

**Title: The role of parliaments in the ratification and implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ('Istanbul Convention')**

The Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, which is connected to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, is updating its [Handbook for parliamentarians on the Istanbul Convention](#).

This handbook serves as a guide for parliamentary work on the ratification and implementation the Istanbul Convention. It will be important to present measures already taken by several parliaments.

We would therefore be grateful if you could answer the questions below. Please indicate if all or some of this information is not available with respect to your country.

We thank you for your cooperation.

**A. Institutional framework and parliamentary work on violence against women**

1. Which structures (committees, delegations) within your national parliament have a remit for addressing issues relating to violence against women and domestic violence?
2. Is there any mainstreaming across parliamentary structures of matters relating to gender equality generally, and the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence in particular? Are there any policy documents or laws in your country which explicitly recognise the link between gender equality and gender-based violence?

**B. Contributing to and monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention  
Legislative and budgetary action**

1. Are there any formal domestic mechanisms or procedures to ensure comprehensive parliamentary monitoring of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention? For example, can the relevant committee(s) issue calls for evidence and report to the plenary on the adequacy and timeliness of implementation? Please provide information regarding the statutory or regulatory basis for such powers, and examples of occasions when these have been used.
2. Is there any procedure in place that would require the government to report to parliament – either regularly (e.g. annually) or upon request – about the implementation of the Istanbul Convention? Please provide a brief description.
3. Have members of parliament used written or oral parliamentary questions to enquire about the status of implementation of the Istanbul Convention, or the executive's follow-up to the conclusions of the *Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women (GREVIO)*? What impact did any such parliamentary questions have? Please provide copies of the relevant questions and answers.
4. What is the budgetary envelope that has been put aside for financing the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, in particular for specialist support services for victims of violence against

### **Raising awareness of the Istanbul Convention within and beyond parliament**

1. Can you give examples of any initiative (by specific committees, political fractions, cross-party groups or individual members of parliament) to present and explain the Istanbul Convention to members of parliament?
2. Has there ever been an exchange of views between parliament (the plenary, committees, political fractions, cross-party groups, or individual members) and a (national) member of GREVIO?
3. Does your parliament maintain regular dialogue and effective working relationships with other national stakeholders, including national human rights institutions or ombudsmen's offices, the judiciary, academics, professionals and civil society representatives, aimed at promoting the ratification or implementation of the Istanbul Convention? What form does this engagement take? Could you report on some positive outcomes?

### **C. Follow-up to GREVIO reports and conclusions**

1. Are there any mechanisms or procedures to ensure comprehensive parliamentary monitoring of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and follow-up to the recommendations of the Committee of the Parties? Specifically, is your parliament authorised, or even required, to carry out a mapping of the need for parliamentary action to give effect to the findings and conclusions of GREVIO?

*If your country has already been monitored, or is currently being monitored, in the framework of the first (baseline) evaluation round of GREVIO, please answer the following question:*

2. Was your parliament consulted in the preparation of the state report; GREVIO's evaluation visit to your country; or the preparation of the authorities' comments on GREVIO's draft report? If so, please elaborate on the form of such parliamentary involvement.

*If GREVIO has already adopted a report in respect of your country, please answer the following questions:*

3. Did the government transmit GREVIO's report to parliament?
4. Has your parliament discussed follow-up to GREVIO's conclusions or is it planning to? Please include details in your answer regarding any legislative, budgetary or other action taken by parliament in response to GREVIO's findings and conclusions.
5. Did your parliament hold a debate or a hearing, at either committee or plenary level (or both), about GREVIO's report? Was any such debate attended by the responsible minister(s); civil society actors; media representatives? Please provide any written record of and media reporting on such debates.
6. Did your parliament (or any parliamentary committee) adopt a written report or statement on GREVIO's report and share it with the government? Please provide electronic copies of any such document.

To conclude, we would be grateful if you could provide copies of or links to any written record of parliamentary debates about the Istanbul Convention (in one of the Council of Europe's working languages).

We would be very grateful if you could send your reply by 3 May 2019.

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