 access. The majority of the shelters are reserved for women survivors of domestic violence (DV), even though they are theoretically available to all survivors of DV. One shelter is a general shelter for homeless people and children and one has two apartments dedicated to elderly people. Staying in the shelters is only free of charge if the woman is from the same city where the shelter is located.

There is an additional shelter for women victims of trafficking in Belgrade as part of the Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection (NGO Atina).

Women's shelters exist in most regions, but still shelters are not widely geographically distributed. In most cases, local social services in the individual cities finance the women's shelters. The social services are also the referral point to women's shelters for women fleeing from violence.

The normal time limit for a stay in a woman's shelter is six months. This period can be prolonged if necessary.

There is no non-residential support offered by women's shelters and research shows that staff at women's shelters do not tend to help residents develop plans for after their stay.

All women's shelters have age limits for boys arriving with their mothers, while none have these kinds of restrictions for girls.

One shelter in Belgrade offers rooms for women with disabilities while other shelters do not. Lesbian and/or transgender women do not have any access restrictions, while women from other provinces/countries are charged for shelter services. Asylum-seeking, migrant and undocumented women are directed to refugee centres. Minority ethnic women are officially welcome to the shelters but there is a discrimination of Roma women.

Shelters in Serbia accept women and children from neighboring countries when the woman experienced the violence on Serbian territory. The shelter contacts the social services from the woman's place of living, asking to verify if they will cover the cost of the woman's accommodation.

Women's Centres

There are a total of 22 women's centres run by women's NGOs in 18 towns and municipalities, mainly financed by foreign donors. Additionally, one centre is for girls experiencing sexual abuse and is located in Belgrade. Three are SOS helplines for Roma women and two are centres for women victims of human trafficking.

All women's centres offer information and advice, counselling, and empowering support. Most centres offer legal advice. Some centres offer advocacy, practical support, multi-lingual support, specialist support for black/minority ethnic/migrant/asylum-seeking women, risk assessment and safety planning, legal representation, court accompaniment, outreach, floating/mobile support, support concerning income, work, child care, health care, multi-agency support for survivors, support for the participation of survivors in policy development and evaluation, as well as support for survivors organizing themselves. None of the centres offer support concerning child care or independent housing permits, cooperation with perpetrator programs or systemic/family support.

Other services

There are 130 state-run and -financed Children and Youth Welfare Offices (Centres for Social Welfare – CSW) in Serbia. They are general services available in almost all Serbian municipalities.

Women's Networks

Serbia has one informal women's network 'Women against Violence' which comprises [27 women's organisations](#) in 18 cities across Serbia. All members are women's helplines who offer additional services. The network's focus is on "creating opportunities for all women's organisations in Serbia, developing common strategies for action, and effectively involving grassroots organisations, among others."¹⁴³ The network realizes these goals by capacity building (e.g. trainings, workshops, supervisions, etc.), advocacy (e.g. research, policy papers, monitoring activities, etc.) and raising the visibility of violence against women (VAW).

Policy & Funding

There are two National Strategies (NS) in place in Serbia: the NS for Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women in the Family and Partnership Relations (Nacionalna strategija za sprečavanje i suzbijanje nasilja nad ženama u porodici i u partnerskim odnosima 2011-2015) and the NS for Improving the Status of Women and Gender Equality (GE) (Nacionalna strategija za poboljšanje položaja žena i unapređivanje rodne ravnopravnosti 2009-2015).¹⁴⁴ The National Action Plan (NAP) for the NS on Prevention and Elimination of VAW was never adopted, while there is an NAP for Improving the Status of Women and GE (Akcioni plan za sprovođenje Nacionalne strategije za poboljšanje položaja žena i unapređivanje rodne ravnopravnosti 2010-2015).

¹⁴³ Women against Violence Europe (WAVE). (2015). Supporting the Sustainability and Autonomy of Women's Organizations Providing Services in Eastern Europe for Women and Children Survivors of Domestic Violence. Pg.135.

¹⁴⁴ Hagemann-White, Carol. (2014). Council of Europe Analytical Study of the Results of the Fourth Round of Monitoring the Implementation of the Recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the Protection of Women against Violence in Council of Europe Member States. Pg.54.

The 2011-2015 National Strategy was designed by a “working group made up of experts from civil society organizations, networks of organizations and institutions engaged in protecting women affected by sexual violence and other forms of GBV.”¹⁴⁵

As of 30 October 2014, there is a governmental [Coordinating Body for Gender Equality](#) at the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Policy. The body is also responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. Representatives of women organisations are not members of the Coordination Body for GE, although they are invited for consultations from time to time.

The coordinating body was also supposed to be the evaluation and monitoring body, but there have not been any evaluations done so far. The coordinating body’s ombudsperson published a [report](#) evaluating the implementation of legislation pertaining to the protection of women against domestic and intimate partner violence. Women’s organisations were involved in the monitoring conducted by the ombudsperson.

There are no special funds allocated for combating VAW on the national level, neither is there any governmental funding for women’s support services mandated by law.

SLOVAKIA

Basic Information

Population: 5,415,949

Female population: 2,776,889

Member of Council of Europe: 1961

Member of European Union: 2004

CEDAW ratified: 1993

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2000

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2011); ratified: no

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 36.5, for further information see; <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/slovakia>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2015:

Violence against women

20. The Committee welcomes the launch of a national 24-hour helpline for women victims of violence, and a series of the amendment of laws which penalized stalking and forced marriages and gave effect

¹⁴⁵ World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe. (2014). Preventing and Addressing Intimate Partner Violence against Migrant and Ethnic Minority Women: The Role of the Health Sector – Policy Brief. Pg. 4.

to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse under domestic jurisdiction. However, the Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The long delays in adopting a comprehensive legislation on violence against women including domestic violence and in ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence;
- (b) Under-reporting of violence against women by victims, the low numbers of prosecutions and convictions of perpetrators, as well as the limited application of protection orders by the police, in particular in cases of sexual violence;
- (c) The lack of coordinated system for preventive measures and victim assistance, including the provision of shelters and legal, medical and psychological assistance, in cases of gender-based violence against women; and
- (d) The high prevalence of gender-based violence and harmful practices against women, including sale of women or forced marriages, in particular among Roma women living in segregated environments.

21. Recalling general recommendation No. 19 on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Expedite the enactment of the Law on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, in line with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention), as well as the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, ensuring gender-specific approach to these phenomena, and ensure active and meaningful participation of women's rights organizations, in particular those working for disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women, in the implementation and monitoring of this law;
- (b) Ensure that perpetrators of violence and harmful practices against women are prosecuted and punished with sanctions commensurate with the gravity of the crime as well as effectively enforce and monitor compliance with protection orders against perpetrators of domestic violence, and ensure that the duration of such orders is sufficient for adequately protecting the women concerned;
- (c) Ensure that women victims of violence have adequate access to protection and assistance, including by ensuring a sufficient number of State-funded shelters across the territory of the State party and raise awareness among women and the general public about the criminal nature of violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence, with a view to encouraging women to report incidents of violence against them; and
- (d) Adopt and effectively implement a targeted programme to eliminate gender-based violence and harmful practices against Roma women and girls and collect statistical data on all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity/minority status and relationship between victim and perpetrator, undertaking surveys and research on the extent of violence against women in the State party and its root causes.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.¹⁴⁶ The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines, shelters, centres, networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is one national women's helpline in Slovakia. *The National Line for Women Surviving Violence* (Národná linka pre ženy zažívajúce násilie, no: 0800 212 212) was established within the national project *Prevention and elimination of the violence against women*, financially supported by the ESF (European grants), under the supervision of the Department for Gender Equality and Equal Opportunity of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic. The national women's helpline started to operate in February 2015.

The framework, specialised training of the female counsellors and expertise was provided mostly by specialist women's NGOs running the services for women surviving violence or promoting women's rights (e. g. Woman in Need, Fenestra, Freedom of Choice). Furthermore, the helpline operates 24/7, it is free of charge and provides multi-lingual support (English, Hungarian, French, German and Russian).

Total number of calls the women's helpline received¹⁴⁷ throughout the period 1. 2/2015 - 30.6/2015: 1,869. From the total number, number of female callers from 1. 2/2015 to 30.6/2015: 1,427 (76.3% from the total number of calls).

The National Line for Women Surviving Violence is equipped with a database system to collect data on callers, including women – survivors of violence, cases, risk assessment, history of violence and many others. The system of data processing is currently in its pilot phase and will be stabilized in the beginning of 2016, while preparing the first Annual Report on the National Line for Women Surviving Violence. Therefore, the data presented above are preliminary and might be amended.

The national helpline is state funded and the following amount was provided in 2014 (in EUR): 786 EUR (= 15% as co-financing from the lump sum from ESF). Other funding received in 2014, funding source (in EUR): 4 453 EUR, part of ESF. The National Line for Women Surviving Violence (NLW) has operated since 2/2015, but its preparations started in July 2014 within the implementation of the national project *Prevention and elimination of the violence against women*. This is financially supported by the ESF with 15% of co-financing from the state. The overall planned direct costs for the establishment of the line were 274.419 EUR; however, the real expenditure will be much lower mostly due to savings in public

¹⁴⁶ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

¹⁴⁷ Includes received and outgoing calls, since the line can redirect calls to specialised NGOs, the police or other helplines, the cost of the call is covered by the National Line for Women Surviving Violence

procurements. The minimum operational costs of the NLW (the wages of 8 counsellors and the technology leasing + telecommunication costs) per month are approximately 15.000 EUR. This means that from the 1.2./2015 to 30.6/2015 the minimum operational costs were 75.000 EUR, from which 15% co-financing from the state represented 11.250 EUR.

Other national helplines for victims

There are 4 other national helplines for victims in Slovakia. One general victims' helpline (*Linka pomoci obetiam* /Victims' Helpline 0850 111 321), one children's helpline, which has been operational since 1996, (*Linka detskej istoty* – Line of the children's safety 116 111). There are two others called *Senior Linka* – Senior Line (0800 172 500) and the National Helpline for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings (0800 800 818). The Victims' Helpline is officially run by an NGO on Victim Support Slovakia.¹⁴⁸ The Senior Line focuses on problems of senior citizens, elderly persons in general. Moreover, most of the shelters and counselling centres run a regional or local helpline. Additionally, there is also a regional crisis helpline, SOS Helpline, run by a women's NGO, the Alliance of Women in Slovakia. The helpline exists since 1998 (no: 0903 519 550), it does not operate free of charge, but when necessary the operators will call women back. This helpline is partially funded by the region of Bratislava and partially through private donations. It received 1,200 calls in 2014 (according to the WAVE Report 2014).

Women's Shelters

Currently, there are 12 women's shelters in Slovakia. These have a total of 31 beds available. According to a monitoring report¹⁴⁹ published in 2012, there are two women's shelters in Slovakia with approximately 31 shelter places available. In the monitoring, these 2 shelters demonstrated 75% compliance with the CoE Minimum Standards and provide services specifically to women experiencing gender based intimate partner violence. Two shelters are run by independent women's NGOs *KOTVA, n.o. Trebišov* (20 places) and *ZZŽ MyMamy Prešov* (11 places). The shelters accept children of the survivors accommodated at the shelters.

In 2014-2015 new shelters were established in Slovakia with the support of the Norway Grants¹⁵⁰. It is not possible to provide exact data, because monitoring and evaluation of these projects has not been carried out yet and they are still ongoing, so it is not possible to say which shelters are really specific and which meet the CoE minimum standards and to what extent.

Other shelters, which also demonstrated 75% compliance with the CoE Minimum Standards, provide accommodation also to other target groups, not only survivors of gender based intimate partner violence and their children. Therefore, they are not specialized women's shelters. There are 10 such facilities in Slovakia, where the percentage of survivors of intimate partner violence benefiting from their services ranges from 16% to 90% percent. It is not possible to identify the number of places available in these facilities as some of them had not provided the data for the monitoring and/or do not

¹⁴⁸ <http://pomocobetiam.sk/>

¹⁴⁹ Holubová, Filadelfiová, 2012: Monitoring podporných služieb pre ženy zažívajúce násilie a ich deti vzhľadom na európske štandardy, IVPR, Bratislava, available at: http://www.sspr.gov.sk/IVPR/images/IVPR/vyskum/2012/Holubova/2261_holubova_monitoring_sluzby.pdf

¹⁵⁰ List of projects funded from Norway Grants: http://www.eeagrants.sk/data/files/5714_zoznam-projektov-dgbv.pdf

have places specifically dedicated to survivors of intimate partner violence and their children. Therefore, the number of places available for VAW survivors in these facilities cannot be identified. The list of such facilities includes: SKC Dotyk Beckov, NÁRUČ – POMOC OHROZENÝM DEŤOM V KRÍŽE, Krízové centrum SOS Rimavská Sobota, SČK – Trebišov, Centrum Slniečko Nitra, ÁNO PRE ŽIVOT n.o. Rajecké Teplice, Pomoc ohrozeným deťom o.z. Bratislava, Brána do života – krízové centrum o.z. Bratislava, Slovenský výbor pre UNICEF o.z. Bratislava a Križovatky n.o. Azylový dom Emauzy Holíč.

One shelter was closed in the last three years. The institution in charge of data collection on women's shelters in Slovakia is the Institute for Labour and Family Research.¹⁵¹ Two shelters are run by NGOs with a gender-specific, feminist approach. The remaining 10 shelters are run by other types of NGOs. There are no accredited national standards for women's shelters. These happen to be available only in major cities. Some provide 24/7 access. Some also provide immediate direct access in emergency situations. No data is available regarding the length of stay in women's shelters. Furthermore, the services provided by shelters are not free of charge. Some shelters do have security precautions and some can also provide non-residential support. No information is available regarding age limits for children. Some shelters provide access for women without children, minority ethnic women and women from other provinces of the country. The amount of state funding allocated to women's shelters in 2014 is not known.

Domestic Violence Shelters and Other Shelters

No difference is made in Slovakia between women's shelters and DV shelters.

Women's Centres

There are 5 women's centres in Slovakia; however, these are not centres for victims of sexual violence. The 5 centres are regional crisis centres for victims of DV serving predominately women with a gender specific approach. They are run by women's NGOs in major cities and the funding for these centres comes from foreign donors.

