

БЕЗБЕДНЕ ОД СТРАХА

БЕЗБЕДНЕ ОД НАСИЉА

Конвенција Савета Европе
о спречавању и борби
против насиља над женама
и насиља у породици ETS No. 210

Мрежи парламентарца
„Жене ослобођене насиља“

SARAJEVO 21 November 2012

Launch of the handbook on the Istanbul Convention in Sarajevo

“One in five women is a victim of violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, deplored Mr Lozančić, Chairperson of the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the parliamentary seminar held in Sarajevo on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

The seminar, organised by the Committee on Gender Equality, in cooperation with the Parliamentary Network “Women Free from Violence”, and with the support of the OSCE, allowed parliamentarians

to discuss the actions undertaken in Bosnia and Herzegovina to tackle violence against women and familiarise themselves with the Istanbul Convention.

Ms Ismeta Dervoz, Network member and First Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Gender Equality of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, officially launched the handbook for parliamentarians on the Istanbul Convention, which has been translated into Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian.



“Parliamentarians, men and women, can play a significant role in

raising awareness about violence against women and domestic violence by adopting specific laws that reflect the highest international standards and by monitoring their application. As legislators and policy makers, we can speed up the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

Ratifying the Convention strongly participates in the process of changing mentalities in society, rooting out the stereotypes of men and women roles.”

Ismeta Dervoz, First Deputy Chairwomen of the Committee on Gender Equality in the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina and member of the Network



“Combating violence against women is a key issue for the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina. I hope we will very soon finalise the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.”

Damir Ljubić, Minister for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Following the seminar, the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina drafted these recommendations, which will be presented for adoption on 23 January 2013:

I. The Committee calls on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina to accelerate the ratification procedure of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence as one of the most important international legal documents which aims to ensure the highest standards to promote and combat violence against women and domestic violence in the Council of Europe Member States.

II. The Committee invites the parliamentarians at all levels of legislative power to use the Handbook for Parliamentarians in their work as a tool for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

III. The Committee recognises that violence against women and domestic violence is one of the most common forms of violation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with serious consequences for both the victim and the family, and consequently for society as a whole.

Although this form of violence is covered by the criminal code and laws on protection from domestic violence of the entities, a

similar law should be introduced in the Brčko District as well.

IV. According to the research data presented on punitive sanctions pronounced by courts in Bosnia-Herzegovina, it was noted that in most cases it was suspended sentences and that imprisonment was pronounced in less than 10 percent of cases and even when it was pronounced, it was mainly for a short period of six months to one year. Fines have been pronounced in little more than 10 percent of cases.

The Committee considers it necessary, without interfering with the independence of the judiciary, that judicial bodies thoroughly review the case law related to these crimes, and assess whether the sanctioning of the perpetrators is proportionate to the severity of crimes.

V. The Committee urges competent authorities to promptly adopt a strategy for prevention and combating domestic violence for the forthcoming period, and to incorporate in it the highest standards of protection and prevention.



SEMINAR

International day for the Elimination of Violence against women

Wednesday, 21 November 2012
Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina

PROGRAMME

Opening

- Niko Lozančić, Chairman of the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mendes Bota, General Rapporteur on violence against women, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- Nina Suomalainen, Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Damir Ljubić, Minister for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Violence against women and domestic violence in BiH - overview

Samra Filipović-Hadžiabdić, Director of the Agency for Gender Equality in BiH

The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence – official launch of a Handbook for parliamentarians
Ismeta Dervoz, First Deputy Chairwomen of the Committee

Improving responses to domestic violence – overview of findings and recommendations regarding accountability of perpetrators and efficient protection of victims

Amra Hamidović, National Legal Officer at the OSCE Mission

Borba protiv nasilja u porodici Svaka peta žena žrtva

U našoj zemlji svaka peta žena je žrtva porodičnog nasilja, upozorio je Niko Lozančić, predsjednik Komisije Parlamentarne skupštine BiH za ravnopravnost spolova, tokom jučerašnje tematske sjednice u povodu obilježavanja 25. novembra, Međunarodnog dana borbe protiv nasilja nad ženama.

Predsjednik Odbora PS-a Vijeća Evrope za jednake šanse žena i muškaraca Žoze Mendes Bota (Jose Mendes Bota) naglasio je važnost Istanbulske konvencije.

Riječ je konvenciji prevencije i borbe protiv nasilja nad ženama i nasilja u porodici - kazala je Dervoz.

Članica stalne delegacije PSBiH u PS-u Vijeću Evrope Ismeta Dervoz istakla je da je promoviran i priručnik za parlamentare i parlamentarke kao vodič za promociju Istanbulske konvencije.

