

Taiwan 2021 International Conference of Human Rights Development

Session 2: Gender and Human Rights

[The Istanbul Convention, an inspiring example](#)

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ISTANBUL CONVENTION

Council of Europe Convention
on Preventing and Combating
Violence Against Women
and Domestic Violence



The Istanbul Convention: instrument of the Council of Europe

Unique features, the 4 P's: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Integrated Policies

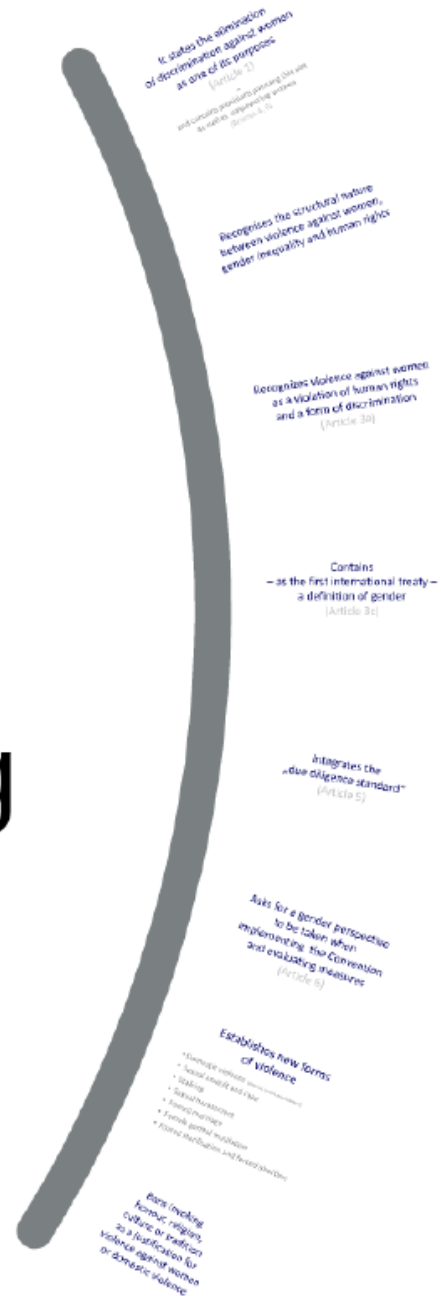
Developments

Results and concerns

The Istanbul Convention

introduces a couple of

groundbreaking features



It states the elimination
of discrimination against women
as one of its purposes
(Article 1)

...

and contains provisions pursuing this aim
as well as empowering women
(Articles 4, 6)

Recognises the structural nature
between violence against women,
gender inequality and human rights

Recognizes violence against women
as a violation of human rights
and a form of discrimination
(Article 3a)

Contains

- as the first international treaty –
a definition of gender

(Article 3c)

Integrates the
„due diligence standard“
(Article 5)

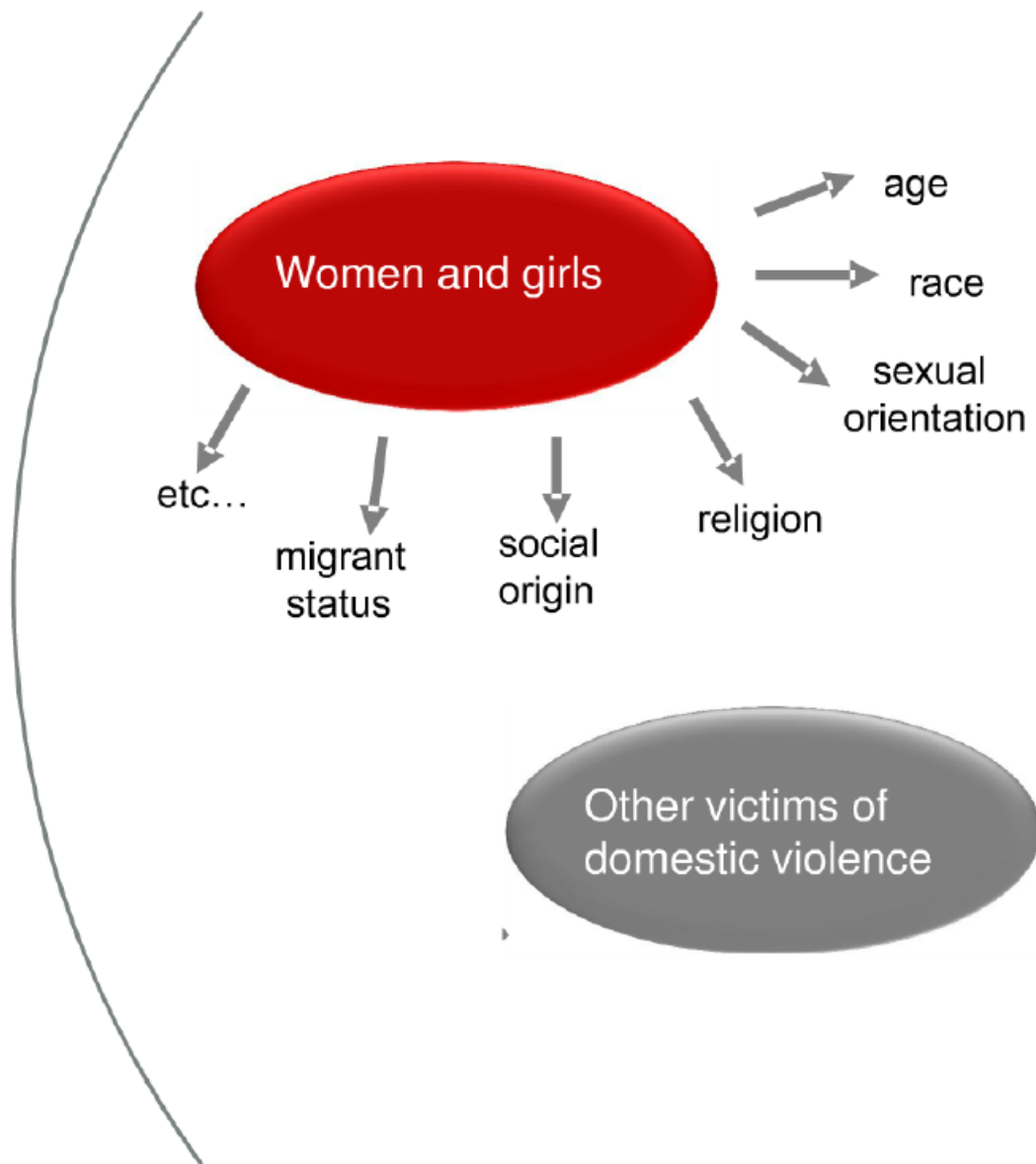
Asks for a gender perspective
to be taken when
implementing the Convention
and evaluating measures
(Article 6)

