



ACTION PLAN FOR THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION FOR 2018–2021

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Action plan for the Istanbul Convention for 2018–2021

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Abstract <p>The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Finnish Treaty Series 53/2015, hereinafter referred to as the Istanbul Convention or the Convention) entered into force in Finland on 1 August 2015. The Istanbul Convention covers all forms of violence against women. The Convention encourages the Parties to apply the Convention to all victims of domestic violence, paying particular attention to women and girls as victims of gender-based violence. In Finland, the Convention is also applicable to men and boys experiencing domestic violence.</p> <p>The Istanbul Convention focuses on the prevention of violence, but it also contains plenty of obligations on protecting and helping victims of violence and on bringing perpetrators to justice. Furthermore, the Convention requires the Parties to coordinate its implementation, which is the aim of this Action plan.</p> <p>The Action plan contains a total of 46 measures for different administrative branches. The implementation of the measures will mostly start in 2018, with NGOs involved in the implementation of several Articles. The Action plan is drawn up for a four-year period, but the Committee for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence will monitor its progress on an annual basis, supplementing it as required.</p>			
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Tiivistelmä	<p>Euroopan neuvoston yleissopimus naisiin kohdistuvan väkivallan ja perheväkivallan ehkäisemisestä ja torjumisesta (jäljempänä Istanbulin sopimus tai sopimus, Sops 53/2015) astui Suomessa voimaan 1.8.2015. Istanbulin sopimus kattaa kaikki naisiin kohdistuvan väkivallan muodot. Sopimus kannustaa osapuolia soveltamaan sopimusta kaikkiin perheväkivallan uhreihin, kiinnittäen erityistä huomiota naisiin ja tyttöihin sukupuoleen perustuvan väkivallan uhreina. Suomessa sopimusta sovelletaan myös miehiin ja poikiin, joihin kohdistuu perheväkivaltaa.</p> <p>Istanbulin sopimus painottuu väkivallan ennaltaehkäisyyn, mutta se sisältää runsaasti velvoitteita myös väkivallan uhrien suojelemiseksi ja auttamiseksi sekä väkivallan tekijöiden saattamiseksi rikosoikeudelliseen vastuuseen teoistaan. Lisäksi sopimus edellyttää osapuolilta sen velvoitteiden toimeenpanon yhteensovittamista, johon tämä toimeenpanosuunnitelma Suomen osalta tähtää.</p> <p>Toimenpiteitä on yhteensä 46, ja ne kohdentuvat eri hallinnonaloille. Toimenpiteiden toimeenpano käynnistyy pääosin vuonna 2018, ja järjestöt ovat mukana usean artikan toimeenpanossa. Toimeenpanosuunnitelma laaditaan neljäksi vuodeksi kerrallaan, mutta sen toteutumista seurataan vuosittain ja sitä täydennetään tarvittaessa.</p>		
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Referat	<p>Europarådets konvention om förebyggande och bekämpning av våld mot kvinnor och av våld i hemmet (nedan Istanbulkonventionen eller konventionen, FördrS 53/2015) trädde i kraft i Finland den 1 augusti 2015. Istanbulkonventionen omfattar alla former av våld mot kvinnor. I konventionen uppmanas parterna att tillämpa konventionen på alla personer som utsätts för våld i hemmet med särskild fokus på kvinnor och flickor som utsätts för könsrelaterat våld. I Finland tillämpas konventionen också på män och pojkar som utsätts för våld i hemmet.</p> <p>Målet med Istanbulkonventionen är i första hand att förebygga våld, men konventionen innehåller också många skyldigheter att skydda och hjälpa personer som utsätts för våld samt att se till att förövare av våldshandlingar ställs till straffrättsligt ansvar för sina handlingar. I konventionen förutsätts dessutom att parterna samordnar genomförandet av dessa skyldigheter, vilket Finland strävar efter att göra genom denna genomförandeplan.</p> <p>Sammanlagt 46 åtgärder ska vidtas, och de fördelar sig mellan olika förvaltningsområden. Genomförandet av åtgärderna inleds huvudsakligen år 2018, och de berörda organisationerna medverkar i genomförandet av flera artiklar. Genomförandeplanen upprättas för fyra år i sänder, men utfallet följs upp årligen och planen kompletteras vid behov.</p>		
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Action plan for the Istanbul Convention for 2018–2021

Introduction

Violence against women is a significant and internationally recognised human rights issue in Finland. According to a survey published by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in 2014, 30 per cent of Finnish women aged between 18 and 74 had experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former partner. Indeed, Finland has received several comments from international bodies to the effect that its measures to prevent violence against women have been insufficient.