There are 5 women's counselling centres for survivors of violence in Slovakia all run by NGOs that demonstrated 75% compliance with the CoE Minimum Standards in the aforementioned monitoring. The first centre in Humenné was opened in 1993 and is run the NGO Pro Familia, but does not work anymore. Data on the number of women experiencing gender based violence seeking help in those counselling centres is not available. In 2014-2015 new counseling centers were established in Slovakia with financial support from the Norway Grants.¹⁵² It is not possible to get exact data, because monitoring and evaluation of these projects has not been carried out yet, and they are still ongoing. Therefore, it is not possible to say which counseling centers are really specific and which meet the CoE minimum standards and to what extent.

Women's Networks

¹⁵¹ Person responsible: Barbora Holubová, Address: Župné nám. 5-6, 812 41 Bratislava, e-mail: Barbora.Holubova@ivpr.gov.sk

¹⁵² List of projects funded from Norway Grants: http://www.eeagrants.sk/data/files/5714_zoznam-projektov-dgbv.pdf

There is one informal network of women's NGOs, *Safe Women's Network*, it has 8 member organizations, which include women's shelters, women's centres, women's helplines women's NGOs focusing on advocacy, trainings and primary interventions, and lastly NGOs providing mixed services. The 8 members' organizations of Safe women's network are:

1. Možnosť voľby, Bratislava women's NGO focusing on advocacy, trainings and primary preventions,
2. Žena v tiesni, Martin- women's centers, regional women's helplines, advocacy, trainings,
3. PROGRESFEM, Poprad, - women's centers, regional women's helplines, advocacy, trainings,
4. OZ Hana, Spišská Nová Ves, - women's centers, regional women's helplines, advocacy,
5. MyMamy, Prešov, - women's shelters, women's centers, regional women's helplines, advocacy, trainings,
6. Fenestra, Košice, - women's centers, regional women's helplines, advocacy, trainings,
7. Pomoc rodine, Michalovce, / - women's centers, regional women's helplines
8. Kotva, Trebišov - women's shelters

The activities of the network include exchange of information on VAW, and of experience regarding provision of support services to women. Additionally, they also engage in advocacy and organize campaigns. Their cooperation is mostly reactive, responding to particular issues at the level of policymaking. Nevertheless, they still lack clearly defined objectives, operational structures and decision making processes.

The process of women's NGOs networking has a long history in Slovakia. This process was, however, significantly impacted by the development of a democratic society, as well as available funding and capacities of women's NGOs. One-in-Five Women Initiative was the first network of women's NGOs, which also organized and carried out the first ever national campaign on VAW. The campaign's aim was to address the issue of VAW for the first time in Slovakia and initiated the drafting of legislation in this field. Later on, cooperation between women's NGOs continued at the informal level.

Recently, there have been various initiatives arising in society, such as the Alliance for Traditional Family, which question the human rights of different groups of people, as well as their gender perspective on VAW. They are aware of the need to have a network of women's NGOs based on human rights and a gender-sensitive approach to VAW (as defined in various international treaties and conventions), which would have a legitimate voice in society and would develop the discourse on VAW. Moreover, it would contribute to positive changes in relevant policy making processes.

In the long-term perspective, this project could contribute to the establishment of a formal, national network of women's NGOs. However, considerable challenges remain in this respect. The capacity and sustainability of organizations within the network has been a long term issue. They do not have sufficient capacities, i.e. staff, time and funding, to develop and establish the national network. Since December 2014 they have been working together on strengthening of the network in cooperation with an expert consultant. This effort has been possible thanks to the support given by the NGO Fund EEA Financial Mechanism, which is administered by the Open Society Foundation.

The current NAP in Slovakia is the *National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women 2014-2019*.¹⁵³ The types of violence covered by the NAP are rape and sexual assault, violence within the family/DV, sexual harassment, violence in institutional environments, whereby the failure to respect freedom of choice with regard to reproduction is only marginally addressed.

Other relevant NAPs include the *National Strategy for Gender Equality in the Slovak Republic 2014-2019*¹⁵⁴ and the *Action Plan for Gender Equality in the Slovak Republic 2014-2019*.¹⁵⁵

There is one coordinating body in charge of implementing policies and measures to prevent VAW: the Directorate for Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities (DGEaEO) under the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family.¹⁵⁶ The Directorate for Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities is directly accountable to the State Secretary from the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. It has several important functions. Firstly, it is engaged in the development of state policies in the field of gender equality and equal opportunities. The Directorate also drafts strategic and conceptual materials related to gender equality and equal opportunities. It is also responsible for the prevention and elimination of violence against women. Since 2008, the directorate coordinates the priority of equal opportunities.

The aforementioned directorate is also in charge of evaluation and monitoring of the NAP. According to the NAP 2014-2015: "Monitoring and continuous evaluation of the NAP will be carried out by the Committee for Gender Equality of the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality. The Expert Group of the Government Council for Crime Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and in Families and the Directorate for Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities (DGEaEO) of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family will also participate in the implementation and its monitoring."

Women's NGOs are also involved in the work carried out by this body. Representatives of women's NGOs are members of the Committee for Gender Equality of the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality¹⁵⁷, Expert Group of the Government Council for Crime Prevention for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women¹⁵⁸, Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality.¹⁵⁹ They can submit their comments to the NAP progress report. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family enquires about activities carried out by women's NGOs each year. Women's NGOs are partially recognized as experts; hence, their comments and observations are sometimes taken into consideration.

¹⁵³ Národný akčný plán na elimináciu a prevenciu násilia na ženách na roky 2014-2019, English version available at: http://www.gender.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/NAP_VaW_2014-2019_EN.pdf

¹⁵⁴ Celoštátna stratégia rodovej rovnosti v Slovenskej republike na roky 2014-2019, English version available at: <http://www.gender.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Strategia-RR.pdf>

¹⁵⁵ Akčný plán rodovej rovnosti v Slovenskej republike na roky 2014-2019, English version available at: <http://www.gender.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Akcny-plan-RR.pdf>

¹⁵⁶ Person responsible: Ms. Oľga Pietruchová, address: Špitálska 4,6,8 Bratislava 816 43, phone: + 421 2 2046 1812, e-mail: olga.pietruchova@employment.gov.sk

¹⁵⁷ <http://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/vybor-pre-rodovu-rovnost/>

¹⁵⁸ <http://www.minv.sk/?zlozenie-expertnej-skupiny-pre-eliminaciu-nasilia-pachaneho-na-zenach>

¹⁵⁹ <http://www.radavladyp.gov.sk/zlozenie-rady-vlady-slovenskej-republiky-pre-ludske-prava-narodnostne-mensiny-a-rodovu-rovnost/>

This is the last monitoring report published by the coordinating body: Monitoring report on NAP 2009-2012¹⁶⁰

There is no funding mechanism at the system level. Specific funds for gender based violence against women and domestic violence have been allocated recently for the first time in Slovakia – the Norway Grants and National Projects. These projects and funds will be available until April 2016 and it is still not clear how the government will ensure sustainability of funding.

When it comes to funding for women's NGOs, the legal provisions stipulating this are not specific enough. NGOs providing support services can be funded by the regional government. However, this is not mandatory, neither for the regional nor national governments to ensure funding of service provision to women survivors of violence. The most common types of funding for women's support services are project funding and annual core funding (2-3 years).

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

The national women's network is not engaged in prevention work along with women's helplines. The women's shelter does some prevention work and most of the women's centres also do prevention work.

- One good practice example of prevention work by Možnosť voľby (2013-15).

Goals and target groups: increasing the participation of NGOs in policy and decision making at the local, regional and national level. Target groups: women's NGOs, human rights NGOs, activists, employees of state and public administration, service providers, professional and general public.

Description of activity: the activity is aimed at mobilizing the public in order to ensure people take a more pro-active approach in addressing violence against women (e.g. signing the petition urging the government to ratify the Istanbul Convention). It also engages well-known men in Slovakia such as role models who clearly express an attitude that condemns VAW. It also engages with the professional public through a series of trainings on the Istanbul Convention and its potential practical implications in the field of protection, provision and prevention of VAW. Last but not least, it focuses on empowering women's NGOs through drafting a comprehensive advocacy tool on the Istanbul Convention and through training NGOs on the implications and provisions of the Convention.

Main results: a campaign promoting the Istanbul convention – video spots with well-known men (actors, singers, sportsmen, journalists, etc.) promoting a public attitude which condemns violence against women and calls on people to sign a petition urging the Slovak government to ratify the Convention; online petition signed by the public urging the government to ratify the Convention; a series of trainings for professionals on the Istanbul Convention.

Relevant material:

¹⁶⁰ Správa o plnení opatrení a úloh vyplývajúcich z Národného akčného plánu na prevenciu a elimináciu násillia páchaného na ženách za roky 2009–2012 a jeho aktualizácie, http://www.gender.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Plnenie_NAP_final_schvaleny.pdf

campaign video spots <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeHwRTzBRGDjjidsfFpEpIA>

- The second example is from Fenestra in cooperation with Moznost volby, OZ HANA, Progresfem, Pomoc rodine, Zena v tiesni and Mymamy (2013-15)

Goals and target groups: increasing the participation of professionals and the general public in combating VAW; encourage the public to express attitudes regarding VAW. Target groups: professionals and the general public.

Description of activity: 16 Days of Action Campaign – public rallies “Whistle Blowing against Violence” in 7 cities; “We Say NO to Violence against Women”- public photographed holding this tag, photographs made public on Facebook; online application for expressing public attitudes to VAW; series of workshops for high school and college students, as well as professionals from the general public on VAW; public discussions on VAW.

Main results: raised awareness of general and professional public on VAW; ensured the active participation of the public in expressing attitudes to VAW and combating it.

Relevant material: <http://www.fenestra.sk/16-dni-aktivizmu>

Apart from these two examples, women’s NGOs carry out prevention work in high schools, as well as activities focusing on awareness raising at the local level.

The funding for women’s centres is project based and there is no amount of state funding allocated specifically to prevention of VAW. NGO projects usually include other than exclusively prevention activities; therefore, it is difficult to say what the total amount of funding for prevention of VAW was. The prevention activities of women’s NGOs within their projects is partly funded from state grants. The women’s helpline, i.e. the national helpline, started operating in March 2015 – therefore it has not carried out any prevention activities yet.

Currently there are no women’s NGOs doing exclusively prevention work on VAW. There is an NGO called EsFem, which does prevention work in the broader context of gender issues and gender equality.

Training

Most women’s services are involved in the training of professionals. However, in Slovakia, there are no training activities included into the educational curriculum at the moment. It is not possible to give any best practice examples of trainings carried out by NGOs between 2014-2015 as there have been several trainings carried out, also within national projects on VAW, but they have not been evaluated yet.

SLOVENIA

Basic Information

Population: 2,061,085

Female Population: 1,041,211

Member of Council of Europe: 1993

Member of European Union: 2004

CEDAW ratified: 1992

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2004

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2011); ratified: yes (2015)

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 57.3, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2015:

Violence against women

19. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Family Violence Prevention Act (2008) and a resolution on the national programme on family violence prevention, covering the period 2009-2014. It also welcomes the introduction of domestic violence as a specific criminal offence in the new Criminal Code (2008). It notes that, during the period from 2008 to 2011, the first national survey on the extent of and responsiveness to violence in the domestic sphere and in partnerships was conducted. The survey showed that the number of cases of domestic violence detected, identified and processed by the authorities had increased in recent years. The Committee notes with appreciation the various education and training courses for the judiciary, law enforcement officials, teaching staff and social workers to improve the capacity of the professionals responsible for the prevention of violence and to increase their gender sensitivity in dealing with women who are victims of violence. The Committee, however, notes with concern:

(a) The failure to comprehensively prohibit all forms of violence against women in both the public and private spheres;

(b) The lenient sentences imposed by courts on perpetrators of acts of domestic violence;

(c) The absence of a permanent mechanism to coordinate, monitor and assess the effectiveness of measures taken to tackle violence against women;

(d) The fact that the network of shelters and crisis centres does not cover the entire territory of the State party and that free counselling and assistance are not accessible to all women who are victims of violence, such as Roma women, migrant women, women with disabilities and older women;

(e) The limited effectiveness of the protection afforded to victims of domestic violence, including the lack of enforcement of restraining orders issued against alleged perpetrators;

(f) The limited access to comprehensive disaggregated data on complaints, investigations, prosecutions and convictions in cases of violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence.

20. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party:

(a) To amend its legislation to include all forms of violence against women in both the public and private spheres, and adopt and implement a national programme on the prevention of domestic violence for the period from 2015 to 2020;

(b) To take all appropriate measures to ensure that all acts of violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence, are thoroughly investigated and prosecuted and that the sentences imposed on perpetrators are commensurate with the gravity of the crime;

(c) To establish a permanent mechanism to coordinate, monitor and assess the effectiveness of the measures taken to tackle violence against women and provide it with sufficient human, technical and financial resources;

(d) To ensure that the network of shelters and crisis centres meets the accommodation needs of all women who are victims of violence throughout the territory of the State party without discrimination and that the centres are staffed with qualified personnel and provided with adequate financial resources for their effective functioning;

(e) To ensure that restraining orders are effectively enforced and that women who are victims of violence have adequate access to shelters for immediate physical protection and legal, medical and psychological assistance, as well as effective remedies and adequate compensation;

(f) To establish a unified mechanism for the systematic collection of statistical data, disaggregated by sex, age and relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, on complaints, investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sentences imposed on perpetrators of violence against women;

(g) To conduct training on the strict application of criminal law provisions on domestic violence for judges, lawyers, police officers and other law enforcement officials, as well as awareness-raising campaigns on the criminal nature of domestic violence for the general public.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's networks, policy and funding, women's shelters, helplines, women's centres, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is a national women's helpline in Slovenia named the SOS Helpline for Women and Children Victims of Violence (080 11 55). The helpline exists since 1989. The helpline is run by a women's NGO. The helpline does not operate 24/7; instead, it operates 10 hours per day during the weekdays, and 4 hours per day during weekend days and holidays. The reason for limited hours of operation is the lack of funding, and the helpline staff are working on a volunteer basis.

Other helplines for victims

There is a children's helpline in Slovenia, operating 24/7 and free of charge. The number of the helpline is 080 15 52. The helpline is run by the Center for Social Work.