Establishes new forms of violence

- Domestic violence (physical, sexual, psychological)
- Sexual assault and rape
- Stalking
- Sexual harassment
- Forced marriage
- Female genital mutilation
- Forced sterilisation and forced abortion

Bans invoking
honour, religion,
culture or tradition
as a justification for
violence against women
or domestic violence

The Istanbul Convention covers



The Istanbul Convention

is based on

4P's



1 **P**revention

2 **P**rotection

and support services

3 **P**rosecution

4 ^{Integrated} **P**olicies

PREVENTION

- ... Regularly run awareness-raising campaigns
- ... Tackle attitudes, prejudices, gender roles and stereotypes through teaching material
- ... Training of professionals in close contact with potential victims
- ... Developing prevention and treatment programmes
- ... Work closely with NGOs and other members of the civil society, the private sector and the media

PROTECTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES



- ... Set-up shelters in sufficient numbers and in a wide geographic distribution
- ... Introduce free of charge 24/7 telephone helplines that ensure confidentiality
- ... Improve reporting procedures
- ... Ensure that general support services can support or refer victims of all forms of violence against women
- ... Set-up specialist support services
- ... Set-up rape crisis centres or sexual assault referral centres

PROSECUTION

- ... Ensure that violence against women is criminalised and appropriately punished
- ... Ensure that victims have access to special protection measures during investigation and judicial proceedings
- ... Ensure that law enforcement agencies respond immediately to calls for assistance and manage dangerous situations adequately

INTEGRATED POLICIES

- ... Set up or designate national co-ordinating bodies
- ... Ensure effective co-operation between all relevant actors
(Government, prosecution services and courts, NGOs, etc.)
- ... Collect disaggregated data and conduct population-based surveys
- ... Draw up integrated action plans

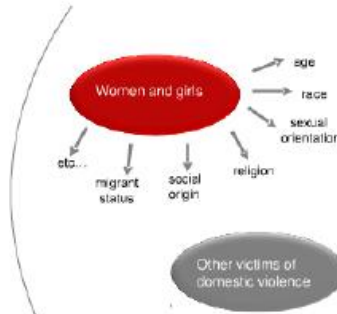
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4P's

- 1 **P**revention
- 2 **P**rotection
and support services
- 3 **P**rosecution
- 4 **P**olicies
Integrated



**SAFE
FROM FEAR**

**SAFE
FROM
VIOLENCE**

Council of Europe Convention
on preventing and combating
violence against women
and domestic violence CETS No. 210

A TWO-PILLAR MONITORING SYSTEM

- A monitoring group of 10 to 15 independent experts: GREVIO
- A political follow-up body representing the States Parties: the Committee of the Parties



TWO DIFFERENT MONITORING PROCEDURES

➤ Evaluation procedure

- *country-by-country*
- *divided into rounds*
- *possible visits*



➤ Special inquiry procedure

- *serious, massive or persistent pattern of violence*
- *possible visit with the consent of the State Party*



Developments

Istanbul Convention: 10 years anniversary May 2021

Baseline evaluation reports: Midterm horizontal review

General Recommendation on the digital dimension of violence against women

Results and concerns

Covid 19 implications, contestation in a number of European Countries

Positive results: new legislation, better services, training activities, coordinating bodies in place

Worldwide cooperation