The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Finnish Treaty Series 53/2015, hereinafter referred to as the *Istanbul Convention or the Convention*) entered into force in Finland on 1 August 2015. The Istanbul Convention contains provisions on prevention and elimination of violence against women and domestic violence, protection of victims of violence, and holding perpetrators of violence to account for their actions.

The Istanbul Convention covers all forms of violence against women. The Convention encourages the Parties to apply the Convention to all victims of domestic violence, paying particular attention to women and girls as victims of gender-based violence. In Finland, the Convention is also applicable to men and boys experiencing domestic violence.

The Istanbul Convention focuses on the prevention of violence, but it also contains plenty of obligations to protect and help victims of violence and hold perpetrators

of violence to criminal account for their actions. Furthermore, the Convention requires the Parties to coordinate the implementation of its obligations, which is the aim of this Action plan with regard to Finland. This Action plan was drawn up by the Committee for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (NAPE), which is the coordinating body required under Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention.

The Action plan contains a total of 46 measures focused on different branches of administration. The measures build on the Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women, which was carried out between 2010 and 2015. They are based on views on what would be the most urgent course of action in terms of implementing the Istanbul Convention during the 2018–2021 period, which were discussed at NAPE meetings and identified and processed in cooperation with non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Consequently, the Action plan does not include all future areas for improvement; nor does it present all activities concerning the theme within public administration or the NGO sector. Finland has a strong tradition of cooperation between public authorities and NGOs, and the latter are also involved in the implementation of several Articles.

The implementation of the measures will mostly start in 2018. The Action plan is drawn up for a four-year period, but NAPE will monitor its progress on an annual basis, supplementing it as required. This will make it possible to keep up with the times and respond to changing phenomena in violence against women when implementing the Istanbul Convention.

To date, no specific appropriation has been allocated to implement the Istanbul Convention. Funding for measures will be confirmed annually by ministries as part of their own allocation planning. Funding needs have already been estimated for some of the measures.

The Action plan takes into account the forthcoming health and social services and regional government reform, which is also essentially linked to the services specified in the Istanbul Convention.

In addition to national implementation, the matter also involves international dimensions: Finland's foreign policy has long highlighted support for the position of women as part of our development policy. Efforts to counter violence against

women are also making progress at an international level, as Finland continues its work to promote the European Union's accession to the Istanbul Convention in cooperation with other Member States and the European Commission within the framework of the EU's Working Party on fundamental rights, citizens' rights and free movement of persons (FREMP). The implementation of the Istanbul Convention is monitored by the international Group of experts on action against violence against women and domestic violence (GREVIO), which is about to initiate its evaluation procedure for Finland at the end of 2017.

Proposed measures

Measures relating to prevention

Article 9

Non-governmental organisations and civil society

Parties shall recognise, encourage and support, at all levels, the work of relevant non-governmental organisations and of civil society active in combating violence against women and establish effective co-operation with these organisations.

Specific measures to implement Article 9:

- **Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (MSAH)/Committee for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (NAPE):** Cooperation with NGOs will be promoted to counter violence against women and domestic violence. A division with NGO representation will be set up for the Committee for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, tasked with outlining and supporting NGO measures geared towards implementing the Istanbul Convention, etc.

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.

Specific measures to implement Article 11:

- **Ministry of the Interior (MOI)/National Police Board (POHA); Ministry of Justice (MOJ):** Efforts will be made to contribute to ensuring that the collection of information required by the Istanbul Convention will be made possible when developing new information systems. This refers to statistics on the relationships between victims and perpetrators and victims' gender, etc.
- **MSAH:** Efforts will be made to contribute to ensuring that the collection of information required by the Convention will be made possible when developing new information systems. This refers to preparing the structured documents included in healthcare and social welfare

information systems so as to make it possible to indicate the type of violence data that is essential to the Convention as part of the client records used in the healthcare and social welfare sector.

