

SAFE FROM FEAR
SAFE FROM
VIOLENCE

The Council of Europe Convention on
preventing and combating violence
against women and domestic violence

ISTANBUL CONVENTION and
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
MAKING THE LINK

Raluca Popa
Equality Division
Directorate General of Democracy
Council of Europe

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Gender perspective on Children's rights

*Children grow up
in social
environments
laden with
gender norms
and expectations.*



**The Istanbul Convention is a tool for
the inclusion of a gender perspective
into all measures to prevent and
combat violence against children.**

Links and overlaps between VAW and VAC

- **Violence against girls and young women** widespread, in many forms:
 - physical abuse
 - sexual violence
 - sexual harassment
 - female genital mutilation (affects only girls)
 - stalking
 - forced marriage
- Constitutes gender based discrimination against women and violation of human rights

Links and overlaps between VAW and VAC

- **EU Fundamental Rights Agency survey 2014 (42,000 women interviewed across EU):**
 - Over one in 10 women experienced sexual abuse or incident by an adult before the age of 15; 1% were forced to have sexual intercourse; in 97% of cases of sexual violence in childhood, the perpetrator was male.
 - For women, experiences of sexual violence in childhood significantly related to the risk of sexual victimization later on.

Links and overlaps between VAW and VAC

- **EU Fundamental Rights Agency survey 2014 (42,000 women interviewed across EU):**
 - Children are as much harmed by witnessing violence in the home as by being directly abused themselves.
 - 73% of mothers who have been victims of physical and/or sexual violence by a partner indicate that at least one of their children has become aware of such violence taking place

ISTANBUL CONVENTION

***The Istanbul Convention as a tool to
develop integrated and strategic
approaches to prevent and combat
violence against women and girls
under 18***

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ISTANBUL CONVENTION

- The international community's most comprehensive and detailed response to violence against women and girls
 - clearly states that the term “women” includes girls under the age of 18 (Article 3, paragraph f)
- Applicable to all victims of violence = it can be implemented with a view to supporting and protecting boys who experience any of the forms of violence covered.
- Convention encourages states parties to apply all of its provisions to all victims of domestic violence, including boys
- Children as agents of change also

ADDED VALUE OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

- demands that states exercise 'due diligence' in their efforts to prevent, protect, investigate and sanction cases
- recognises violence against women as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination
- contains the first-ever definition of gender; asks for a gender perspective to be taken when implementing the Convention and when evaluating any measures taken (Art 6)