Women's Shelters

There are 16 women's shelters in Slovenia, run by 14 different organizations. Among the 16 women's shelters, one accommodates women survivors of violence, who are battling drug addiction. Furthermore, there are three crisis centres for women and children victims of violence. In total, in the 16 shelters, there are 89 rooms with 274 beds. In 2014, in the 16 shelters, 584 women and children were accommodated. Of the 16 shelters, majority are run by women's NGOs with gender-specific/feminist approach, one by a faith-based organization, and four by the state (Centers for Social Work – CSW). All shelters and crisis centers operate according to nationally accredited standards developed by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities in cooperation with the Social Chamber of Slovenia.

Women's shelters are present in all regions of the country. None of the shelters provide 24/7 access, instead the three crisis centers offer emergency accommodation and 24/7 access. Furthermore, none of the shelters offer direct access in emergency situations, instead, this is the role of the crisis centers. Women can stay up to three months in the crisis centers and up to 12 months in the women's shelters. Shelter stay is not always offered free of charge. Women typically cover costs of accommodation through own financing or through recourse to public funds. Only NGO run shelters are able to accept women without financial means and cover expenses of accommodation (including food and necessities) through donations; state-run shelters cannot do that. The same applies to women, who are undocumented and most likely have no recourse to public funds or ability to cover costs of accommodation.

All of the women's shelters have some forms of security precautions such as video monitoring or alarm system. All women's shelters also provide non-residential support such as counselling. The shelters also set age limits for children accommodated with the women, more specifically on boys, who are accepted up to 15 years of age.

In terms of access to shelters for specific groups of women, there are no specific restrictions for any groups of women, aside from ability to fund shelter stay, however, only one women's shelter has facilities to enable accommodation of women with disabilities.

Other Women's Shelters: In addition to the crisis center, there are 10 maternity homes in Slovenia. The homes are designed to primarily support pregnant women, women with young children, or women in difficult situations. In some cases, women survivors of violence are also accepted into maternity homes, however, only when they are not in a dangerous situation. In the maternity homes, there are 62 rooms with 150 beds.

Maternity homes are sometimes also utilized as second stage homes for women following their stay at the women's shelter, if they have not been able to yet secure housing. Two NGOs also run second stage/transitional housing programs. Public housing is also available; however, in practice such options are few and hence have long waiting periods.

Women's Centres

There are six women's centers providing non-residential support for all women survivors of violence. Five of the centers are run by women's NGOs and one by the state. They are available in major cities only. The centers are funded by the state.

Additionally, there is one center for women survivors of trafficking. It is run by an NGO named Association Key – Center for Combating Trafficking (*Društvo Ključ*).

All of the women's centers provide information and advice, counseling, advocacy, practical support, empowering support, risk assessment and safety planning, and court accompaniment, and cooperate with services working with perpetrators of violence. Only some of the centers provide specialist support for children, multilingual support, and legal advice. None of the centers provide legal representation.

Women's Networks

There is a network of safe houses, maternity homes and related organizations in Slovenia, organized as the Section for Safe Houses, Maternity Homes and Related Organizations in Slovenia, at the Social Chamber of Slovenia. The section is especially dedicated to networking of organizations working in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence. This includes 19 organizations that are dedicated to social care in this field. Mainly, they work in the area of accommodation as well as counselling and psychosocial service provision. This network itself does not operate as a separate legal entity, does not have a separate administrative office, operates mostly with voluntary staff and is unable to apply for external funding.

Policy & Funding

There is currently no national action plan on violence against women. For the period of 2009-2014, there was a national program on family violence, following which, an action plan was to be prepared bi-annually.¹⁶¹ For example, from 2012-2013, an action plan on prevention of family violence was prepared, however, no current national action plan for years 2014-2015 was prepared. At the same time, a resolution on the 2015-2020 national program on prevention of family violence is in preparation. In 2015, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities established a working body¹⁶² responsible for amendments to national legislation (Family Violence Prevention Act) on family violence. The working body is composed of NGOs and relevant ministries.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (as the ministry assigned to the area of domestic violence) is in the process of establishing a coordinated body for elaboration and implementation of policies related to violence against women, as required under Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention. The coordinating body should compose of representatives of NGOs and

¹⁶¹ According to the legislation (Family Violence Prevention Act, Official Gazette of the RS, no. 16/08 - Article 12) and Resolution on the 2009-2014 National Program on Prevention of Family Violence, an action plan should be prepared every two years.

¹⁶² The working body comprises of all relevant representatives of NGOs working in the field of preventing family violence as well as all relevant ministries.

ministries. At this time, there is no national body entrusted with monitoring and evaluation of national actions plans.

While there are no special evaluation reports on previous national action plans, women's NGOs have been focal about existing short-comings of national policy and legislation. For example, women's NGOs prepared comments and proposals to the 2015-2020 national program on prevention of family violence, stating among others that: long-term solutions for victims are missing; addressing long-term needs of victims with additional problems such as mental health, addiction, disability is needed; there is a need to establish violence as a qualifying factor for social aid; there is a need to establish a network of free counselling centers for victims; and address the issue facing Roma women, migrant women, as well as elderly victims of violence. Women's NGOs do not prepare specific 'shadow reports' on implementation of the national action plan, but they do provide comments on previous action plans as well as input into the drafting of future plans.

As relates to appropriate financial and human resources for adequate implementation of integrated policies, the funding can be considered as insufficient considering lacks in the following areas: lack of prevention programs, free psycho-therapeutic support for victims, inability to address the needs of undocumented migrant women, limited free legal aid to victims of violence, lack of equal geographic distribution of counselling centers, and limited resources allocated to both governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the field of combating violence against women. Funding allocated in 2014 amounted to EUR 2,228,732, 80% of which was allocated to NGO activity.

Nation legislation in Slovenia enables the funding of women's NGOs¹⁶³ and governmental funding of women's support services is mandated in legislation. The funding is based on annual tender by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities issued to implement social assistance programs. Such funding is improving the issue of sustainability of service provision. Most common forms of governmental funding are project-based funding, annual core funding and five-years core funding.

In Slovenia, the state recognizes, encourages and supports women's NGOs working in the field of violence against women by providing core funding to support services and engaging women's NGOs in collaborative activities such as multi-disciplinary teams, consultations, and conferences, among others.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

Prevention work that includes information and awareness raising activities, conducting of campaigns, work in the community, work in schools, is done by the national women's network, by all women's shelters, women's centres, and the women's helpline.

An example of a prevention activity conducted in Slovenia is an experimental workshop titled 'Labyrinth of Violence'. The organizations involved in carrying out the activity included: Crisis centers for victims of violence Piran, Unit Piran - Center for Social Work; Crisis center for children and adolescents Koper, Unit Center for Social Work; Regional safe house Kras, Program of the Center for Social Work Sežana; Association for Non-Violent communication, Unit Koper; Regional Coordinator for cooperation in the field of violence, in cooperation with Police station Koper and Police station Sežana and Nena Močnik.

¹⁶³ Resolution on the national social assistance program 2013-2020 (ReNPSV13–20) (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 39/13). It was adopted in 2013.

The workshops were conducted in November 2014 with the goal to raise awareness about how the victims experience violence and to share their stories and experiences. The target groups of the workshop were high school students, persons residing in prisons, and the general public.

The workshops involved the presentation of women's view on men's violence, and involved a walk through the labyrinth with messages of women that were victims of men's violence. The presentation given within the framework of the workshops gave insight into the dynamics of violence and the factors that contribute to the causes and consequences of violence against women.

For more information about the activity, visit here: <http://www.drustvo-dnk.si/novice/250.html>

Training

Training of professionals in Slovenia who work with women survivors of violence are often conducted by women's centres and the national women's helpline. This includes trainings of the police, court and legal professionals, health professionals, social workers, psychologists, pedagogues, among others.

As example, in February 2014, a training took place called 'Inter-clinical seminar on rules and procedures for detecting domestic violence and implementation of healthcare activities.' The seminar dealt with how to handle cases, where medical professionals suspect domestic violence experience by patients. The organization taking part in the training was the Gynecological Clinic Ljubljana and the Nursing and Midwifery Care Slovenia. The training was implemented by the Association SOS Helpline via a lecture titled 'Leading a confidential conversation with the victim of violence.'

SPAIN

Basic Information

Population: 46,512,199

Female Population: 23,634,738

Member of Council of Europe: 1977

Member of European Union: 1986

CEDAW ratified: 1984

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2001

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2011); ratified: yes (2014)

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 53.6, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/spain>

[CEDAW Concluding Comments 2015](#)

Violence against women

20. While noting the existence of a specific law prohibiting violence against women (Organic Law No. 1/2004) and the development by the Ministry of the Interior of a system to monitor cases of gender-based violence (Sistema VioGén), the Committee is alarmed by the prevalence in the State party of violence against women, including sexual violence, and by the high percentage of women who have died as a result of a gender-based violence in close relationships. It is particularly concerned about the following issues:

(a) Organic Law No. 1/2004 does not cover the full range of gender-based violence outside of intimate partner violence;

(b) Number of children killed by their father during the exercise of visiting rights (20 between 2008 and 2014);

(c) Deterioration of protective services for women who are victims of domestic violence in several autonomous communities, including the limited availability of shelters for women and children.

21. Recalling the provisions of the Convention and its general recommendation No. 19 on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party:

(a) To revise its legislation on violence against women to include other forms of gender-based violence, such as violence by care providers, police violence and violence in public spaces, workplaces and schools;

(b) To provide mandatory training for judges, prosecutors, police officers and other law enforcement officials on the Convention and the Optional Protocol and on the strict application of criminal law provisions on violence against women and on gender-sensitive procedures for interviewing and treating women who are victims of violence;

(c) To put in place comprehensive measures to prevent and address violence against women and girls and ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection and that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished;

(d) To encourage women to report incidents of domestic and sexual violence to law enforcement bodies by destigmatizing victims, sensitizing the police and judiciary and raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts;

(e) To provide adequate assistance and protection to women who are victims of violence by providing sufficient shelters, including in rural areas, and enhancing State cooperation with non-governmental organizations providing shelter and rehabilitation to victims;

(f) To collect statistical data on domestic and sexual violence disaggregated by sex, age, nationality and relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines,

shelters, centres, networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning, and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is one national women's helpline in Spain, called [Servicio telefónico de información y de asesoramiento jurídico en material de violencia de género](#) (Telephone information and legal advice on gender violence). The helpline (016) is run by the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, and it operates 24/7, free of charge – calls to the helpline do not appear in phone bills. Additionally, the helpline provides multi-lingual support in regional Spanish and 51 foreign languages.

In 2014, the women's helpline registered 68,651 calls, with 75% from female callers and the rest from family and friends of victims.

Other helplines for victims

In addition, Spain has two other helplines. The children helpline called [ANAR Ayuda a Niños y Adolescentes](#) (900 20 20 10) provides services 24/7, is free of charge, and is operated by an NGO; the National Trafficking Helpline (900 10 50 90) provides services 24/7, is free of charge, and is operated by the state (police).

Women's Shelters

There are 53 women's shelters in Spain, all of which are emergency shelters available 24/7 where women may stay up to two months. In addition, there are 35 shelters for women victims of trafficking with 354 shelter places available, and 149 apartments where women may stay up to one year. All shelters are free of charge and the women's shelters provide 24/7 access. Shelters are either run by NGOs or by the state, and most of them receive public funding. The data for state funding provided to women's shelters are not made publicly available. While all shelters accept boys and girls until the age 18, in practice, it remains unusual for boys over the age of the 16 to have access to shelters. Most accept women with or without children, and only some accept differently abled women.

The last shelter was opened in 2014 and six shelters have been closed over the last three years due to budget cuts for public policies on GBV by the autonomous community of Castilla La Mancha.

Domestic Violence Shelters and Other Shelters

When there is no space at women's shelters, survivors may be accommodated at homeless shelters. Other shelters available in Spain include 89 shelters with a focus on children and youth, located in Madrid.

Women's Centres

There are 717 women's centres providing non-residential support for all women survivors of violence in Spain. These are operated by women's NGOs and by the state, are funded by the state, and are available in all provinces and districts of Spain. Moreover, there are 26 centres providing support to women victims of rape and sexual assault, and 126 centres for women victims of trafficking; both are available in major cities and are funded by the state.

All the centres provide information and advice, as well as support with applying for independent residence permits for women who are legally residing in the country through their husband's residency permit. Most centres provide counselling and specialist support for BME women, support with accessing social rights such as income, employment, housing and health care; some centres also provide legal advice, specialist support for children and family support, conduct risk assessment and safety planning, and some cooperate with programmes that work with perpetrators of violence against women.

Women's Networks

There is currently no established national women's network in Spain; there is generally very little resource available to develop networking nationally.

However, in the area of national cooperation and coordinated action between women's organisations, the '7th of March Movement' – this included the Spanish National Women's Movement together with other Spanish women's organisations – has worked actively on the organisation of the [7th of March 2015 nation-wide march against gender-based violence](#). The march gathered close to 150,000 people, including representatives of the main political parties. The march was held to encourage the Spanish government to widen the scope of the Integral Act, currently addressing gender-based violence (GBV) perpetrated by current or former partners only. The aim was also to establish a new legislation including all forms of violence against women.

Over the last two years, a coalition of women's NGOs has worked as part of a 'Shadow Report platform', to produce a Shadow Report for the 2015 CEDAW Committee 61st session. The initiative and the resulting document was highly commended by the CEDAW Committee and the coalition is now planning on doing follow-up of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention (ratified in May 2014) by the state.

The National Observatory is much institutionalised network of about four women's NGOs, which is linked to the GBV delegation that includes politicians, and works closely with the government. The women's NGOs of the National Observatory have also worked on a Shadow Report to the CEDAW Committee.

Policy & Funding

The [National Strategy for the Eradication of Violence against Women 2013-2016](#) (*Estrategia Nacional para la Erradicación de la Violencia contra la Mujer 2013-2016*) addresses gender-based violence and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and does include gender-sensitivity. The NAP includes other forms of violence, as sexual harassment, female genital mutilation/cutting, so-called 'honour' killing and forced marriage. However, there is no funding for the fight against other forms of VAW, such as violence in the public sphere. In addition, the national Strategy on human trafficking also addresses some forms of violence against women.