Radujem se da PSBiH, odnosno naša Komisija za ravnopravnost spolova u Zastupničkom domu, daju svoj doprinos u nastojanjima da se u BiH postigne nula tolerancija kada je riječ o nasilju u porodici i nad ženama - kazala je Dervoz.

A.Nu.



**Bosnia and Herzegovina
has not yet signed
the Istanbul Convention**



AL SICURO DALLA PAURA

AL SICURO DALLA VIOLENZA

Convenzione del Consiglio d'Europa
sulla prevenzione e la lotta contro
la violenza nei confronti delle donne
e la violenza domestica STCE N° 210

Il Network parlamentare

"Il diritto delle donne di vivere libere dalla violenza"

ROME

22 November 2012

Make ratification of the Convention possible before the next Election!

Rome (Italy), Palazzo di Montecitorio – A parliamentary seminar organised by Network members Deborah Bergamini, Anna Maria Carloni and PACE member Federica Mogherini catalysed political support for a speedy ratification of the Istanbul Convention by Italy.

Intervening in the opening session of the seminar, the Minister for Social Affairs Elsa Fornero expressed the wish that, although it had been amongst the last countries to sign the Convention, Italy may be amongst the first ones to ratify it, thus enabling it to enter into force. She was echoed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Marta Dassù, who recalled that the elimination of violence against women would be beneficial not only to Italian women but to Italian society as a whole.

Several speakers, including the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, insisted on the need to promote a change of mind-set in society, through education and media, so as to ensure that violence against women is understood for what it is: a violation of human rights.

Interviewed by the Italian media, the chairs of the two main parliamentary groups, Fabrizio Cicchitto (PDL) and Dario Franceschini (PD) announced that the ratification of the Istanbul Convention would receive cross-party support. The latter added that his party would ask for it to be put on the agenda of both chambers as soon as possible, so that ratification can take place before the end of the legislature.

Italy signed the Istanbul Convention on 27 September 2012

"Women suffering from violence are not only victims of abuse; they are also victims of silence, victims of indifference and victims of neglect. Those who survive are too often left with physical and psychological scars which plague them for the rest of their lives."

The adoption in Istanbul of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence was a serious response to this challenge. With it, the international community made a definitive step towards the effective protection of women's right to live safe from violence and safe from fear."

Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni,
Deputy Secretary General of the
Council of Europe



*"Violence against women is a violation
of human rights"*

Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy
Secretary General of the Council of Europe

WHAT THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION SAYS:

1. Governments which ratify the Convention will have to criminalise and prosecute acts of violence that all too often go unpunished: rape, physical and psychological violence, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, sexual harassment, forced abortion and forced sterilisation, honour crimes.
2. Excuses on the grounds of culture, custom, religion or so-called "honour" will no longer be acceptable. Introducing specific criminal offences makes it clear that suffering any of these is not a private problem but a police matter.
3. The State has the obligation to provide services for victims of violence. These include shelters, around-the-clock helplines, as well as medical and legal counselling. And these services need to be available to all women, in the countryside and in big cities, and with no strings attached.
4. Governments have to invest in extensive training for the police, the prosecution services and the judiciary to make sure they treat

women victims with respect for their dignity and to avoid secondary victimisation.

5. The Convention contains a range of provisions about prevention, protection, provision of services and prosecution to ensure the rights of children that are victims of, or have witnessed violence, are promoted and protected.

6. The Convention will make our societies a safer and better place for migrant women, women asylum-seekers and women refugees. Its text prohibits discrimination on the grounds of migrant or refugee status when it comes to implementing its provisions.

7. The Convention ensures better recognition of the role of, and more support for, non-governmental organisations and the civil society. Parties to the Convention have the obligation to allocate appropriate financial and human resources for activities carried out by civil society.

8. The Convention foresees a monitoring mechanism that will help to identify shortcomings in its implementation and to provide guidance in order to address difficulties.



Seminario parlamentare Violenza sulle donne Verso la ratifica della Convenzione di Istanbul del Consiglio d'Europa

Roma, 22 novembre 2012
Palazzo Montecitorio

PROGETTO DI PROGRAMMA

Sessione di apertura

- Luigi VITALI, Presidente della Delegazione italiana presso l'APCE
- Elsa FORNERO, Ministro del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali con delega alle Pari Opportunità Gabriella BATTAINI-DRAGONI, Vice-Segretario Generale del Consiglio d'Europa

Presentazione del manuale sulla Convenzione

- Deborah BERGAMINI, Network parlamentare "Donne Libere dalla Violenza"
- Federica MOGHERINI, Delegazione italiana presso l'APCE
- Anna Maria CARLONI, Network parlamentare "Donne Libere dalla Violenza"