- **MSAH:** A survey will be carried out on the prevalence of the forms of violence covered by the scope of the Convention among disabled people and on the availability of services.
- **MSAH/National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL):** Surveys on child victims will be carried out regularly as part of the national School Health Promotion Surveys.
- **MOI:** Research into dealing with sexual crimes in pre-trial investigations will be promoted in order to develop authority activities.
- **MSAH:** The magnitude of expenses arising from intimate partner violence in Finland will be estimated.

Article 12

General obligations

1. Parties shall take the necessary measures to promote changes in the social and cultural patterns of behaviour of women and men with a view to eradicating prejudices, customs, traditions and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority of women or on stereotyped roles for women and men.
2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative and other measures to prevent all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention by any natural or legal person.
3. Any measures taken pursuant to this chapter shall take into account and address the specific needs of persons made vulnerable by particular circumstances and shall place the human rights of all victims at their centre.
4. Parties shall take the necessary measures to encourage all members of society, especially men and boys, to contribute actively to preventing all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention.

5. Parties shall ensure that culture, custom, religion, tradition or so-called “honour” shall not be considered as justification for any acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention.

6. Parties shall take the necessary measures to promote programmes and activities for the empowerment of women.

Specific measures to implement Article 12:

- **Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC):** Efforts will be made to increase the competencies of professionals working with young people in preventing violence, with units developing outreach youth work playing an active role in this respect.
- **MEC:** A campaign to promote equality and combat violence will be implemented as part of sports and youth work.

Article 13

Awareness-raising

1. Parties shall promote or conduct, on a regular basis and at all levels, awareness-raising campaigns or programmes, including in co-operation with national human rights institutions and equality bodies, civil society and non-governmental organisations, especially women’s organisations, where appropriate, to increase awareness and understanding among the general public of the different manifestations of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention, their consequences on children and the need to prevent such violence.

2. Parties shall ensure the wide dissemination among the general public of information on measures available to prevent acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention.

Specific measures to implement Article 13:

- **MOI/Finnish Immigration Service (MIGRI); Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (MEAE):** Raising awareness of equality and non-discrimination issues among asylum seekers and immigrants receiving

integration services will be promoted, making use of existing operating models.

- **MEAE; MSAH:** Efforts will be made to prevent individual members of immigrant families from integrating into society at different paces by developing integration training for parents caring for their children at home. Counselling provided for immigrant families will be strengthened as part of the activities of family centres, which are included in the Programme to Restructure Child and Family Services run by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.
- **MSAH/THL:** An action plan to combat corporal punishment will be drawn up as part of a broad programme to promote the safety of children and young people.
- **Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFO):** Seminars, workshops and other events on violence against women will be organised as part of efforts to increase awareness of the Istanbul Convention and promote the rights of women and girls at a national level.

Article 14

Education

1. Parties shall take, where appropriate, the necessary steps to include teaching material on issues such as equality between women and men, non-stereotyped gender roles, mutual respect, non-violent conflict resolution in interpersonal relationships, gender-based violence against women and the right to personal integrity, adapted to the evolving capacity of learners, in formal curricula and at all levels of education.

2. Parties shall take the necessary steps to promote the principles referred to in paragraph 1 in informal educational facilities, as well as in sports, cultural and leisure facilities and the media.

Specific measures to implement Article 14:

- **MEC/Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI); MSAH/THL:** Efforts will be made to promote the introduction of existing materials for

- use in education in equality, human rights and security skills, and in sex education as part of health education and, as applicable, other subjects.
- **MSAH/THL:** THL's Centre for Gender Equality Information is carrying out a project to adapt and introduce to Finland a Norwegian guide on gender-based hate speech, intended for young people aged between 13 and 18. The project is funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers for Gender Equality, while an NGO partner, Finnish Youth Cooperation – Allianssi, will be involved in marketing the guide.
 - **MEAE; MEC/EDUFI:** When purchasing integration training provided in the form of labour market training, procurement units are already required to take equality contents and the gender perspective into account in integration-promoting services and measures as part of their calls for tenders and procurement contracts. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment will highlight the obligations under the Istanbul Convention as part of curricular development of integration training programmes.

