

STRENGTHENING DATA SYSTEM ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FOR WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY, EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

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INTRODUCTION

- Data collection and research are essential on evaluating if policies and measures undertaken on preventing and fighting VAW and DV are the right ones.
- Countries in Western Balkans, Turkey, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) have increased data collection on VaW.
- However, gaps in comprehensive, disaggregated data on various forms of violence against women pose a barrier to fully understanding the scope and scale of VaW in the region
- Research and data collection help on the design of policies and measures needed to protect and support victims of VaW and DV.
- Research and data collection are indispensable to make certain whether policies are working in the right direction towards preventing and combating VaW and DV.



ARTICLE 11 – DATA COLLECTION AND RESEARCH

1. For the purpose of the implementation of this Convention, Parties shall undertake to:
 - a. collect disaggregated relevant statistical data at regular intervals on cases of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention;
 - b. support research in the field of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention in order to study its root causes and effects, incidences and conviction rates, as well as the efficacy of measures taken to implement this Convention.
2. Parties shall endeavour to conduct population-based surveys at regular intervals to assess the prevalence of and trends in all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention.
3. Parties shall provide the group of experts, as referred to in Article 66 of this Convention, with the information collected pursuant to this article in order to stimulate international co-operation and enable international benchmarking.
4. Parties shall ensure that the information collected pursuant to this article is available to the public.

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PRINCIPLES OF THE CONVENTION

- Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence requires evidence based policy making
- In order to produce effective policies on preventing and fighting violence against women and domestic violence requires knowledge and data.
- This help policy makers to evaluate changes and progress and to improve policies.
- Provisions under Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention contain:
 - a. the obligation for state parties to collect representative and comparable data
 - b. at regular intervals
 - c. to develop and implement evident based policies to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by the scope of the convention.



- the Convention recalls the important role that the national coordinating body required under Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention must play in the collection of such data, their analysis and dissemination.
- data collection should be coordinated by a national coordinating body, as defined in Article 10 of the convention.
- the Istanbul Convention establishes what type of data should be collected:
 - statistical information,
 - judicial data
 - administrative data
- The Convention highlights the need to support research in the field of VaW and DV and it details parties' obligation to conduct population-based surveys.
- Such surveys should be conducted at regular intervals

CURRENT SITUATION

- Most of the baseline reports from country monitoring show that service-based administrative data are still rarely collected and government agencies often do not have data systems in place that go beyond internal recording needs of these agencies.
- Furthermore, data that are available are comparable only in very rare cases across countries or over time, resulting in limited understanding of the extent and the evolution of the problem.
- Especially during the time of the pandemic, these data are critical to respond to women's needs.
- These data can also provide important understandings and could help on designing adapted interventions that may be particularly effective during emergencies and public health crises for the future.

POSSIBLE RECOMENDATION

- EIGE's report on Gender Equality Index 2015 shows that statistics based on police or justice data do not include relevant information on certain aspects of violence against women.
- Service agencies should have data collection as their primary responsibility
- This data should be collected in **a systematic way** (annually)
- **in a standardized form** by using the same categories.
- They need to be relevant and **coordinated** among agencies.



POSSIBLE RECOMENDATION

- Responsible agencies and staff **understand the concept and definitions**
- **Ensure consistency,**
- Use same units of measurement,
- **Regular frequency** on data collection,
- The **possibility to disseminate these data** for the public by **protecting the confidentiality of the victims**
- These data could be **comparable** across countries and regions.
- **Standardized** in a way that makes the comparison possible



POSSIBLE RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES:

- Institutes or agencies that collect national statistics,
- Relevant ministries such as Ministry of Health or Ministry of Justice
- Police
- Social services
- Women's NGOs
- Service providers such as Helpline and Shelters
- Policy makers.



- It is crucial that the data is disaggregated by gender and relationship,
- it should cover all forms of violence against women.
- Forms of violence should be presented in a differentiated way to enable more nuanced understanding of the range of violence women experience, the consequences for victims and the implications for policy-makers.
- During data collection, the women's safety should be considered a priority and must not be jeopardized at any point during data collection.
- The process of collecting, storing and transforming collected data should be in compliance with standards on data protection
- Statistical data should be complemented by qualitative methods to capture the complexity, variety and depth of women's experiences with violence.
- These data should be collected by all sectors of the administration