The State Secretariat for Social Services and Equality (Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality) is responsible for coordinating the implementation of policies and measures on violence against women. Only five women's organisations (close to the government) are involved in the work of the coordinating body as experts in GBV perpetrated by current/ex-partners, and there is little communication with other women's NGOs in Spain. In addition, the Government Delegation against Gender Violence and State Observatory on Violence against Women is responsible for the formulation of public policies on GBV, as well as coordination and promotion of the actions carried out in this area. The body is working in collaboration and coordination with the authorities and jurisdiction in the matter, while additionally

monitoring and assessing the actions taken. The last evaluation report was published in 2015 and is publicly available.

Financial and human resources for women's NGOs activities to prevent and combat VAW is insufficient and unequally distributed between the different Spanish autonomous communities. Budget cuts have particularly affected the field of women's rights. State funding for women's NGOs activities to combat VAW is mostly project based, and in 2015, the [Fundación para la Convivencia ASPACIA](#) received state funding from the Instituto de la Mujer to run the foundation. In 2014, funding for governmental activities to combat GBV was EUR 23.7 million, and EUR 6 million for NGOs activities.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

Most women's centres and helplines, and some of the women's shelters are engaged in prevention and awareness raising work in Spain.

Prevention – Good practice example

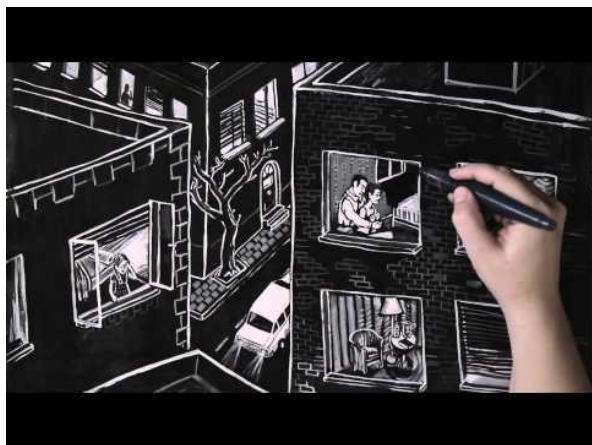
Organisation carrying out the activity: [Fundación para la Convivencia ASPACIA](#)

Timeframe of activity: Launched on 25 November 2014

Goals and target groups: The awareness-raising campaign 'Draw the Line' (*Dibuja la Línea*) addresses the issue of sexual violence, and aimed particularly at young people in Spain.

Description of activity: The campaign aims at breaking myths regarding sexual violence.

Main results: Trending topic on Twitter, and most widely shared [video](#) from ASPACIA's Facebook page.



Training

Most women's shelters, centres and helplines are engaged in the training of professionals such as health professionals including psychologists, education staff, and social workers, for which they sometimes receive state funding.

SWEDEN

Basic Information

Population: 9 644 864

Female Population: 4 830 507

Member of Council of Europe: 1949

Member of European Union: 1995

CEDAW ratified: 1980

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2003

Istanbul Convention – signed: 2011; ratified: 2014

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 74.2 for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/sweden>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2016:

Violence against women

26. The Committee commends the State party on its efforts to address gender-based violence against women. It notes that the State party is currently preparing a new holistic strategy to eliminate violence by men against women, as well as that new legislation to regulate export of arms is expected to be presented to the parliament in 2017. However, the Committee is deeply concerned that, despite all measures taken, concrete results are lacking and the prevalence of violence against women remains high in the State party. It is also concerned at:

(a) The low reporting rates of cases of violence against women, including rape, and low prosecution and conviction rates, resulting in impunity for perpetrators;

(b) Shortcomings relating to investigations and the judicial handling of cases of violence against women, particularly sexual violence, such as premature assessment of evidence and shortcomings in securing crime scenes, due to discriminatory attitudes and stereotypes;

(c) Differences between municipalities as regards the availability and quality of assistance and protection services, including shelters, for women victims of violence, as well as discrimination in the treatment of women belonging to minority groups;

(d) The risk of non-reporting of domestic violence for migrant women due to their dependence on their partners for their residence permits;

(e) The inadequacy of comparative and disaggregated data on cases of violence against women.

27. In line with its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt its holistic national strategy to address violence against women as soon as possible;
- (b) Put in place an effective monitoring mechanisms to regularly evaluate the impact of the measures taken to combat violence against women and take remedial action;
- (c) Further study the root causes for the low reporting and conviction rates in cases of violence against women, and strengthen its efforts to eliminate all barriers preventing women from reporting violence to the police;
- (d) Carry out an evaluation of the response of the police and judiciary to complaints of sexual crimes, and introduce mandatory capacity building for judges, prosecutors, the police and other law enforcement officers on the strict application of criminal law provisions on violence against women and on gender-sensitive procedures for interviewing women victims of violence;
- (e) Reinforce assistance and protection provided to all women victims of violence, including by strengthening the capacity of shelters and crisis centres and ensuring that they meet the accommodation needs of all victims without discrimination, as well as allocating adequate human, technical and financial resources;
- (f) Revise, from a gender perspective, the conditions for granting temporary residence permits to migrant women who are dependent on their partners in order to avoid adverse consequences for these women of their dependency on their partners when the latter exercise violence against them and ensure full protection to women victims of violence; and
- (g) Systematically collect disaggregated data on all forms of violence against women, protection measures, prosecutions and sentences imposed on perpetrators;
- (h) Ensure that the new legislation to regulate export of arms includes a strong and robust gender-specific perspective.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.¹⁶⁴ The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's networks, shelters, centres, helplines, and policy and funding. It was not possible to gather any data on prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

¹⁶⁴ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

There is a national women's helpline in Sweden called **Kvinnofridslinjen**, a national helpline for women who have been subjected to threats and all forms of violence. The helpline operates 24/7, is free of charge, and provides multilingual support.

Other helplines for victims

[Terraferm](#) (020 52 1010) is a non-profit organisation that works for the rights of women of all ages, based on a perspective of both gender and ethnicity. They run Sweden's only national helpline for immigrant women of all ages in 43 languages. The women's shelters apart of Roks have an emergency helpline where women and young women can call if the need support. A number of shelters also have a separate legal hotline. Some shelters have text telephones to cater for women with impaired hearing. Other shelters specialize in receiving adults subjected to incest.¹⁶⁵ [Tjeizonen](#) (The Girl Zone) is a non-profit association. Their target group is girls and young women between the ages of 12-25 years. Their objective is to prevent mental illness among girls and young women. Tjeizonen offers contacts through chats, e-mail, counselling, mentorship and different kinds of activities. [Brottsofferjouren](#) (The Victim's Support Organisation) is a national NGO working to improve conditions for crime victims. The organisation has a hundred local support centres for victims, and a national telephone helpline. [Preventell](#) is a helpline for men at risk committing sexual violence.

Women's Shelters

There are 161 women's shelters in Sweden, with 631 beds.

Women's Centres

There is no official number on number of women's centers; but at least 8 support centers for female survivors of sexual violence (crisis centers and other services such as shelters tend to also provide support to survivors of sexual violence). [Tjejjour](#), the young women's empowerment centers apart of Roks and Unizon have their own website. There are a total of 60 of these non-profit centers, which answer the phone and respond to questions via e-mail or online chatting. Some of the centers arrange summer camps, girl groups and workshops in schools. Anyone who identifies as a young woman can turn to a young women's empowerment centre with any thought or crisis. The website is a gateway for all of the empowerment centers in Sweden.¹⁶⁶

Women's Networks

There are two national women's networks in Sweden. [Roks](#) (National Organization for Women's Shelters and Young Women's Shelters) is a feminist aimed at safeguarding the common interests of the shelters in their work against male violence towards women. Roks engages in awareness-raising and public discourse. Roks also works on the rights of women's rights, equality and liberation. [Unizon](#) is also a network of women's shelters and young women's empowerment centers.

¹⁶⁵ Roks, <http://www.roks.se/about-roks-1>

¹⁶⁶ Tjejjouren, <http://www.tjejjouren.se/fler/english>

SWITZERLAND

Basic Information

Population: 8,139,631

Female Population: 4,117,540

Member of Council of Europe: 1963

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1997

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2008

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2013); ratified: no

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (http://fileserver.wave-network.org/researchreports/COUNTRY_REPORT_2012.pdf)

Gender Inequality Index: 0.028, for further information see: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/switzerland>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2009:

Violence against women

27. The Committee welcomes the range of measures taken by the State party to combat violence against women and notes, in particular, legislative measures, such as the revisions to the Penal Code by which acts of violence, including rape and coercion, committed in relationships are to be automatically prosecuted by the authorities, and the revision to the Civil Code enabling judicial authorities to expel a perpetrator from the common domicile for a fixed period of time or to prohibit the perpetrator from approaching or entering into contact with the victim. The Committee remains concerned, however, about the continuing prevalence of violence against women, including domestic violence, and about the absence of a comprehensive national law on violence against women. The Committee also notes the limited number of shelters for victims (18 throughout the territory of the State party) and is concerned that the establishment and funding of shelters and support services for victims are not considered the State party's responsibility or regulated by either federal or cantonal law. The Committee is also concerned that there are no means, at present, for standardized data collection on violence against women, including on the number of complaints, investigations and prosecutions of cases of violence in all cantons. The Committee notes that such data will be available only in 2010.

28. Recalling its previous concluding observations of 2003, the Committee urges the State party to continue to intensify its efforts to address the issue of violence against women and girls. In particular, the Committee calls upon the State party to enact comprehensive legislation against all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, as soon as possible. Such legislation should sanction all forms of violence against women and should ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection and that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished, but should also provide for the establishment of additional support services for victims, including shelters, as well as the provision of government funding for such services. In line with its general recommendation 19, the Committee also calls for the expansion of training activities and programmes for parliamentarians, the judiciary and legal and public officials, in particular law enforcement personnel and health-service providers, in order to ensure that they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and can provide adequate support to victims. It also recommends the expansion of public awareness-raising campaigns on all forms of violence against women. The

Committee requests the State party to standardize data and trends on the prevalence of various forms of violence, as well as on the number of complaints, investigations and prosecutions of cases.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines, shelters, centres, helplines, networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising and campaigning, and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is no national women's helpline in Switzerland.

Other helplines for victims

There are two national helplines for children (143) (147), running 24/7 and free of charge; these have a focus on general assistance but also support in case of domestic violence. Women's shelters are all accessible by phone, and the website www.violencequefaire.ch provides online-help in French and English.

The organisation [Weißer Ring](#) has an emergency crime victim's helpline (0444226562) available Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm, Fri 9am-3pm, which is not free of charge, is available in all of Switzerland and provides assistance only in German. The organisation [Castagna](#) (Zurich) runs a helpline for sexually abused children, young women and women survivors of childhood abuse (0443609040) available Mon-Wed 2-6pm, Thurs 9am-6pm, Fri 9am-2pm, which is not free of charge. [BIF Beratungsstelle für Frauen gegen Gewalt in Ehe und Partnerschaft](#) (Zurich) is a counselling service for women experiencing intimate partner violence and offers a helpline as well (0442789999), available Mo & Wed-Fri 9am-11am, 2pm-4pm, Tues 8:30am-11am, 4pm-6pm, not free of charge, with multi-lingual support available. The [Frauennottelefon Winterthur](#) is a counselling service with an additional helpline for women and female adolescents who have experienced violence (0522136161, available Mo, Tues, Thurs 10am-5pm, Wed 1-5pm, and is not free of charge. The association [Viol-Secours](#) (Geneva) offers telephone counselling to rape survivors and their family (0223452020), is available 24/7 and is not free of charge. The organisation [Lantana](#) (Bern) also offers help to survivors of sexual violence (0313131400), available Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9am-1pm, Tues 2pm-5pm, and not free of charge. The organisation [Espas](#) (Lausanne) offers telephone services (0848515000) and counselling for persons affected by sexual abuse. Also in Lausanne, the counselling service [Vogay](#) offers a whole range of telephone helplines for LGBT+ youth.

Women's Shelters

There are 19 women's shelters in Switzerland, all of which are run by independent women's NGOs. One of the shelters is only for young women survivors of violence between the ages of 14 and 20, and is located in Zürich. Additionally, there is one shelter for victims of trafficking in Zürich. At least 284 beds are available at 18 of the 19 shelters. In addition, 13 out of 18 shelters are accessible 24/7, while some have on-call emergency services. In emergency cases, all shelters are directly accessible and stays up to 21 days are funded by the government, with the average stay being 36 days.

The last women's shelter was opened in Zürich in 2013, fusion of two pre-existing shelters. In 2014, 18 of the 19 shelters accommodated 1,057 women and 989 children, and 1,033 women were not able to find a place at women's shelters.

Women's shelters are available in most regions, with a greater number of beds available in the western cantons. Most shelters have security precautions in place, but not all have secret locations or video monitoring. Most shelters provide non-residential support and all of the shelters have telephone counselling. The most common age limit for boys, if there is one, is 16 years while there is no age restriction on girls staying with their mothers.

All shelters offer access to women with(out) children, access to women above the age of 70, access to asylum-seeking, migrant and minority ethnic women. Most of the shelters offer access to women from other provinces of the country, this is especially difficult in the French-speaking parts of Switzerland. Most shelters offer unofficial access to undocumented women. None of the shelters offer access to women with disabilities due to lack of funding to make the shelters accessible. Additionally, there is no data available on the access of transgender women to women's shelters.

Domestic Violence Shelters and Other Shelters

In 2015, two shelters for women and men victims of domestic violence were opened in the canton of Valais. There is also one shelter for men victims of domestic violence, and six shelters for women facing various difficulties, including domestic violence. In addition (and very worryingly), a shelter accommodating survivors and perpetrators of violence simultaneously was opened in Geneva Le Pertuis in 2015. A Zürich-based project of second-stage shelter was initiated in 2015.

Women's Centres

There is a number of women's centres in Switzerland. However, there is no information available on the total number of these centres. Women's centres providing non-residential support to survivors of violence are available in all regions, run by women's and other NGOs. In addition, there are centres for girls experience sexual abuse, and rape crisis centres or helplines, which are run by women's NGOs. Rape crisis centres or helplines are available in the major cities of the French part of the country. A centre for LGBT+ is also available, run an NGO, as well as a centre for BME women, migrant and undocumented migrant women.