Article 15

Training of professionals

1. Parties shall provide or strengthen appropriate training for the relevant professionals dealing with victims or perpetrators of all acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention, on the prevention and detection of such violence, equality between women and men, the needs and rights of victims, as well as on how to prevent secondary victimisation.

2. Parties shall encourage that the training referred to in paragraph 1 includes training on co-ordinated multi-agency co-operation to allow for a comprehensive and appropriate handling of referrals in cases of violence covered by the scope of this Convention.

Specific measures to implement Article 15:

- **MSAH/THL:** Further training created within the EPRAS project (Enhancing Professional Skills and Raising Awareness on Domestic Violence, Violence against Women and Shelter Services) will be established and disseminated

to form part of basic and further training for healthcare and social welfare professionals and police officers.

- **MEC/EDUFI; MSAH/THL:** Community-based student welfare services will be developed to prevent violence.
- **MOI/POHA, MIGRI; MOJ/Office of the Prosecutor General (VKSV):** Efforts will be made to increase competencies in assessing victims' needs for protection, violence as a phenomenon, and dealing with victims in a sensitive manner, as well as knowledge of traumas among police officers, prosecutors, judges and, as applicable, those processing asylum and residence permit matters. These efforts will make use of applicable recommendations put forward in the final report currently being prepared by the working group mentioned below under Article 49.
- **MOJ/Criminal Sanctions Agency (RISE):** Competencies relating to intimate partner violence and helping victims in prison and probation services will be promoted among the women's prison personnel.
- **MEAE:** The Centre of Expertise in Immigrant Integration operating under the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment will provide professionals and organisations working with immigrants with training relating to prevention of female circumcision and honour-related violence in cooperation with the Finnish League for Human Rights.

Article 16

Preventive intervention and treatment programmes

1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to set up or support programmes aimed at teaching perpetrators of domestic violence to adopt non-violent behaviour in interpersonal relationships with a view to preventing further violence and changing violent behavioural patterns.

2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to set up or support treatment programmes aimed at preventing perpetrators, in particular sex offenders, from re-offending.

3. In taking the measures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, Parties shall ensure that the safety of, support for and the human rights of victims are of primary concern

and that, where appropriate, these programmes are set up and implemented in close co-ordination with specialist support services for victims.

Specific measures to implement Article 16:

- **MSAH/THL; MOJ/RISE:** Quality standards will be created for perpetrator programmes based on the quality standard work carried out by the Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters. Take the applicability of programmes to enforcement of sentences into account in connection with preparing the standards.
- **MOJ/RISE:** The Move! programme for bringing up the topic of intimate partner violence will be accredited during 2018.

Article 17

Participation of the private sector and the media

1. Parties shall encourage the private sector, the information and communication technology sector and the media, with due respect for freedom of expression and their independence, to participate in the elaboration and implementation of policies and to set guidelines and self-regulatory standards to prevent violence against women and to enhance respect for their dignity.

2. Parties shall develop and promote, in co-operation with private sector actors, skills among children, parents and educators on how to deal with the information and communications environment that provides access to degrading content of a sexual or violent nature which might be harmful.

Specific measures to implement Article 17:

- **MOJ; MSAH; MOI:** The necessary measures to reduce hate speech against women will be assessed in cooperation with the private sector on the basis of the results of the Gender Equality Barometer to be published in 2018. The Gender Equality Barometer will provide up-to-date information on online hate speech against women.

- **MSAH; MOJ:** Efforts will be made to disseminate information about a guide on gender-related hate speech for young people, coordinated by THL's Centre for Gender Equality Information.

Measures relating to protection of victims

Article 19

Information

Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that victims receive adequate and timely information on available support services and legal measures in a language they understand.

Specific measures to implement Article 19:

- **MSAH/THL:** Efforts will be made to increase awareness among residents and healthcare and social welfare professionals of support services available for victims of violence, such as specialist support services provided by Victim Support Finland and other such services.
- **MSAH/THL:** Efforts will be made to increase awareness of residential shelters among the population as part of the EPRAS project, while also marketing the Nollalinja helpline.

Article 20

General support services

1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that victims have access to services facilitating their recovery from violence. These measures should include, when necessary, services such as legal and psychological counselling, financial assistance, housing, education, training and assistance in finding employment.

2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that victims have access to health care and social services and that services are

adequately resourced and professionals are trained to assist victims and refer them to the appropriate services.