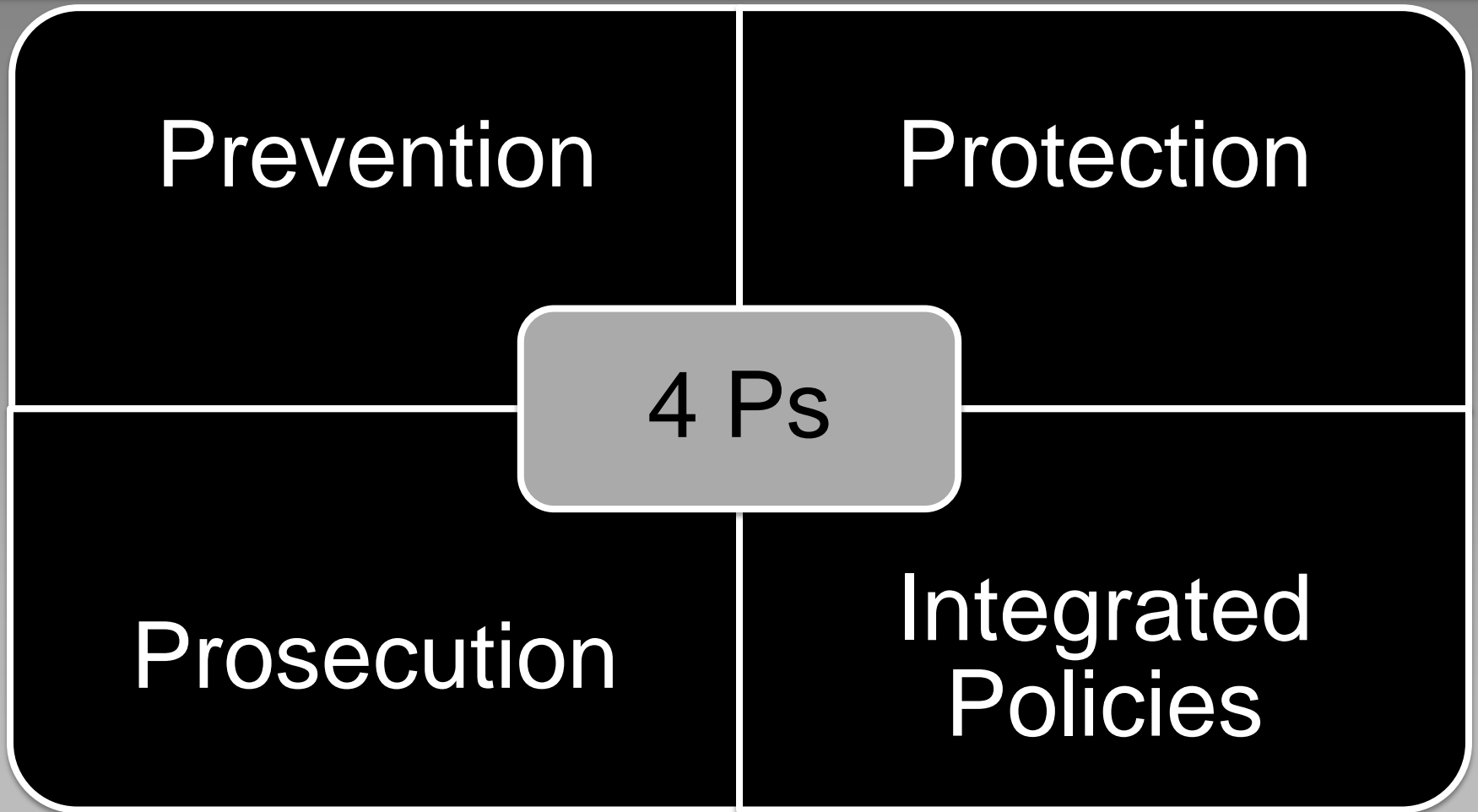
ISTANBUL CONVENTION

- Introduces specific **criminal offences** for forms of violence that overwhelmingly affect children, some of them predominantly girls:
 - Forced marriage (Article 37)
 - Female genital mutilation (Article 38)
 - Instigation of a child in the context of crimes committed in the name of so-called honor does not diminish criminal liability of adult (Article 42, para 2)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

- Istanbul Convention addresses both children as direct victims of physical, sexual or psychological violence, in the context of domestic violence, and children who witness such violence between their parents
- Measures provided for in the areas of:
 - Prevention – awareness-raising campaigns on domestic violence should show or emphasise the consequences on children (Article 13 para 1).
 - Protection and support services - all measures to take into account children also; specialist support for child witnesses (Article 26)
 - Custody or visitation rights (Article 31)

ISTANBUL CONVENTION



Fourth Monitoring Round on the Implementation of Recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the Protection of Women against Violence

- 46 of 47 member states replied to a standardised questionnaire !
- Current situation and developments over time since 2005, when monitoring began, in:
 - legislation and policies
 - support services and protection for women who suffer violence
 - programmes for perpetrators
 - prevention efforts
 - data collection and research

THE ROAD TRAVELLED

- ✓ Clear process of converging policy and legislation in CoE member states
- ✓ Trend towards criminalising more forms of violence against women, such as forced marriage and stalking
- ✓ Comprehensiveness of national policies to prevent and combat violence against women increased

THE ROAD TRAVELLED ... (ct'd.)

- ✓ More countries setting up national governmental co-ordinating bodies
- ✓ Increased efforts to train professionals working with women victims of violence
- ✓ Role of education in prevention increasingly recognised

... THE ROAD AHEAD

- ✓ Only physical violence **criminalised** by 46 of the 47 member states of the CoE; other forms, including rape and sexual violence, not universally criminalised
- ✓ Only four member states have **national policies** that address all nine forms of violence against women in Rec(2002)5; five member states still have in place policies and strategies targeting violence within the family or domestic unit only
- ✓ Vast majority of member states not able to provide figures regarding the **allocation of sufficient financial resources** to address the problem of violence against women

... THE ROAD AHEAD (ct'd.)

- ✓ In about a third of member states, the **provision of shelter beds specifically for women and children victims of domestic violence** is very low compared to the recommended standards.
- ✓ Provision of **specialised services for women victims of sexual violence**, in particular medical and psychological support, advice concerning possible legal redress, and empowerment towards their recovery, is still lagging well behind the provision for victims of domestic violence.

CURRENT PROGRESS

✓ 25 signatures:

Andorra, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and UK

✓ 8 ratifications: Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Montenegro, Portugal, Serbia and Turkey

Entry into force: 10 ratifications

NEXT STEPS

- **Entry into force of the Istanbul Convention**
 - Expected in the summer of 2014



- **Setting up the monitoring mechanism**
- **Focus on implementation:**
 - Use the powerful standard that is the Istanbul Convention and give it all the practical relevance

I SIGN ...

http://www.potpisujem.org/eng/about_the_campaign.html



**SIGN, RATIFY AND
IMPLEMENT THE
ISTANBUL CONVENTION!**

CONTACT

INFORMATION

**Council of Europe Convention
on Preventing and Combating
Violence against Women and
Domestic Violence
Directorate of Democracy
Strasbourg F-67075**

**E-mail: conventionviolence@coe.int
Fax: +33 (0) 3 88 41 27 64**

www.coe.int/conventionviolence

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