All women's centres offer: information and advice, counselling, advocacy, empowering support, multi-lingual support, specialist support for black/minority/ethnic/migrant/asylum-seeking women, risk assessment and safety planning, legal advice, court accompaniment, support concerning health-care and independent residence permits. Most women's centres offer specialist support for children, while some women's centres offer practical support, multi-agency support for survivors, cooperation with services working with perpetrators, support of survivors organising themselves and systemic/family

support. No women's centres offer floating/mobile support or support of survivor participation in policy development and evaluation.

Women's Networks

There are five national women's networks in Switzerland.

[DAO Dachorganisation der Frauenhäuser der Schweiz und Liechtenstein](#) is the umbrella organisation for women's shelters in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Its focus is on survivors of domestic violence (DV) and their children. Comprising women's shelters, the network is active in awareness-raising, and campaigning.

[Alliance F](#) is an umbrella organisation for Swiss women's organisation, focusing on economic empowerment and gender equality (GE). They are active in awareness-raising and lobbying, as well as trainings for women on the job market.

[Cfd](#) is a feminist peace organisation active in international cooperation, migration politics, and promotion of peace. The organisation focuses on empowerment and anti-militarism, and its activities include awareness-raising and campaigning, including participation in the [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign](#), national and international projects.

[Vivre Sans Violence](#) is a network of mixed services with focus on intimate partner violence. They are only active in the French-speaking part of Switzerland and offer online consultation in French and English. They are active in awareness-raising and violence prevention, as well as online-consultation.

[Swonet](#) is the Swiss Women's Network and a foundation which focuses on GE and economic empowerment of women. They are active as an information-dissemination and lobbying platform. The development of Swonet has met several challenges including in cooperation, coordination, funding and language.

Policy & Funding

Switzerland does not have a national action plan to fight violence against women. Swiss legislation has a [victim's support law](#) which doesn't focus on violence against women but is geared towards all survivors of different types of violence. Since 2012, a penal norm addresses Female Genital Mutilation, and the issue of forced and early marriage is also addressed through a penal law. Efforts to prevent and combat forms of violence including rape and sexual assault, and family or domestic violence are delegated to the Swiss provinces.

The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (UNSC 1325) was implemented in form of the National Action Plan 1325, but this NAP focuses on women victims of human trafficking and violence against women in armed conflicts.

The Federal Office for Gender Equality ([FOGE](#)) is the national coordinating and evaluating office for all violence against women related legislation and comprises a department for domestic violence. FOGE's work is based on the [Gender Equality Act](#) and the office has published one report on [women's shelters in Switzerland](#) and one report on [intimate partner violence in Switzerland](#). The tasks of FOGE include coordination and networking inside the federal government, and the promotion of coordination

between federation, cantons and NGOs. The last [state report to the CEDAW Committee](#) was provided in 2014, and a [review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action](#) was conducted in 2014.

In 2014, no state funding was allocated for NGOs activities to combat violence against women. Partly due to the political and administrative structure of Switzerland, no state funding is allocated to women's NGOs on the national level. However, some funding is allocated to women's NGOs on the cantonal or municipal level, most of which is project-based or going directly to the coordination of Intervention Offices (IST).

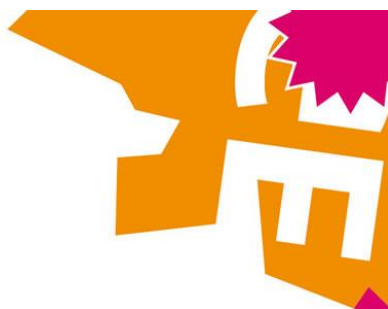
Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

Most national women's networks, shelters and centres are engaged in prevention work, including the annual global 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign.

Prevention – Good practice example

Organisation carrying out the activity: Coordination of mixed organisations

Timeframe of activity: 25 November-10 December 2015



[Calendar of activities - 16 Days of Activism 2015](#)

Training

Some national women's networks, shelters and centres are sometimes engaged in the training of professionals.

TURKEY

Basic Information

Population: 76,667,864

Female Population: 38,194,504

Member of Council of Europe: 1949

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1985

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2002

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2011); ratified: yes (2012)

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/COUNTRY_REPORT_2012.pdf)

Gender Equality Index: 0.359, for further information see: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>;

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/asia/turkey>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2010:

Violence against women

22. The Committee notes with appreciation the measures taken to combat violence against women, such as the amendments to the Turkish Penal Code, the issuance of a Prime Ministry Circular outlining the measures to be taken and the responsible institutions, the establishment of a Monitoring Committee for Violence against Women, the adoption of the National Action Plan for Combating Domestic Violence against Women, as well as various awareness-raising and training programmes. The Committee notes that the State party is developing a new action plan on violence against women. The Committee is concerned, however, about the continuing prevalence of violence against women, including domestic violence, which affects 39 per cent of women in the territory of the State party. The Committee notes the existence of Law No. 4320 on the Protection of the Family, but also notes the absence of a comprehensive national law on violence against women. The Committee also notes the limited number of shelters (57 available throughout the State party) and is concerned that such shelters may lack proper facilities and resources.

23. The Committee urges the State party to continue to accord priority attention to the adoption of comprehensive measures to address violence against women in accordance with its general recommendation No. 19. The Committee calls on the State party to evaluate and strengthen Law No. 4320 in order to enact comprehensive legislation on all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, and to ensure that in such legislation all forms of violence against women are prohibited, that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection, including protection orders, and that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished. In line with its previous concluding observations of 2005, the Committee recommends the expansion of training activities and programmes for public officials, the judiciary, law enforcement personnel and health-service providers in order to ensure that they can address and combat all forms of violence against women and can provide adequate support to victims. It also recommends the continuation of public awareness-raising campaigns on all forms of violence against women and girls. The Committee further recommends that the State party establish additional counselling and other support services for victims of violence, including additional shelters, and ensure that adequate resources are allocated in order to implement the necessary measures in this regard. The Committee requests the State party to enhance its cooperation with non-governmental organizations working in the area of violence against women.

24. The Committee notes the measures taken to combat honour killings, such as the issuance of a Prime Ministry Circular and the implementation of training and awareness-raising programmes. The Committee is concerned, however, about the persistence of such killings and the lack of data available on its incidence in rural or remote areas. While taking note of the information provided by the State party that article 82 of the Penal Code is considered to include both custom and honour killings and that article 29 of the Penal Code on “unjust provocation” has been amended to abolish possible sentence reductions for honour killings, the Committee remains concerned that the provisions of the Penal Code

may result in less vigorous prosecution of and reduction of sentences for the perpetrators of such crimes.

25. The Committee recommends that honour killings be explicitly included within the scope of article 82 of the Penal Code and classified as aggravated homicide, and that such crimes are treated as seriously as other violent crimes with regard to investigation and prosecution. The Committee also recommends the implementation of effective prevention measures, including educational and awareness-raising measures aimed at law enforcement officials, the judiciary, health-service providers, social workers, community leaders and the general public. The Committee requests the State party to include detailed information on the incidence of killings in the name of honour, particularly in rural or remote areas, including the number of investigations, prosecutions and perpetrators punished, as well as the sentences imposed.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the [WAVE Report](#) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines, shelters, centres, networks, policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is one national women's helpline in Turkey called "Türkiye Kadın Dernekleri Federasyonu Aile İçi Şiddet Acil Yardım Hattı" (Federation of Women Associations of Turkey Emergency Domestic Violence Hotline) and the number is (0212 656 9696). Established in 2004 by the newspaper Hürriyet as an outcome of its national campaign on domestic violence, the helpline is now (starting in 2015) owned and run by the [Federation of Women Associations of Turkey](#). The helpline runs 24/7, but does not operate free of charge and it does not provide multi-lingual support – bilingual support is provided in Turkish and English. In 2014, it received no state funding to cover its operation, and it received approximately EUR 200,000 through other sources of funding.

In 2014, the national women's helpline received 4,035 calls, among which 2,329 calls from survivors and survivors' acquaintances.

Other helplines for victims

The general victims' helpline "[Social Service Counselling Line for Family, Women, Children and the Disabled \('ALO 183'\)](#)" exists since 2007 and the number is (183). The helpline operates 24/7 and is free of charge; it is run by the state (Ministry of Family and Social Policies) and fully funded by it. In 2014, the helpline registered 101,462 calls, including 23,643 linked to services for women and 11,878 linked to services for children.

Women's Shelters

There are 130 women's shelters in Turkey, with 3,386 shelters beds available for women and their children. Among these, 97 shelters (with a capacity of 2,603 beds) are run by the Ministry of Family and Social Policies and are available in 79 cities, 32 shelters (with a capacity of 763 beds) are run by municipalities, and one shelter (with a capacity of 20 beds) is run by the feminist organization [Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation](#). All women's shelters provide services free of charge, and none are available 24/7. The last two women's shelters opened in 2015 and over the last three years, one women's shelter had to close due to insufficient physical conditions and infrastructure.

Available in most regions of Turkey, the shelters accept women with their children, most of them having an age limit for boys, 12 being the common age limit, while for girls there is no age limit. According to the legislation, women may stay at shelters for up to six months, and this period can be extended with the decision of a commission that takes into account the opinion of assigned social workers.¹⁶⁷ According to the same legislation, children with disabilities cannot stay at the shelters – for them an appropriate residential place will be designated.¹⁶⁸ Despite being mentioned, this has not been implemented in practice. Standards for running the shelters were created by the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, however, there is no information available on how many shelters apply these standards.

In 2014, the women's shelters accommodated 14,123 women and 5,742 children.

In addition to the women's shelters, there are 25 initial reception units (temporary/emergency shelters) located in 24 cities in Turkey, where women and their children stay on average 15 days before being transferred to women's shelters.

Two shelters provide accommodation specifically for women victims of trafficking; both are run by NGOs: [Human Resource Development Foundation](#) (İnsan Kaynağı Geliştirme Vakfı) in İstanbul, and [Foundation for Women's Solidarity](#) (Kadın Dayanışma Vakfı) in Ankara.

Domestic Violence Shelters and Other Shelters

There are two domestic violence shelters in Turkey, both of which are run by the state and accommodate men only. There is no specific housing model established for survivors of domestic violence, but there are special housing programmes established by the Ministry of Family and Social Policies – General Directorate of Social Benefits and Housing Development Administration of Turkey (TOKİ), having as target groups the poor and needy citizens, without social security.

Women's Centres

There are 55 women's centres running non-residential for all women survivors of violence available in Turkey; 36 of these centres are run by the state called Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centers (Şiddet Önleme ve İzleme Merkezleri) and 19 are run by women's NGOs. Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres receive funding from the state, and the centres run by women's NGOs are funded through donations, the municipalities and foundations. In 2014, the women's centres served 832 women. In addition, three centres provide support to women survivors of trafficking, and one centre provides support to migrant, minority ethnic and asylum seeking women. All of them are run by women's NGOs and receive public funds. Hence, there is a total of 59 women's centres in Turkey.

¹⁶⁷ 2013 Regulation on Opening and Operating Women's Guest Houses. Article 14 – Retention Time. Available at: <http://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2013/01/20130105-5.htm>

¹⁶⁸ 2013 Regulation on Opening and Operating Women's Guest Houses. Article 13 – Beneficiaries of Guest Services. Available at: <http://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2013/01/20130105-5.htm>

All of the women's centres offer information and advice, and some offer advocacy services, practical support, specialist support for children, specialist support for black/minority/ethnic/migrant/asylum seeking women, risk assessment and safety planning, legal advice and court accompaniment, support concerning social rights, and work in cooperation with services running perpetrators programs. No centre offers legal representation, health care support, and none encourages participation of the survivors in policy development and evaluation.

Women's Networks

There is one national women's network in Turkey, called the [Shelters and Consultation Centres Convention](#). The network was founded in 1998, and it includes 21 women's centres as members. Its main activities consist in the organisation of "conferences and conventions for women organizations, municipalities and for relevant Institutions of Ministry of Family and Social Policies' employees, all of whom are working towards the prevention of violence towards women, or who are planning to initiate a consultation centre/shelter.¹⁶⁹"

The network does not receive funding from the government. The network is not, nor intends to be, its own legal entity – as there is no legal status for a platform such as the Shelters and Consultation Centres Convention, the network would have to be established as an association or a foundation, with requires a lot of bureaucracy.

Policy & Funding

The **National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women 2012-2015** is currently in place in Turkey; it will be followed by the National Action on Combating Violence against Women 2016-2019, which is currently being drafted. The draft NAP was shared with some women's NGOs for feedback, however some of them have refused to provide feedback, due to the government's refusal to share the outcomes of the previous plan.

The National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women 2012-2015 addresses violence within the family or domestic violence.

In Turkey, the coordinating body responsible for implementing policies and measures to prevent violence against women is the Directorate of Status of Women, which operates under the Ministry of Family and Social Policies. Some women NGOs are involved in the work of the coordinating body, however these are either close to the government or tend to be utilised as tools for government publicity. The Directorate of Status of Women is also responsible for monitoring and evaluating policies on VAW, with is conducted without consultation with women's NGOs; in addition, the government generally dismisses reports by women NGOs issue as not valid.

Evaluation reports for the previous and the current NAP were developed by the state, but these were not made public. Women NGOs have conducted their own evaluation of the NAP through a CEDAW Shadow Report. In 2015, the Executive Committee for NGO Forum on CEDAW – a coalition of 13 independent women's rights and LGBT organisations working regionally and nationally for the

¹⁶⁹ Mor Çatı. *Shelters and Consultation Centers Convention*. Available at: <https://www.morcati.org.tr/en/what-are-we-doing/shelters-and-consultation-centers-convention>

promotion and protection of women's and LGBT rights – published a [Shadow Report for the 64th CEDAW Session in July 2016](#).

State funding for women's NGOs is nearly always project-based, and only some women's NGOs (set up by the state) have access to annual core funding. Civil society in Turkey is currently entering a new and worrying phase, with the government establishing its own NGOs (explicitly seen among women's NGOs), with the implication of these NGOs having greater access to funds and official state meetings and consultation. The Central Finance and Contracts Unit (CFCU) is the institution responsible for overall budgeting.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

The national women's network, the national women's helpline as well as some women's centres conduct work in the area of prevention, awareness-raising and campaigning.