Specific measures to implement Article 20:

- **MSAH:** The efforts of local authorities to network the general victim support services that they are responsible for providing will be supported, making use of local partnerships with third-sector parties (such as municipal information services).
- **MSAH:** Efforts will be made to contribute to ensuring that support services provided to meet demand arising from domestic or intimate partner violence, as required under the Social Welfare Act (sosiaalihuoltolaki 1301/2014), will be implemented in counties, as the obligation to organise general support services is transferred from local authorities to new counties as part of the health and social services reform.
- **MSAH; MOJ; MOI:** Efforts will be made to contribute to ensuring that implementation and monitoring of violence prevention will be included as part of the responsibilities for promoting health, safety and wellbeing assigned to counties.

Article 23

Shelters

Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to provide for the setting-up of appropriate, easily accessible shelters in sufficient numbers to provide safe accommodation for and to reach out pro-actively to victims, especially women and their children.

Specific measures to implement Article 23:

- **MSAH/THL:** Funding will probably increase to just over EUR 19 million in 2019, which will be used to improve the regional accessibility of shelters.
- **MSAH/THL:** As part of developing shelter services, efforts will be made to increase competencies among shelter staff relating to intimate partner violence as a phenomenon, crisis and trauma work in shelters, as well as working with children and disabled and elderly people in shelters.

Article 25

Support for victims of sexual violence

Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to provide for the setting up of appropriate, easily accessible rape crisis or sexual violence referral centres for victims in sufficient numbers to provide for medical and forensic examination, trauma support and counselling for victims.

Specific measures to implement Article 25:

- **MSAH/THL:** The activities of the Sexual Assault Support Center (Seri Support Center) for victims of sexual crimes will be first extended to cover Turku and Tampere and, later on, Kuopio and Oulu.

Article 26

Protection and support for child witnesses

1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that in the provision of protection and support services to victims, due account is taken of the rights and needs of child witnesses of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention.

2. Measures taken pursuant to this article shall include age-appropriate psychosocial counselling for child witnesses of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention and shall give due regard to the best interests of the child.

Specific measures to implement Article 26:

- **MSAH/THL:** Ways of bringing up the topic of safety with children will be developed by piloting a tool for bringing up the topic, while developing children's case management and service coordination at family centres. (The family centre is an operating model that networks services intended for families with children to form an effective package. The services develop tools for early identification and intervention, including bringing up the topics of violence and safety.)

Article 28

Reporting by professionals

Parties shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the confidentiality rules imposed by internal law on certain professionals do not constitute an obstacle to the possibility, under appropriate conditions, of their reporting to the competent organisations or authorities if they have reasonable grounds to believe that a serious act of violence covered by the scope of this Convention, has been committed and further serious acts of violence are to be expected.

Specific measures to implement Article 28:

- **MSAH/THL; MOI/POHA; MEC:** Efforts will be made to increase awareness of and competencies in professionals' rights and duties to notify within different branches of administration, by means such as disseminating a guide entitled 'Luo luottamusta, suojele lasta' ('Build trust, protect the child') and providing training on a legislative amendment made to prevent familicides and other such incidents, on the right of a professional to notify the police of the necessary confidential information for the purposes of assessing a threat to life and health and preventing an imminent act.

Article 31

Custody, visitation rights and safety

1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that, in the determination of custody and visitation rights of children, incidents of violence covered by the scope of this Convention are taken into account.

2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the exercise of any visitation or custody rights does not jeopardise the rights and safety of the victim or children.

Specific measures to implement Article 31:

- **MOJ:** Due consideration will be given for violence and ensuring children's safety when drafting a legislative reform concerning custody and visitation rights of children.

Article 36

Sexual violence, including rape

1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the following intentional conducts are criminalised:

a. engaging in non-consensual vaginal, anal or oral penetration of a sexual nature of the body of another person with any bodily part or object;

b. engaging in other non-consensual acts of a sexual nature with a person;

c. causing another person to engage in non-consensual acts of a sexual nature with a third person.

2. Consent must be given voluntarily as the result of the person's free will assessed in the context of the surrounding circumstances.

3. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the provisions of paragraph 1 also apply to acts committed against former or current spouses or partners as recognised by internal law.