La normativa italiana e la Convenzione di Istanbul

- La penalizzazione delle varie forme di violenza sulle donne. Giulia BONGIORNO, Presidente della Commissione
- Giustizia della Camera dei deputati
- La prevenzione. Ruolo dei media Maria LATELLA, Direttore del settimanale "A", giornalista Sky Tg24
- L'assistenza alle vittime di violenza Titti CARRANO, Presidente di D.i.Re (Donne in Rete contro la violenza)
- Simona LANZONI, Coordinatrice della Piattaforma Cedaw in Italia

Conclusioni

- Marta DASSÙ, Sottosegretario agli Affari Esteri

À L'ABRI DE LA PEUR

À L'ABRI DE LA VIOLENCE

Convention du Conseil de l'Europe
sur la prévention et la lutte contre la
violence à l'égard des femmes
et la violence domestique STCE N° 210

Réseau parlementaire pour
«le droit des femmes de vivre sans violence»

BRUSSELS

30 November 2012



Belgium: no objection to ratifying the Istanbul Convention

"To date, the ratification of the Istanbul Convention raises no objection," stated Sabine de Bethune, President of the Belgian Senate, at a parliamentary seminar organised in connection with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. "This seminar is a strong political signal for encouraging our government to put this point on the agenda," added the President, co-author of a law passed in May 2012 on temporary restriction of residence in case of domestic violence.

Belgium has pursued a proactive policy for some years, as was recalled by Ms Ines de Briel, equal opportunities adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister's Private Office. Violence against women is combated notably by a national action plan associating the federal government, the Communities and the Regions. The plan provides for more than 120 measures to combat violence between partners, but also forced marriages, violence linked with honour and female genital mutilation.

According to all speakers present, Belgium thus seems on the right track for a forthcoming ratification. "A draft resolution to ratify the Istanbul Convention will be presented next week in the Advisory

Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men. In this way, we hope to speed up the process and arrive at a ratification very shortly," said Ms Fatiha Saïdi, Belgian Senator and member of the Network, who took the initiative to organise this event.



Belgium signed the Istanbul Convention on 11 September this year

Recent legislation

- Law of 15 May 2012 concerning temporary restriction of residence in case of domestic violence and law of 15 June 2012 to punish the non-respect of this legislation
- Law of 23 February 2012 modifying article 458bis of the Penal Code, extending it to domestic violence crimes
- Law of 30 November 2011 concerning the better consideration of cases of sexual abuse and child abuse in a relation of authority
- Law of 26 November 2011 extending penal protection to vulnerable persons victims of abuse



"The Convention calls on states to assume responsibility, to put an end to violence against women and sanction it properly within the family circle and outside. No cultural, historical or religious argument can be raised to justify, excuse or weaken such violence.

In order for this Convention to reach its goal, to have an impact on the life of millions of women, it is not sufficient to put it on paper; it has to enter into force and be enforced through legislation, as quickly as possible. Women victims of violence have already waited too long."

Fatiha Saïdi, Belgian Senator and member of the Network



SEMINAR «Violence against women and the Istanbul Convention, on the way to ratification»

Brussels, 30 November 2012
Belgian Senate

PROGRAMME

Opening

- Mr Mendes Bota, General Rapporteur on violence against women of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Political Coordinator of the Parliamentary Network "Women Free from Violence"
- Allocutions by: Ms Fatiha Saïdi, Senator and member of the Parliamentary Network "Women Free from Violence"
- Ms Joëlle Milquet, Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior and Equal Opportunities

Debate moderated by Ms Marie Arena, Vice-President of the Committee on External Relations and Defense and by Ms Nele Lijnen, President of the Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunities between women and men of the Senate

SESSION 1 – Added value of the Istanbul Convention

- Ms Johanna Nelles, Chief of Unit – Violence against women and domestic violence, Directorate of Justice and Human Dignity, Council of Europe

SESSION 2 – Adapting Belgian legislation to the Convention

- Mr Freddy Gazan, Advisor for criminal policy, SPF Justice

Debate moderated by Mr Alain Courtois, President of the Committee on Justice and by Ms Nele Lijnen, President of the Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunities between women and men of the Senate

Conclusions by Ms Sabine de Bethune, President of the Belgian Senate

"This Convention is outstanding, it offers maximum protection to women victims of violence and I hope to see its ratification by Belgium as soon as possible."

