

Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence

COUNTRY INFORMATION PAGE ON NATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

CROATIA

I. National campaigns

1. Is your government currently carrying out a national campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence?

Yes No

2. Has your government carried out a national campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence in the past?

Yes No

If yes, which year(s)

3. Is your government planning on carrying out a national campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence in the future?

Yes No

If yes, which year(s)

Please provide a brief description of the present or past national campaign, by using the space in the following boxes:

- a. Campaign slogan

Campaign slogan in the Republic of Croatia is: "There is no justification for violence".

- b. Campaign duration

The Campaign to combat violence against woman in the Republic of Croatia commenced according to the Recommendation of the Council of Europe on the 25th November 2006 and will finish approximately on the 8th March 2008.

- c. Campaign aims, messages and/or objectives

The Campaign aim in the Republic of Croatia is to raise public awareness of domestic violence and needs of the female victims as well as to contribute to the better protection of domestic violence victims and to improve the quality of their lives.

Aims of the National Campaign are:

- to strengthen the attitude of the state, society and authorised state organs on the necessity of ensuring the structure, organisation and sufficient number of experts who will work on the issue of violence and protection of individuals exposed to the domestic violence;

- ensure systematic financial support to female organisation of the civil society that are active in order to promote female rights, especially direct protection of the victims of the domestic violence and treatment for perpetrators of violence;
- prevent individuals who are identified as perpetrators of domestic violence from taking up public appointments;
- introduce the Protocol for operation in case of domestic violence and duties of authorised bodies in case violence is committed, including the police, social and medical services, educational institutions and judiciary organs;
- ensure the availability of free medical treatment and legal representative before the court in cases of legal family protection and division of marital property as well as psychosocial assistance to all victims of violence;
- contribute to stronger awareness and determination of victims and their family members to interrupt silence on the matter of domestic violence;
- ensure systematic gathering of statistical data on the issue of domestic violence (according to sex, type of violence, relationship of perpetrator to victim) and its publication in statistical yearbook;
- gather and publish the examples of good practice in cases of preventing domestic violence by protecting the victims of violence and prosecuting the perpetrators;
- portray domestic violence and all identified forms of domestic violence in the public and all aspects of the society as highly unacceptable social behaviour which must be energetically prevented and sanctioned, while life without violence must be promoted as one of the most desirable forms of coexistence and the foundation of human rights and freedom;
- observe significant international and national dates in connection with the promotion of human rights, protection of children and family, victims of violence etc.;
- ensure responding educational and promotional materials on all forms of violence against women.

Messages of the Campaign are:

- The Government of the Republic of Croatia has undertaken a number of measures and is determined to combat all forms of violence against women;
- The Government of the Republic of Croatia has started this Campaign so as to contribute to the change of behaviour; this society does not tolerate violence because perpetrators of violence violate basic rights of women and other family members that suffer from violence;
- The Government of the Republic of Croatia, the police force, social services, health and educational institutions and judiciary bodies cooperate tightly and perform all activities so that the violence against women in families is stopped (combating violence requires a joint public action);
- A life without violence is a basic human right of each person;
- Each form of violence endangers our health, creativity and dignity;

- Domestic violence seriously endangers women and damages the whole society, including future generations;
- Domestic violence requires active role of men in combating violence against women;
- Stop the silence on domestic violence as a prerequisite of protection of the victim, other family members and rendering help to the perpetrator in order to change his behaviour and prevent the family from passing the model of silence to another generation;
- The woman who defends herself is not a violator;
- A violent person must not have any access to weapons.

d. Expected or achieved results

The following results are expected:

- compliance of the existing national legislation with international provisions for abolishing all forms of violence against women and carrying out responding alterations and amendments to the law;
- opening of new shelters for women and children who are victims of violence as well as counselling centres for victims of violence as well as establishing centres for carrying out the psychosocial treatment for perpetrators of domestic violence;
- achieving conditions for systematic and permanent financing of organisations of civil society for the purposes of rendering direct help to female victims of domestic violence and carrying out the treatment for perpetrators of violence;
- exercising rights of victims of violence to free medical treatment and legal representative before the court in cases of legal family protection and division of marital property as well as psychosocial assistance;
- participation of men with public influence in the Campaign in form of public appearances directed against the domestic violence;
- the Rule Book with guidelines for media reporting on domestic violence has been drawn up and introduced;
- the Statistical Yearbook, which contains data on domestic violence according to sex and relationship of perpetrator to victim has been published;
- information and awareness-raising in the public when it comes to the issue of domestic violence.

e. Campaign website address

Data on implementation of The Campaign to combat domestic violence against women in the Republic of Croatia will be published on the web page of Ministry of the Family, Veteran's Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity: www.mobms.hr .

