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Violence against women

Ensuring Data Collection and Research on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence: Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention

Note by the Council of Europe*

Abstract

The Council of Europe has published a series of papers on specific provisions of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence ('the Istanbul Convention'), including one on Article 11. This provision requires Parties to "collect disaggregated relevant statistical data at regular intervals on cases of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention". These are: psychological violence, physical violence, stalking, sexual violence (including rape), domestic violence, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, forced abortion and forced sterilisation. Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention also requires Parties to "support research" on all the above-mentioned forms of violence against women, "in order to study its root causes and effects, incidences and conviction rates, as well as the efficacy of the measures taken to implement this Convention".

The aim of the paper is to provide background information on data collection and research and to offer practical advice to policymakers and practitioners as to what is required to implement Article 11 of the Convention, including the measurement

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framework and data collection tools needed for the development of relevant administrative and survey data. The paper includes examples of how administrative and survey data may be collected at the national level. It also includes a checklist that summarizes the requirements of Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention.

N.b. This note is an excerpt from a Council of Europe publication. The full publication can be accessed at: <https://rm.coe.int/1680640efc>

The **Conclusion** of the paper reads:

“The purpose of the collection of administrative and survey data and of research is to build the knowledge base necessary to combat violence against women and domestic violence and therefore support the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

This knowledge base is more effective if benchmarks and summary indicators of changes in this violence are sufficiently consistent and coherent to support each other. The use of the same categories to measure the extent and severity of the violence in both surveys and the various administrative sources is beneficial for this aim of coherence and complementarity.

This is of importance both within a given country and between countries. The goal should be a single coherent measurement framework for violence against women and domestic violence that includes relevant disaggregation. This would provide coherence and enable greater accuracy in the measurement of change in the violence and in the effectiveness of public services.

It is recognised that this goal of achieving coherence and alignment of measurement practices is very challenging. The existing multiple measurement practices have developed relatively separately in relation to diverse relevant policy fields and are consequently embedded in disparate frameworks. Some of these policy fields are deeply grounded in a range of specialised institutions.

The challenge is thus not only that of mainstreaming gender into the existing measurement frameworks of established policy fields but also of the alignment of the measurement frameworks of diverse established policy fields.

For example, it is not only an issue of making sure that the gendered nature of violence is incorporated in crime statistics, but also making sure that the crime statistics can in some way be made compatible with health statistics.

The process of moving towards a greater alignment of these measurement practices so that they can better support each other will require a considerable number of revisions, which can be expected to take some time.

Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention requires Parties to collect administrative data, to conduct research and to collect survey data. This is necessary in order to be able to assess and evaluate policy developments which aim to combat violence against women and domestic violence. There are major challenges in meeting these requirements on data. However, there are also some promising practices that are already engaged in the step-by-step incremental processes necessary to meet these challenges. It is important that Parties to the Istanbul Convention contribute to the collection of statistical data, survey data and research and work towards the overall measurement framework within which sense can best be made of all these contributions”.