Training

Some of the women's organisations are involved in the training of professionals, including police, social workers, lawyers, judges, civil servants, psychologists, pedagogues and others. They do not receive state funding for these activities.

Training – Good practice example 1

Organisation carrying out the activity: [Foundation for Women's Solidarity](#)

Timeframe of activity: three days training workshop

Goals and target groups: The goal of the "Training for Trainers" was to train women who would work as training assistants in house/neighbourhood meetings with women in socioeconomically disadvantaged parts of Ankara. Target groups included volunteers, staff of women counselling centres and shelters, teachers.

Description of activity: The training included the topics of adult education, methods, communication; gender equality, violence against women, the mechanism of combating violence against women; conflict resolution, methods used in activities with women

Main results: The women who later worked as training assistants during 18 house/neighbourhood meeting were trained.

Training – Good practice example 2

Organisation carrying out the activity: [Foundation for Women's Solidarity](#)

Timeframe of activity: five days training workshop

Goals and target groups: The goal of the "Women's Counselling Centres Training" was mainly to train women who are part of the mechanism of combating violence against women. Target groups included the staff of both state and municipality-led women counselling centres and shelters, lawyers, and volunteers.

Description of activity: The training included the topics gender, gender stereotypes, gender based violence, gender inequality, violence against women, different types of violence, results of violence against women, the mechanism of combating violence against women, the importance of women's counselling centres, how to operate a women's counselling centre, how to give counselling to women survivors of violence, security plan, secondary trauma, burnout syndrome.

Main results: The women who were already working with survivors of violence face to face every day as part of the mechanism of combating violence received an intense training which their own institutions did not provide them with.

UKRAINE

Basic Information

Population: 45,372,692

Female Population: 24,409,948

Member of Council of Europe: 1995

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1981

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 2003

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2011); ratified: no

Violence prevalence data: see WAVE Report 2012 on our website (<http://www.wave-network.org/>)

Gender Equality Index: 0.286, for further information see: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>

UN Woman Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/ukraine>

CEDAW Concluding Comments 2010:

Violence against women

26. While welcoming the measures undertaken by the State party to eliminate violence against women, in particular the adoption of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (2001), the Committee remains concerned at the continuing prevalence of this phenomenon, and in particular at the lack of information on the effective implementation of the law. The Committee also notes with concern that among the penalties imposed by the courts to the perpetrators of domestic violence “fines are in an absolute majority”, which is largely ineffective, as indicated in the written responses 14 and 15 of the State party, because it does not impact specifically on the offenders but on the family as a whole. In addition, the Committee regrets the lack of information and sex disaggregated statistical data regarding the types of violence against women and the number of female victims.

27. The Committee urges the State party to implement the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (2001) effectively and to monitor its impact on women. It urges the State party to work towards a comprehensive approach to preventing and addressing all forms of violence against women, in conformity with the Committee's general recommendation No. 19, and to improve its research and data

collection on the prevalence, causes and consequences of violence against women and to include the results in its next periodic report. The Committee calls upon the State party to take the necessary measures to ensure effective penalties in the cases of domestic violence, which are specifically targeted on perpetrators.

28. While welcoming the creation of shelters and social centres for victims of domestic violence, the Committee is concerned by the obstacles encountered by women in their access to these services owing to the official registration requirement, age limits and the fact that these centres lack appropriate funding and are not available in all regions.

29. The Committee urges the State party to take all necessary measures to ensure that women who are victims of domestic violence, including rural women and vulnerable groups of women, such as Roma women, have full access to the shelters and social centres for victims and to immediate means of redress and protection, without limitation of age or of another kind. The Committee also urges the State party to ensure that public officials, especially law enforcement personnel, the judiciary, health-care providers and social workers, are fully familiar with the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (2001) and knowledgeable about the other forms of violence against women, in order to be able to provide adequate assistance to the victims.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (available on our website: <http://www.wave-network.org/>) with national experts working in the field of violence against women. The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's helplines, women's shelters, women's centres, women's networks, and policy and funding, prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is a national women's helpline under the number 0800 500 335 or 386 run by the NGO 'La Strada Ukraine'. The helpline does not operate 24/7; instead, it operates Monday through Saturday, 9:00-20:00 and Sunday from 10:00-18:00. The helpline operates free of charge. Assistance is offered in English, Russian and Ukrainian. The total number of calls received in 2014 was 7,725, 75% of which came from women.

Other helplines for victims

In addition to the national women's helpline, there is a national child hotline under the number 0800 500 225 run by NGO 'La Strada Ukraine'. In 2014, the helpline received 27,073 calls.

Women's Shelters

There are currently a total of two women's shelters in Ukraine. Additionally, there is a shelter for victim of trafficking. It is not possible to state the number of shelter spaces in Ukraine, as this would require a

separate survey to be conducted. Most regions in Ukraine have institutions that provide social services to women victims of domestic violence, including the provision of temporary shelter. Typically, shelters are not able to provide 24/7 access as there is a registration process in place, and it can only take place during working hours. Generally, once admitted, women can stay up to 90 days in accommodation. Women's shelters are provided free of charge. It is not possible to estimate the amount of funding provided to women's shelters as such information is not publically available.

It is not possible to give the exact number of domestic violence shelters. A report written by Iryna Demchenko, referred to 40 domestic violence shelters to exist at the beginning of 2014, however, this refers to centres for family, children and youth, and centers for psycho-social support that are run by the state. These are institutions, where victims of domestic violence could also seek help, but are not specialist organizations for such victims. At the same no statistical report on the situation of entire Ukraine has been conducted to accurately estimate a number.

For women, who are unable to find shelter accommodation, or for women, who have completed a shelter stay, the options are very limited. In addition to there being no second stage/transitional housing, there are also no public housing programs.

Women's Centres

There are at least three women's centers (non-residential for all women survivors of violence) in Ukraine. They are run by the state and are available only in the capital city.

All of the centers provide information and advice and counselling, while most conduct advocacy, provide practical support (e.g. assistance with application for a residency permit or social benefits), legal advice, housing, and are part of multi-agency support for survivors. Some of the centres provide specialist support for children, multilingual support, risk assessment and safety planning, among others. None of the centers provide support concerning income, employment or childcare.

Other services and general in nature in Ukraine include centres of social services for family, children and youth, and centres for psycho-social support. They are state-run and exist in most regions of the country.

Women's Networks

There are two national women's networks in Ukraine: Gender Strategic Platform and Women's Consortium of Ukraine.

The Gender Strategic Platform is an informal group of 40 experts on gender equality and women's empowerment. The activities of the network include education and awareness raising as well as facilitating the cultural connections between Ukraine and other countries in order to strengthen the international women's movement. The network is still informal as it is neither a legal entity, nor does it have a national office.

The Women's Consortium of Ukraine is a formal network of women's NGOs. The network conducts activities in promotion of equal rights and opportunities of women and men, and promotes the well-

being of children. Additional activities include work in the area of prevention of domestic violence against women and children, and elimination of trafficking in women and children.

The ongoing obstacle to women's organizations operating in a network is the lack of funding for networking activities. Furthermore, the war in eastern Ukraine prohibits women's organization from taking part in networking activities.

Additionally, the women's organizations that carry out the activities do not receive state funding to carry out the work, as a result it is difficult to ensure active membership.

Policy & Funding

According to the Council of Europe monitoring report, there is an action plan on national campaign against violence 2010-2015.¹⁷⁰

Additionally, there is a National Strategy in the area of human rights signed with a presidential decree on 25 August 2015. The strategy covers a variety of areas, including political and economic rights, right to education, health and social rights, gender equality, as well as right to a life free from violence, among others.

The action plan against violence addresses the following forms of violence: rape and sexual assault, violence within the family and domestic violence, sexual harassment, violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as violence in institutional environments. Policies and measures about specialist women support services are integrated into the action plan.

There is a governmental coordinating body for implementing policies and measures in the area of addressing violence against women. This coordinating body is the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine. Much of the coordination is conducted by the Department for Family, Gender Policy and Counteracting of Trafficking in Human Beings at the national level and by its regional divisions on local level. Women's NGOs play a crucial role in the work of the coordinating body and experts from women's NGOs take part in different programs and taskforce meetings. The coordination done by the Ministry of Social Policy is satisfactory, however, a body established in 2007 within the Ministry for the purpose of addressing violence against women (i.e. Intergovernmental Council on Family, Gender Equality, Demographics, Prevention of Domestic Violence, and Human Trafficking) should finally begin its work. According to the Council of Europe monitoring report, there is also a national body/institution entrusted with the evaluation and monitoring of the action plan. This national body/institution is the Intergovernmental Council; however, as aforementioned, it is not yet active. Women's NGOs are involved in the work of the evaluation/monitoring body and are part of the Intergovernmental Council. There is an evaluation report or publication issued by the evaluation and monitoring body on the implementation of the action plan. Additionally, research and/or surveys such as documentation for the implementation of CEDAW exist. Women's NGOs themselves conduct evaluation of the national action plan. According to a report conduct by NGOs for the universal periodic review, the government policy on countering violence against women cannot be considered to be satisfactory. There are numerous shortcomings, including:

¹⁷⁰ Hagemann-White, Carol. (2014). Analytical study of the results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation of recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states. Pg. 56.

no concrete mechanisms to protect rights of victims in courts and provisions in the area of prevention work, such as trainings of professionals is weak.

In terms of financial and human resources allocated to adequate implementation of policies in the area of violence against women, due to the ongoing war, such resources are absent. According to the Council of Europe monitoring report, some funding is allocated to government activities (not to NGO activities),¹⁷¹ but data on the amounts is not available due to decentralized budgeting. Currently, however, no specific funds are allocated for the work in the area of combating violence against women on a national level.

Although provisions in national legislation enable state funding of NGOs, including women's NGO, governmental funding for women's support services is not mandated by law or regulation. Women's NGOs working in service provision receive government funding such as project funding, annual core funding, and partial co-financing (from local budgets) of project activities such as workshops, seminars or round tables. The cooperation between the government and women's NGOs is on adequate level in Ukraine. There is definite lack of financial support from the government, but representatives from organizations are recognized as experts, take part in many working groups, and are working towards improving the social and legal situation in the country.

Prevention, Awareness-raising, Campaigning

The women's helpline and most of the national women's networks and women's centres in Ukraine conduct prevention and awareness raising activities, such as providing information, conducting campaigns, working in the community, working in schools, among others. Some of the women's shelters also do.

In 2014, the National Trainers Network of the Centre 'La Strada Ukraine' conducted a series of prevention and educational activities with professionals and groups at risk of experiencing violence.

In the one-year period, the Network was able to reach out to more than 26,000 participants, about half of which were professionals and the remaining representatives of persons facing risks of violence. Many of the activities focuses on socio-pedagogical and psychological work with children during conflict. Some events were conducted on the theme of prevention of trafficking as well as dealing with cases of domestic violence. Several activities also focused on the safe use of information and communication technologies.

Training

Training of professionals is commonly conducted by women's centres and this is mostly for the police and social workers.

As example, NGO trainers with the support of international technical assistance conduct training of police officers to enable them to better respond to cases of violence. Such trainings have been conducted in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv, and Odessa. The training involves six hours and is part of continuing education for the professionals.

¹⁷¹ Ibid. Pg. 60.

UNITED KINGDOM

Basic Information

Population: 64 308 261

Female Population: 32 659 675

Member of Council of Europe: 1949

Member of European Union: 1973

CEDAW ratified: 1986

CEDAW Optional protocol ratified: 1986

Istanbul Convention – signed: yes (2012); ratified: no

Violence prevalence data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

Gender Equality Index: 58.0, for further information see: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index/2012>

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women: <http://www.evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland?unstatscountry=56b3246f491f4cc599aedb73c5c85c9d>

CEDAW Concluding Comments¹⁷² 2013:

Violence against women

34. The Committee commends the State party for launching the “Call to end violence against women and girls” in 2010. It notes that the State party intends to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) and to criminalize forced marriage. It is concerned, however, at continued reports of violence against women, including domestic violence, affecting in particular black and ethnic minority women, and the so-called “honour killings” of ethnic minority women. The Committee is also concerned at reports of negative attitudes on the part of the police towards women who are victims of domestic violence. The Committee further recalls its previous concluding observations (ibid., paras. 280 and 281) and is concerned that corporal punishment remains lawful in the home.

35. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19, on violence against women, and its previous recommendation, the Committee urges the State party:

- (a) To ratify the Istanbul Convention and criminalize forced marriage;
- (b) To increase its efforts to protect women, including black and ethnic minority women, against all forms of violence, including domestic violence, and so-called “honour killings”;
- (c) To continue public campaigns to raise awareness of all forms of violence against women, including black and ethnic minority women;
- (d) To step up efforts to train police officers in order to eliminate prejudices concerning the credibility of victims of domestic violence;

¹⁷² Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

(e) To revise its legislation to prohibit corporal punishment of children in the home.

ENGLAND

[Introduction](#)

The following information has been compiled from the research carried out in 2015 for the WAVE Report (http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf) with national experts working in the field of violence against women.¹⁷³ The research methodology involved an extensive questionnaire and a follow-up skype interview. The profile includes information on women's networks, shelters, helplines, centres, and policy and funding. It was not possible to gather any data on prevention, awareness-raising, campaigning and training.

[ENGLAND](#)

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

The national women's domestic abuse helpline is called '[National Domestic Violence Helpline](#)' (0800 2000 247), in existence since 2004. This helpline is run in partnership by Women's Aid and Refuge, both women's NGOs. This helpline operates 24/7, free of charge, and provides multi-lingual support through Language Line, an external organization. There is also TypeTalk, for callers who are deaf or who have hearing difficulties, which provides a voicemail service, responds to emails from survivors of abuse and their supporters, provides a voicemail service, and responds to emails from survivors of abuse and their supporters.

[Rape Crisis Helpline](#) (0808 802 999) supports women and girl survivors of rape or any form of sexual violence. The helpline operates from 12-12:30 and 7-9:30pm.

Other national helplines for victims

The Children's Helpline is called 'Childline' (0800) 111, is free of charge, and offers chat via email and message boards.

Rights of Women (ROW) helpline explains the legal rights to women.

[Broken Rainbow UK](#) (0300 999 5428) for LGBT experiencing domestic violence, with a trans-specific service on Tuesdays, but the opening hours differ day-to-day.