Sabine de Bethune,
President of the Belgian Senate

LIVRE DO MEDO

LIVRE DA VIOÊNCIA

Convenção do Conselho da Europa
para a Prevenção e o Combate à
Violência contra as Mulheres e a
Violência Doméstica STCE Nº 210

Rede Parlamentar

"Mulheres Livres de Violência"

LISBON

3 December 2012



Portugal: parliamentary groups support the Istanbul Convention, echoed by the judiciary

At the initiative of Mr Mendes Bota, Political Co-ordinator of the Network, an international conference on "Violence against women and the Istanbul Convention" was organised in the Portuguese parliament, in the context of the 16 days of activism against gender violence.

Representatives of all parliamentary groups in parliament expressed political support for the Convention, which was defined as an essential instrument to ensure maximal protection for women victims of violence by Ms Joana Marques Vidal, Portugal's General Prosecutor.

The Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Ms Teresa Caeiro, acknowledged that further efforts should be made to address weaknesses in the

legislative framework, such as improving data collection, taking into consideration domestic violence when deciding on parental rights and tackling sexual harassment. Emphasis was also put on the need to improve coordination between the different actors and above all the enforcement of existing legislation.

Despite acknowledging these shortcomings, participants agreed that the overall legislative framework for the protection of women against violence in Portugal is sound and that the ratification of the Convention should not require a complex adaptation.

During the event, the handbook on the Istanbul Convention in Portuguese was launched.

"Portugal is now the third member state of the Council of Europe to have ratified the Convention. I do hope that other countries will follow very soon. This proves the dynamism of this Network and the pioneering role of the Parliamentary Assembly as far as violence against women is concerned. I wish to congratulate my colleagues for their commitment in organising all over Europe these seminars and conferences around 25 November. And I do encourage the others to join us in order to celebrate 2013 as the year of the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention".

Mendes Bota, General Rapporteur on violence against women and political coordinator of the Network



« As regard violence against women, our legislative edifice is solid but needs a de facto implementation and a better coordination between the different stakeholders. »

Teresa Caeiro, Vice-President of the Assembly of the Republic

The Portuguese parliament ratified the Istanbul Convention on 14 December

Areas of improvement

- Take into account domestic violence in deciding about parental rights
- Collect data in the area of sexual harassment
- Ensure adequate assistance to victims

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

PROGRAMME, 3 December 2012 Assembly of the Republic

Opening session

- Telmo Correia, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees of the Assembly of the Republic
- Joana Marques Vidal, Attorney General
- Fátima Duarte, President of the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality
- Elza Pais, Chairwoman of the Equality Subcommittee of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees

PANEL 1 – The added value of the Istanbul Convention

- Hilary Fisher, Expert consultant, former member of the Convention drafting committee (CAHVIO), former Chair of the

Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women –

- "Prevention, protection and support for victims"
- Johanna Nelles, Head of Unit, Violence against women and domestic violence, Directorate of Justice and Human Dignity, Council of Europe –
- "The different aspects of criminalisation, investigation, procedural rules and protection measures"
- Mónica Gomes, Juriste, Cadre supérieur de la Direction générale de la politique de justice
- "Consequences for the domestic legal system"

Debate | Moderator: MP Mendes Bota, General Rapporteur on violence against women and political co-ordinator of the "Women Free from Violence" network (Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of

Europe), Member of the Equality Subcommittee of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees

PANEL 2 – Portugal and Convention: what remains to be done?

- Teresa Féria, President of the Portuguese Association of Women Jurists – APMJ
- João Lázaro, Président de l'APAV – President of the Portuguese Association for Victim Support – APAV
- Maria José Magalhães, President of the Union of Women: Alternative and Response – UMAR

Debate | Moderator:

MP Teresa Anjinho (CDS/PP)

PANEL 3 – Different forms of gender violence in light of the Istanbul Convention

- Manuel Lisboa, University Lecturer (New University of Lisbon/FCSH), Director of the National Observatory of Violence and Gender, former member of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women
- "An overview of gender violence"

- Marie-France Hirigoyen, Psychiatrist and psychoanalyst (France) "Psychological violence"

- Rui Abrunhosa, University Lecturer (University of Minho/Psychology Faculty) "Sexual violence in the context of domestic violence"

Debate | Moderator: MP Cecília Honório (BE)

PANEL 4 – The Standpoint of the Parliamentary Groups

- MP Paula Cardoso (PSD)
- MP Pedro Delgado Alves (PS) MP Teresa Caeiro (CDS/PP)
- MP Rita Rato (PCP)
- MP Cecília Honório (BE)
- MP José Luís Ferreira (PEV)

Debate | Moderator: MP Elza Pais

Closing Session

- Teresa Caeiro, Vice-President of the Assembly of the Republic
- MP Mendes Bota, General Rapporteur on violence against women

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