Specific measures to implement Article 36:

- **MOJ/VKSV; MOI/POHA:** Efforts will be made to increase awareness of the special characteristics of the constituent elements of rape included in subsection 2 of section 1 of Chapter 20 of the Criminal Code of Finland (rikoslaki 39/1889) among police officers and prosecutors, so as to contribute to ensuring that the intent of the law is realised.

Article 37

Forced marriage

1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the intentional conduct of forcing an adult or a child to enter into a marriage is criminalised.

2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the intentional conduct of luring an adult or a child to the territory of a Party or State other than the one she or he resides in with the purpose of forcing this adult or child to enter into a marriage is criminalised.

Specific measures to implement Article 37:

- **MOJ; MSAH; MOI; MEC:** Based on the results presented in a discussion paper on the prevalence and detection of forced marriages in Finland, a situation awareness analysis of combating and preventing forced marriages will be prepared, while also outlining the needs for guidelines and training among public authorities (with due consideration for other forms of honour-related violence as well).

Article 38

Female genital mutilation

Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the following intentional conducts are criminalised:

- a. excising, infibulating or performing any other mutilation to the whole or any part of a woman's labia majora, labia minora or clitoris;
- b. coercing or procuring a woman to undergo any of the acts listed in point a;
- c. inciting, coercing or procuring a girl to undergo any of the acts listed in point a.

Specific measures to implement Article 38:

- **MSAH/THL:** A new FGM Action Plan will be prepared to run through to 2020, at which point it will be included in the Action Plan for the promotion of sexual and reproductive health, while also developing training for professionals on bringing up the phenomenon and their notification duties.

Measures to hold perpetrators to account

Article 49

General obligations

1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that in the provision of protection and support services to victims, due account is taken of the rights and needs of child witnesses of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention.

2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures, in conformity with the fundamental principles of human rights and having regard to the gendered understanding of violence, to ensure the effective investigation and prosecution of offences established in accordance with this Convention.

Specific measures to implement Article 49:

- **MOJ/VKSV; MOI/POHA:** The criminal procedure will be assessed from the victim's point of view, while outlining good practices within a working group set up by the Ministry of Justice in order to take the victim's needs into account in the criminal procedure. Based on the areas for improvement identified by the working group, any possible recommendations will be prepared, giving due consideration for the independence of prosecutors and courts.

Article 51

Risk assessment and risk management

1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that an assessment of the lethality risk, the seriousness of the situation and the risk of repeated violence is carried out by all relevant authorities in order to manage the risk and if necessary to provide co-ordinated safety and support.

2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the assessment referred to in paragraph 1 duly takes into account, at all stages of the investigation and application of protective measures, the fact that perpetrators of acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention possess or have access to firearms.

Specific measures to implement Article 51:

- **MSAH/THL:** Efforts will be made to support further dissemination of the MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) model and establish it as a permanent part of multidisciplinary anti-violence work. (Training in the risk assessment tool will be included, if possible, in all training in intimate partner violence provided for professionals working with violence in municipalities and for police officers, while channelling EUR 40,000 into operational appropriations for the MARAC model.)

Article 53

Restraining or protection orders

1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that appropriate restraining or protection orders are available to victims of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention.

2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the restraining or protection orders referred to in paragraph 1 are:

- available for immediate protection and without undue financial or administrative burdens placed on the victim;
- issued for a specified period or until modified or discharged;
- where necessary, issued on an ex parte basis which has immediate effect;
- available irrespective of, or in addition to, other legal proceedings;
- allowed to be introduced in subsequent legal proceedings.

3. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that breaches of restraining or protection orders issued pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be subject to effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal or other legal sanctions.

Specific measures to implement Article 53:

- **MOJ:** Investigations will be made into the effects of fees on applying for restraining orders.

Coordination of measures

- **MSAH, NAPE:** Efforts will be made to determine how to strengthen the anti-violence network.
- **NAPE:** New phenomena in violence against women will be monitored, including forms of violence against women committed using new technologies or on digital media.
- **NAPE:** A communications plan will be drawn up for the Committee for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.
- **NAPE:** Any possible needs to amend legislation will be examined midway through the action plan period.
- Investigations will be made into the possibility to allocate a specific appropriation to the Committee for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in the future.

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