II. National Plan of Action

1. Has your government adopted a national plan of action to combat violence against women, including domestic violence?
Yes No
If yes, which year
2. Is your government currently implementing a national plan of action to combat violence against women, including domestic violence?
Yes No
3. Has your government implemented a national plan of action to combat violence against women, including domestic violence in the past?
Yes No
If yes, which year(s)
4. Is your government planning on implementing a national plan of action to combat violence against women, including domestic violence in the future?
Yes No
If yes, which year(s)

Please provide a brief description of the national plan of action, by using the space in the following boxes:

- a. Aims, activities and expected or achieved results of the national plan of action
Important aims of the national Campaign are:
 - to strengthen the attitude of the state, society and authorised state organs on the necessity of ensuring the structure, organisation and sufficient number of experts who will work on the issue of violence and protection of individuals exposed to the domestic violence;
 - introduce the Protocol for operation in case of domestic violence and duties of authorised bodies in case violence is committed, including the police, social and medical services, educational institutions and judiciary organs;
 - portray domestic violence and all identified forms of domestic violence in the public and all aspects of the society as highly unacceptable social behaviour which must be energetically prevented and sanctioned, while life without violence must be promoted as one of the most desirable forms of coexistence and the foundation of human rights and freedom.Important actions for implementation of the Campaign are:
 - organising round tables on the economy violence against women and systematic financing of organisations of civil society that give direct protection to victims of domestic violence;
 - receiving members of the Committee for implementation of the Campaign to combat domestic violence against women at the chambers of the President of the Republic of Croatia, the President of the Croatian Parliament, presidents of the Supreme, Administrative and Constitutional Court, on which occasion badges with campaign logo

and slogan are distributed, which in a symbolic way contribute to implementation of the aims and actions set in the Campaign;

- organising informative and educational workshops for children with the aim of raising awareness and strengthening responsibility so as to achieve more efficient protection against domestic violence; organising workshops for journalists;
- drawing up The Rule Book with guidelines for media reporting on domestic violence;
- organising the laying of wreaths at the Municipal Court in Zagreb on the occasion of observing the 22nd September – National day of combating violence against women;
- introducing the additional stamp with recognisable campaign logo on it;
- journalists paying a visit to women's organisations so as to enhance the discussion on conditions in shelters;
- participating in activities in course of 16 Days of Activism against Violence Towards Women;
- displaying jumbo posters of the Campaign on hoardings in the Republic of Croatia.

The following results are expected:

- achieving conditions for systematic and permanent financing of organisations of civil society for the purposes of rendering direct help to female victims of domestic violence and carrying out the treatment for perpetrators of violence;
- opening of new shelters for women and children who are victims of violence as well as counselling centres for victims of violence as well as establishing centres for carrying out the psychosocial treatment for perpetrators of domestic violence;
- exercising rights of victims of violence to free medical treatment and legal representative before the court in cases of legal family protection and division of marital property as well as psychosocial assistance;
- participation of men with public influence in the Campaign in form of public appearances directed against the domestic violence;
- the Rule Book with guidelines for media reporting on domestic violence has been drawn up and introduced;
- information and awareness-raising in the public when it comes to the issue of domestic violence.

b. Duration of the national plan of action

The action programme is drawn up for carrying out the activities of the Campaign within the period from the 25th November 2006 until the 8th March 2008.

c. National Plan of Action website address

Action Programme for carrying out the Campaign to combat domestic violence against women in the Republic of Croatia will be published on the web page of Ministry of the Family, Veteran's Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity: www.mobms.hr.

III. National Task Force/inter-agency working group to combat violence against women, including domestic violence

- a. Has your government set up a national Task Force or inter-agency working group to combat violence against women, including domestic violence?

Yes No

- b. If yes, please provide a brief description of this body, including its composition, mandate, duration and expected results

The Ministry of the Family, Veteran's Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity established 2004 a working group for the improvement of protection against domestic violence on the basis of conclusions brought during the session of the governmental Group for Coordination of Social Activities and Human Rights. The members of the working group are eminent experts and scientists, representatives of state administration bodies, other organs and institutions as well as organisations of civil society that have developed programmes in order to protect the victims of domestic violence. The working group drew up the national strategy of protection from domestic violence for the period from 2005 up to 2007, which was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the 9th December 2004. The working group regularly works on the implementation of the measures set by the national strategy and undertakes other activities in order to improve the position of victims of violence, raise the quality of their lives and affirm their rights.

The Committee for implementation of the Campaign to combat domestic violence against women established by the Ministry of the Family, Veteran's Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity has drawn up the Action Programme for carrying out the Campaign on the national level and will also participate in the actual implementation of the Programme.

IV. Additional information on national action to combat violence against women

The Programme of implementing the National Campaign includes: introduction, strategic approach (analysis of existing state, aims, strategies, messages, campaign slogan and logo, campaign duration), timetable of activities, calculation of costs, campaign promotion materials and indicators of implementation.

Campaign aims will be achieved through: *legal and political measures, support and protection of victims, gathering of data and awareness-raising.*

Foreseen campaign actions will be connected with observance of international and national special dates: the 8th March – International Women's Day, the 15th May – International Day of Families, the 22nd September – National Day of Combating Violence against Women and the 25th November – International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Strategies that will help achieve set campaign aims:

- actively implement and coordinate actions of the Government of the Republic of Croatia and authorised ministries in the Campaign to combat domestic violence against women;
- choose influential celebrities, especially men, who are not registered as perpetrators of domestic violence and are willing to stand up in the public against violence towards women;
- actively implement and coordinate actions of state, local, and regional self-government in course of carrying out the Campaign as well as enhance the drawing up of local campaign programme to combat domestic violence against women;
- bring the Campaign in connection with the observance of well-known international and national dates (such as International Women's day, International Day of Families, National Day of Combating Violence against Women, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women).