[National Stalking Helpline](#) (0808 802 0300) provides support for survivors of harassment or stalking. The website says it is open Monday-Friday 9:30-5, except for Wednesdays when open at 1pm.

Honour Network Helpline/[Karma Nirvana](#) (0800 59999 247) is for survivors of so-called crimes of honor") and forced marriage across the UK, conducting advocacy, school projects, campaigns ("Britain's

¹⁷³ Data presented in this country profile has been compiled throughout an extensive data collection process, however the final country profile has not been approved by the corresponding WAVE delegate.

Lost Women”), education workshops, and police training, and is open to all genders and sexualities. Available 9:30-17:00 Monday-Friday.

[The Survivors UK Helpline](#) (0845 122 1201) is for men who have been raped or sexual abused.

[Men's advice line](#) (0808 801 0327) provides support for men in abusive relationships in England, Wales, and Scotland. It is free from landlines and most mobiles, it is run and managed by Respect, and is open Monday-Friday 9-5.

[Respect Phoneline](#) (0808 802 4040) is a helpline for DV perpetrators that covers England, Wales and Scotland, which is free from landlines and most mobiles, and is open Monday-Friday from 9-5.

Women's Shelters

There are 243 women's shelters in England, as well as 27 specialised shelters for black minority ethnic (BME) women, and 1 specialised shelter for victims of trafficking (Eaves Poppy Project), with 9 beds. 45 women's shelters have specialized services for BME women, 27 of these are specific BME refuges. At least one shelter offers specialized support groups for gypsy, Roma, and traveller women. The Government has a Forced Marriage Unit, otherwise there are no shelters dedicated to forced marriage, but victims are welcome in any shelter.

There has been a move towards smaller number of large organizations, that are not always from the local area or have local expertise, providing accommodation in many local authority areas. Cuts and changes can be due to local government decisions, or different organizations running the refuges (closing down a refuge run by a dedicated service and replacing/opening a refuge run by a general domestic violence support organization).

In refuges in England, there are 3,611 beds according to the recent database number from July 2015. Women's Aid has developed National Quality standards for services supporting women and children survivors of domestic violence. Not all shelters apply the standards, as it is a fairly new initiative. It is not just for shelters, either, it is for any domestic violence service. Currently 34 domestic violence services are accredited. 10 domestic violence services are in the process of being accredited. Imkaan also has their own standards, Imkaan Accredited Quality Standards (IAQS).

Domestic violence shelters and other shelters

After shelters, women would have to go into private housing or apply for local council or housing association housing.¹⁷⁴ There is very little transitional housing for women before they move on to social housing or the private sector. There are some organizations (213 services in England), which offer resettlement support. The helpline receives an average of 493 calls per day (not only from women, but also repeat callers and calls from survivors, professionals, and third parties).

Women's Centres

¹⁷⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/browse/housing-local-services/council-housing-association>

There are a number of women's centres offering a wide range of services, including independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARACs), independent sexual violence advisors (ISVAs) and other professionals doing similar work in England and Wales. There are also 46 rape crisis centres, 30 sexual assault referral centres (SARCs). Additionally, Survivors Trust (TST) is a national umbrella agency with 135 specialized services for survivors of sexual violence in the UK and Ireland.

It is interesting to note that there are some services run by Refuge (a member organization of Women's Aid). For instance, the Gaia centre provides services for all victims of GBV, including sexual violence, stalking, prostitution, trafficking, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, and so-called honour-based violence. Gaia centre also supports clients who are transgender. Additionally, Athena Service provides support to those in London who are experiencing gender-based violence, and support women and girls +13, and men 16+, including LGBT.

Women's Networks

[Women's Aid Federation England](#) is a federation of over 220 organisations who provide more than 300 local lifesaving services to women and children across the country (including shelters and community-based domestic abuse services), and provides expert training (Women's Aid National Training Centre), qualifications, consultancy, and award a National Quality Mark for services which meet their quality standards. Their campaigns achieve change in policy, practice, awareness, and encourage health relationships. Women's Aid also has a 24-hour national domestic violence helpline (run in partnership with Refuge), as well as a range of online services, such as Survivors Forum (safe space for women to share experiences and receive direct advice).

[Rape Crisis England & Wales](#) is a gender-specific and women-led umbrella body for a network of 46 independent organizations. It provides a coordinating voice for the rape crisis movement to influence policy development, increase service provision, and challenge sexual violence by leading awareness-raising campaigns and providing a central source of accurate information to the Government. Rape Crisis also has Rape Crisis National Service Standards.

[Survivors Trust](#) (TST) is a network of specialist rape, sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse organizations throughout the UK and Ireland, providing networking and support.

[Imkaan](#) is a network of organizations which provide a diverse range of services including refuge accommodation, advice, outreach, health and legal services, therapeutic services, and women's empowerment groups. Imkaan is a black feminist organization addressing violence against women and girls, and provides support, representation, and leadership to their members through advocacy, development work, research, and information, and peer education. They also campaign with other organizations around collectively-felt issues, and their training programme for professionals is a grassroots response to VAWG with a BME context.

[Against violence and Abuse](#) (AVA) is a national network of agencies which provide direct services to victims, and works to end all forms of violence against women and girls, through conducting trainings to promote best practices, networking, and learning opportunities for those coming into contact with survivors of abuse, and also develop e-learning courses on violence against women and girls.

[End Violence against Women](#) is a coalition of organizations and individuals campaigning to end all forms of VAW. It lobbies the government, challenges cultural attitudes, and aims to prevent violence against women.

Policy & Funding

There is an action plan called 'Call to end violence against women and girls Action Plan' (2011-2015). The Action Plan is reviewed and refreshed every year. However, the UK 2015 General Election saw a change of government and as a result, a further violence against women and girls strategy is in development and should be published at the end of 2015. Although the previous Action Plan wanted to make it a national priority to continue central funding to frontline services over the next four years. Women's Aid is calling for funding for specialist domestic violence refuges and the development of a long-term solution for refuge funding.

The Home Office is overall responsible for the delivery of the strategy, and this is managed at a high level through the violence against women and girls inter-ministerial group (IMG) which is chaired by the Home Secretary. Every year, women's organizations are involved in looking at priorities going forward, and every ¼ year, there are stakeholder meetings. Women's organizations are invited to provide input into the IMG and also attend roundtable meetings held by the Home Secretary and the relevant Home Office minister. Home Office also hosts the VAWG Stakeholder Group, which is a group of non-governmental organizations who meet regularly to share information and get updates from the Home Office on their progress. Women's organizations are also informally involved in the evaluation of the strategy through the Stakeholder Group roundtables and IMG. There are annual reviews by the Home Office, but there is no evaluation office. There are reports and publications by the evaluation and monitoring body on the government's [website](#).

The law allows for funding of women's organizations, but funding of specialist women's support services is not mandated by law/regulation.

Prevention

Women's Aid Federation England has been advising the BBC since January 2015 on how to develop the gripping drama of coercive control in the rural idyll of Ambridge, England. The Archers, BBC's flagship radio soap, has held their 5 million devoted listeners worldwide enthralled by the harrowing tale of Helen Archer's isolation, subjugation and domination by the outwardly charming and plausible Rob Titchener. What began as an illicit love affair descended step by painful step through the daily 12 minute transmissions into sinister and disturbing domestic violence. The extent to which this story has shocked and horrified listeners has been well documented online through Message Boards and Twitter as well as in print media. As a way of getting the message across the Archers has proved, and continues to be, excellent publicity for WAVE and campaigners against violence against women in general.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

There is one national women's helpline called "24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline" (0808 802 1414; open to women and men affected by domestic or sexual violence; support for "honor-based violence" and for LGBT victims of domestic and sexual violence; free of charge, 24/7; multi-lingual support; support for those with hearing difficulties or hearing loss) run by WAFNI. They also offer email (24hrsupport@dvhelpline.org) and text support (07797 805 839). The helpline has been in existence since 1995. In 2014, the helpline expanded to cover sexual violence.

Since 2005, the helpline is jointly funded by the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety, the Department of Justice, and the Department for Social Development.

Other helplines for victims

There are seven national helpline for victims in Northern Ireland: [Childline](#) (0800 1111; for children and young people up to 19; free of charge), the [National Stalking Helpline](#) (UK-wide; 0808 802 0300; for victims of harassment and stalking; Mo-Fri 9:30-4pm, except Wednesdays (open at 1)), [Lifeline](#) (0808 808 8000; for people who are experiencing distress or despair; free of charge; 24/7; also is available for deaf and hard of hearing), the Respect Phoneline (0845 122 8609; for people concerned about their abusive behaviour; not 24/7), and the National Trafficking Helpline (0800 0121 700).

[Rowan Sexual Assault Referral Centre](#), based in Antrim, is state-run and covers all of Northern Ireland. This centre is available 24/7, and has a national helpline (0800 389 4424), and provides information and advice. Services are available for men, women, and young people, and they work closely with the police, make reports, provide medical and forensic aid, emotional support, and follow-up support and counselling.

For further information about all helplines in Northern Ireland, a [website](#) is available.

Women's Shelters

There are 14 women's shelters in Northern Ireland, including not only Women's Aid refuges, but also safe houses and independent living units, and all are run by women's NGOs, existing in all regions of the country. All refuges are free of charge, although those who are not in receipt of housing benefit/welfare pay for accommodation.

All Women's Aid refuges are either staffed 24/7 or are accessible via an on-call worker. There are 332 beds¹⁷⁵ total in the 14 women's shelters, which are available for immediate and direct access for women in emergency services, depending on the availability. Possible obstacles to immediate access to women's shelters are: lack of bed spaces, no recourse to public funds, failure of responding officer or first point of contact and disclosure to refer or signpost, and complex needs that make woman unsuitable for communal/refuge style accommodation.

The aim of the refuges is to provide short-term crisis accommodation and support for women and their children who have been affected by domestic violence. Refuges do not enforce a time-limit on those staying in a refuge, and a small number of women stay longer due to their unique circumstances.

There are accredited national standards for women's shelters, called "Quality Assessment Framework", for Supporting People-funded housing related support services. All women's shelters apply these standards.

There are no specific shelters for BMER women or girl victims of forced marriage, but there is one shelter for victims of trafficking (it is not a specific separate shelter for trafficking, but adult victims of trafficking are supported within one of the Women's Aid refuges).

¹⁷⁵ Beds are for both women and children

Women's Centres

There are 16 Women's Aid resource centres run by women's NGOs and covering all of Northern Ireland. Resource centres are Women's Aid centres where a lot of work other than refuge support is carried out, such as programmes for women etc. They are also HQ for local Women's Aid groups.

There is one rape crisis helpline run by the 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence helpline. The charity [NEXUS](#) also has centres across Northern Ireland providing counselling and support for survivors of sexual abuse). These two services cover all of Northern Ireland.

There is one sexual assault centre, run by the [Rowan Sexual Assault Referral Centre](#).

There are other women's centres across Northern Ireland providing wider, more general support to women in the community.

All Women's Aid local groups provide information and advice, practical support, empowering support, multi-lingual support, outreach, and mobile/floating support. Most provide court accompaniment. Some provide counselling, advocacy, legal advice, and legal representation. None provide specialist support for minority, migrant, or asylum-seeking women. Local Women's Aid groups would provide ad hoc support to women for a wide range of issues, however, they are not professional social rights advisers and would signpost to other advice organizations where legal/other advice is needed.

Other services

There are also a number of children's charities that work in the area of violence against children, such as NSPCC and Barnardos.

Women's Networks

[Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland](#), a registered charity, comprises of nine Women's Aid groups and has a national office in Belfast. Women's Aid groups cover the whole of Northern Ireland, and each local Women's Aid group runs refuge services, outreach services, and other support services in their area for victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children. Activities of the network are: provide refuge accommodation to women and their children suffering from mental, physical, or sexual abuse within the home; run the 24 hour Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline; provide a range of support services to enable women who are leaving violent situations to rebuild their lives and the lives of their children; provide a range of support services to children and young people who have experienced domestic violence; run preventative education programmes in schools and other settings; educate and inform the public, media, police, courts, social services, and other agencies of the impact and effects of domestic violence; advise and support agencies in the development of domestic violence policies, protocols, and service delivery; and work in partnership with relevant agencies to ensure a joined response to domestic violence.

[Survivors Trust \(TST\)](#) is a registered charity network of specialist rape, sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse organizations throughout the UK and Ireland, providing networking and support. Its main office is located in Warwickshire.

Policy & Funding

There is one draft NAP called "Stopping Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland" (2013-2020). This strategy is a draft and is not yet in effect in Northern Ireland. Therefore there is no link to it yet. The finalization of the strategy has been delayed. The draft strategy is intended to merge two previous government strategies: [Tackling Violence at Home Strategy](#), and [Tackling Sexual Violence and Abuse strategy](#). This strategy is not a VAW strategy per se, but it focuses on domestic

violence and sexual violence, and is for women and men. Northern Ireland does not have a dedicated action plan to tackle VAWG.

Since the strategy is still in draft, it cannot be stated now if women's support services are integrated in the strategy. However, there is an existence of a governmental coordinating body for implementing policies and measures to prevent VAW, called the Regional Strategic Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence (RSG), chaired by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS). Women's NGOs are involved in the work of the coordinating body: WAFNI sits on the Regional Strategic Group, and other NGOs working on domestic violence and sexual violence are also in the group.

THE RSG is also the evaluation and monitoring body, with women's NGOs also taking part.

The strategy does not have clearly set outcomes for the government to achieve. A significant amount of work to meet targets and make progress in tackling domestic and sexual violence has been carried out by both statutory agencies and expert community and voluntary sector organizations over the course of the previous domestic and sexual violence strategies. However, many actions and targets have not been met. Furthermore, austerity and budget cuts have resulted in the reversal of some key progress and de-funding projects which are set up to meet the objectives and the strategies.

The last evaluation report was called "Tackling Violence at Home Strategy Review Report" (2011). Women's NGOs do not conduct an evaluation of the strategy.

There are specific governmental funds allocated for activities to combat VAW on the national level. The law allows for funding of women's NGOs, and governmental funding of WSS is not mandated by law/regulation. The three most common forms of governmental funding for WSS is: project funding, annual core funding, and public procurement funding. There will be a review of core funding in 2016 by the Department of Health. A public procurement/tendering process is being used to fund services.

SCOTLAND

Women's Helplines

National women's helplines

[Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline](#) (0800 027 1234), operates 24/7 and is free of charge, and takes calls from men, women, children and victims of forced marriage. The helpline runs 24/7 and is free of charge, and is run by Scottish Women's Aid.

[Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline](#) (0808 8010 302) is run by Rape Crisis Scotland, assists survivors of rape and sexual assault, and is free of charge, provides multi-lingual support, but does not operate 24/7. The helpline provides referrals to local rape crisis centres, as well as has services for deaf or hard of hearing individuals, and interpreters are available. The helpline also supports transgender, intersex, and the LGB community.

Other helplines for victims

[Men's Advice Line](#) (0808 801 0327) provides support for men in abusive relationships in England, Wales, and Scotland. The website says it is free from landlines and most mobiles, and is run and managed by Respect, open Monday-Friday 9-5.

[The Childline](#) (0800 111) offers support for children dealing with violence across the UK. According to the website, calls are free. Also can chat via email and message boards.

[Respect Phoneline](#) (0808 802 4040) is a helpline for domestic violence perpetrators that covers England, Wales and Scotland. The website says that it is free from landlines and most mobiles, and is open Monday-Friday from 9-5.

Honour Network Helpline/[Karma Nirvana](#) (0800 59999 247) is for survivors of so-called crimes of honour") and forced marriage across the UK. The helpline conducts advocacy, school projects, campaigns ("Britain's Lost Women"), education workshops, and police training, and is available for all genders and sexualities, from 9:30-17:00 Monday-Friday.

Women's Shelters

There are 37 women's shelters with about 502 family spaces¹⁷⁶, all run by women's NGOs with a gender-specific/feminist approach. Women's shelters exist in all regions, and only one is available 24/7. Women pay for the accommodation service, but can access support services free. Some refuges take a limited number of women with no recourse to public funds. Scottish Women's Aid has developed accredited national standards for women's shelters, applied by 22 women's shelters.

There are two BME shelters, but no shelters specifically for victims of trafficking, or for girls and young women victims of forced marriage.

Women who experience domestic abuse are covered by housing legislation and will be defined as homeless and in priority need, which means that they will receive an offer of permanent housing. The problem is that housing stock is low and, depending on the area, it can take a long time to be re-housed, through for instance public housing programs.

Women's Centres

There are at least 22 women's centres in Scotland. There are 14 rape crisis centres run by Rape Crisis Scotland, available in almost all regions with its main source of funding being from the State, but also local authorities, and grant-making trusts.

There are also two women's centres for black/migrant/minority ethnic women run by Scottish Women's Aid, available in two cities.

There are also four sexual violence services and one Sexual Assault Referral Centre (Archway) in Glasgow for anyone over 12 years of age. Archway is open 24/7 and offers various services, including forensics, testing for infections, support and counselling.¹⁷⁷

¹⁷⁶ It is a room that the family shares and can have a number of beds. Do not have a bed space number.

¹⁷⁷ Country Report 2013 & 2014

Women's Support Project works to raise awareness of the extent, causes and effect of male violence against women, and for improved services for those affected by violence. The Project is based in Glasgow and works across Scotland.

Women's Networks

[Scottish Women's Aid Network](#) is a network of 37 specialist domestic abuse services. Activities of the network focus on the prevention of domestic abuse, such as conducting campaigns, publications and research, trainings, and a domestic abuse helpline.

[Rape Crisis Scotland](#) is a network of 14 sexual violence centres. Activities of the network focus on providing a rape crisis helpline and email support for anyone affected by sexual violence. Rape Crisis Scotland also works with the police, conducts lobbying and campaigns, and hosts conferences.

[National Violence against Women Network](#) is a network of 121 local multi-agency violence against women partnerships, national public sector organizations, and national third sector organizations. The network brings together local violence against women partnership coordinators across Scotland and other relevant stakeholders. Key activities include supporting local violence against women partnerships to connect with each other and share information, learning resources, strengthening relationships between local violence against women partnerships and relevant national public sector and third sector organizations, and providing a collective voice on relevant violence against women issues to help inform and help improve policy and practice at a local and national level.

[Survivors Trust](#) (TST) is a network of specialist rape, sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse organizations throughout the UK and Ireland, providing networking and support.

Policy & Funding

The Scottish government published "Equally Safe: Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls" in June 2014. The strategy was developed by the government and COSLA with input from NGOs supporting women (including Scottish Women's Aid and Rape Crisis Scotland), and the justice sector (police and COPFS). The initial phase of the strategic framework runs until the end of 2015, and involves developing recommendations which will inform more detailed action plans.

Equally Safe's outlined objectives include increasing gender equality in access to power, strengthening justice responses, and holding men who carry out violence against women to account. Furthermore, the framework recognizes a gendered understanding of VAW as an inequality issue. Equally Safe is a strategic framework, not a delivery plan. It is complementing Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP) 2013-2017, which recognizes that tackling violence against women and girls is key to ensuring the human rights of all citizens, and fits into the one of the 13 equality points for Scotland as part of the National Performance Framework. There is a national body/institution entrusted with the evaluation and monitoring of the national strategy, which is a multi-agency group (Accountability Working Group), led by women's NGOs, however there are no reports or publications by them yet.

The government funds NGOs, and in 2014, there was approximately €4 million available to be applied for. There was also violence against women funding to specific services and groups for 2015/2016 of €16,425,133. The law does allow for funding of women's NGOs, however there is no governmental funding of specialist women's support services mandated by law/regulation (the government has the power to fund, but are not mandated to). Governmental funding for specialist women's support services is in the form of annual core funding. Until recently, funding was allocated for three years, but has been annually for the past two years and there is an indication that it will be annual funding for 2016-2017.

WALES

National women's helplines

Women's Helplines

[“Live Fear Free Helpline”](#) (0808 80 10 800) 24/7, free of charge and provided by Welsh Women's Aid on behalf of the Welsh Government. The helpline also provides multi-lingual support, with trained specialist call takers fluent in English and Welsh and access to a further 150 languages via Language Line.¹⁷⁸ The helpline is accredited with the Helplines Standard (originally Quality Mark), by the Helpline Association, which defines and accredits best practices.

Rape Crisis Helpline (0808 802 9999, 0208 239 1124) not free of charge, free from UK landlines, Virgin, Orange, EE, O2, 3, T-Mobile, Vodaphone mobile phone networks) supports women and girls survivors of rape or any form of sexual violence. According to the website, the helpline is open every day 12-2:30, 7-9:30pm, and additionally on weekdays 3-5:30pm.

Other helplines for victims

Bawso BME domestic abuse helpline (0800 731 8147); black and ethnic minorities threatened by abuse (e.g. forced marriage, FGM, human trafficking); [Broken Rainbow](#) (UK; 0300 999 5428) LGBT+ domestic violence; differing operating hours, [Childline](#) (0800 1111); free of charge; additional online services, FGM Helpline (0800 028 3550) free of charge; 24/7; Forced Marriage Unit (England and Wales; 020 7008 0151); [Men's Advice Line](#) (0808 801 0327) support for men in abusive relationships and free from landlines and most mobiles; New Pathways Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Helpline (01685 379 310) women, men, children and young people who have been affected by rape or sexual abuse; [Respect Phonenumber](#) (0808 802 4040) for domestic violence perpetrators and free from landlines and most mobiles; Mo-Fri 9-5; Safer Wales [Dyn Project](#) (0808 801 0321) male victims of domestic abuse, free of charge, not 24/7.

Women's Shelters

There are 54 women's shelters in Wales, with 299 bed spaces,¹⁷⁹ most of which are non-governmental organization charities (all free of charge). Women's shelters exist in all regions. Most women's shelters are available 24/7 – all refuges have 24/7 staff on call, not all have 24/7 staff attendance. Most women's

¹⁷⁸ <http://www.allwaleshelpline.org.uk/>

¹⁷⁹ WWA asks members for the number of units (bed spaces) that they provide. Number of units has been provided by all WWA's members and 1 combined WWA's direct service. Total number of bed spaces in Wales is 299.

shelters provide immediate and direct access in emergency situations, and most provide non-residential support. There is no upper limit for the length of time for women to stay in shelters, but the most common stay is two months long.

Women's shelters in Wales provide access for: women with children, women without children, older women (above 60), women with disabilities, lesbian and/or transgender women¹⁸⁰, women from other provinces of the country, migrant women, and minority ethnic women¹⁸¹, women from other provinces of the country, migrant women, and minority ethnic women¹⁸². There is also access for asylum-seeking women and women from other EU countries across Wales through the BME service and WWA member Bawso. Some shelters provide access for undocumented migrant women, only five of WWA's member groups reported accepting women with no recourse to public funds (other reasons for not admitting: criminal convictions, e.g. crime or arson, due to safety concerns and insurance purposes).

Through WWA member Bawso, Wales has specific BME shelters and shelters for girls and young women victims of forced marriage.

There is a variety of second-stage or 'move-on' accommodation available for those leaving refuge.

Women's Centres

N/A (do not collect this data), Although Rape Crisis England and Wales is a network which includes rape crisis centres in Wales. The number is unknown.

The WAVE Report 2014 states that there are a number of women's centres in Wales, including centres for survivors of sexual violence, and a number of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs).

Women's Networks

[Welsh Women's Aid](#) comprises of 25 local Women's Aid groups across Wales, providing direct services for women and children victims of violence against women. The network conducts prevention work (awareness-raising, campaigning), provision for members, protection and support, information, training, coordinate access to emergency refuge provision for survivors (UK Refugees Online System).

[Rape Crisis England and Wales](#) is a network of 46 rape crisis centres in England and Wales. The network is an umbrella body or network of rape crisis centres and provide a coordinating voice for the rape crisis movement, to influence local, regional, and national policy development, increase service provision, and challenge sexual violence by leading awareness-raising campaigns and providing a central source of accurate information to government. It is gender-specific and women-led.

[Women's Equality Network](#) (WEN) Wales is a network of 500 organisations and individuals committed to making Wales safer for women and girls.

¹⁸⁰ Policies on the acceptance of transgender women into refuge are currently being created

¹⁸¹ It is difficult to say the amount of women's shelters who provide access, as they only recently began to collect data on demographics.

¹⁸² It is difficult to say the amount of women's shelters which provide access, as they only recently began collecting data on demographics.

Wales Violence against Women Action Group has diverse members interested in ending violence against women, consisting of for instance, universities and NGOs, including Welsh Women's Aid, Women's Institute, and Survivors Trust, as an alliance of organisations working on VAWG issues in Wales and campaigning for policy change.

Women Making a Difference (WMAD) is a Wales based capacity-building programme that educates and empowers women in Wales to have the skills, confidence, and mind-set to become the leaders in their communities and decision-makers at all levels of public and political life.

The Wales Assembly of Women is an NGO accredited to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Their representatives have attended every major U.N. world conference for women since Nairobi in 1995. Membership is open to all women in Wales who share the Aims of the Association. Membership is open also to women living elsewhere who have connections with Wales and who have affinity with and interest in life in Wales.

Women's Equality Party Wales is a network of individuals as a political party for: equal representation in politics, business, industry, and throughout working life; equal pay; equal parenting; an education system that creates opportunities for all children; address the ways in which the portrayal of women in the media impedes progress towards equality; seek an end to violence against women.

Policy & Funding

There is one national strategy, "The Right to be Safe" Strategy (2010-2016)¹⁸³ in Wales and one national action plan, "A Call to End Violence against Women and Girls Action Plan" (2011-2015)¹⁸⁴. These will be replaced with new legality mandated strategies created under the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

There is a governmental coordinating body for implementing policies and measures to prevent VAW, called "Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Team", part of the Community Safety Division within the Welsh Government. This sits under the Minister for Public Services. As of October 2015, Wales also has National Adviser for VAW and other forms of GBV, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, created by the VAW/DA/SV Act, who sits within the Welsh Government.

Women's NGOs are also involved in the work of the coordinating body. They have standing meetings with officials, including a Strategic Leadership Group with the Minister and officials each quarter, as well as subject groups on FGM, so-called 'honour' based violence and forced marriage. Representatives from the sector are recognised as specialists/experts. Women's NGOs are able to provide feedback and input in these meetings.

There is also a national body/institution entrusted with the evaluation and monitoring of the national strategy/body, which is the same as the governmental coordinating body. Women's NGOs are not involved in the evaluation and monitoring body, as currently it is an internal Welsh Government process. The evaluation and monitoring body measures the achievement of indicators in report and dissemination

¹⁸³ <http://llyw.cymru/topics/people-and-communities/communities/safety/domesticabuse/publications/besafe/?lang=en>

¹⁸⁴ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97903/vawg-action-plan.pdf

The Welsh Government website publishes information and reports relevant to this work. The 4th Annual Report on the Right to be Safe Strategy 2013-14 has been published.¹⁸⁵ A report on the Call to end Violence against women and girls (2014) also outlined new goals going forward, and objectives to achieve for 2015, called “A Call to End Violence against women and Girls Action Plan 2014”. A report reviewing the services delivered in Wales around VAW/DA/SV was also completed by the Welsh Government in 2014.¹⁸⁶ There is also a public evaluation report.¹⁸⁷

Although governmental funding of women’s support services is not mandated by law/regulation, there is new legislation in Wales which aims to improve women’s support services and preventing violence against women. The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 legislates for a national strategy to be developed in consultation with sector experts to replace the Right to be Safe Strategy after 2016. The Act also calls for local strategies to be developed and outcomes to be measured in the 22 local authorities and local health boards across Wales. This Act became law in Wales on 29 April 2015. The legislation aims to improve: arrangements for the prevention of GBV, domestic abuse and sexual violence; and support for people affected by GBV, domestic abuse and sexual violence, improve consistency, quality, and join-up of service provision in Wales. The Act also includes duties to prevent VAW, track progress, a National Training Framework, informative sharing, cooperative working, and guidance for commissioners when funding services.¹⁸⁸

¹⁸⁵ <http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/commsafety/right-to-be-safe-annual-report-2013-14-v2-en.pdf>

¹⁸⁶ <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/building-effective-responses-independent-review-violence-against-women/?lang=en>

¹⁸⁷ <http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/commsafety/right-to-be-safe-annual-report-2013-14-v2-en.pdf>

¹⁸⁸ Welsh Women’s Aid, WWA Briefing: The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.