

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

COUNTRY INFORMATION PAGE ON NATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

LIECHTENSTEIN

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

"Because walls cannot speak.....they protect perpetrators"

- b. Campaign duration

In February 2001 was launched a three-year interregional project and concluded in July 2004.

- c. Campaign aims, messages and/or objectives

The aims were compiling transnational data on domestic violence, building awareness and sensitizing the public on a transnational basis through the provision of information and providing efficient and competent intervention against violence (through communication, cooperation, prevention, social awareness-building and adequate assistance). The objective of the project entitled "Crossing boundaries – Setting boundaries" was to compile cross-border data on violence in marriages and partnerships and to educate and raise awareness by providing information. The project was jointly run by the Liechtenstein Office of Equal Opportunity, the Austrian province of Vorarlberg, and the Swiss canton of Graubünden.

d. Expected or achieved results

The planned measures – a campaign for general awareness-raising of the public, a survey and study on forms of violence and perceptions of violence in the domestic environment, and an information campaign to specifically raise the awareness of multipliers – were successfully implemented

e. Campaign website address

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

b. Duration of the national plan of action

c. National Plan of Action website address

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

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

On 1 January 2005, a partial revision of the Code of Penal Procedure, referred to as the "**Victims Protection Act**", entered into force. The goal of this legislative amendment is to improve the legal standing of victims in criminal proceedings by establishing a procedural right to respectful treatment and the greatest possible protection. In particular, the interests of young victims and victims of sexual offenses will be taken into account more strongly.

*The draft of the "**Victims Assistance Act**" was in the first parliamentary reading in June 2006 and the Parliament is expected to consider this year.* The goal of the proposal, namely the best possible support for victims, will be achieved on the basis of the two pillars of "counseling" and "financial assistance".

The appropriate care of victims and their families is the most important objective of victims' assistance. For this purpose, a Victims Counseling Office is being created. Its goal is to provide the necessary assistance in individual cases with respect to medical, psychological, social, material, and legal needs. These provisions are intended to enable victims to receive compensation from the State for material and non-material injury suffered, to the extent that no or only insufficient compensation is given by third parties. The compensation of non-material injuries is intended to express society's recognition of the difficult situation of the victim as part of comprehensive victims protection, and especially to take into account the situation of victims of sexual offenses, who as a rule suffer hardly any material injuries, but usually grave non-material injuries.

In 1991, the **Women's shelter** was established in Liechtenstein. It serves the whole country and the region. The shelter is run by the Association for Protection of Mistreated Women and Children. This institution has proved to be an important source of assistance for women in need. The Government supports the Liechtenstein Women's Home as part of a performance agreement with an annual contribution of CHF 320,000. Most of the nine women who came to the Women's Home in 2005 were migrants. Eight women live in Liechtenstein, one in the neighboring canton of St. Gallen/Switzerland. The use of the Women's Home has decreased since 2001. In 2001, 27 women, of whom 8 were residents of Liechtenstein, in 2002, 17 women (9 residents of Liechtenstein), in 2003, 13 women (6 residents of Liechtenstein), in 2004, 12 women (9 residents of Liechtenstein) and in 2005, 9 women (8 residents of Liechtenstein) sought refuge in the Women's House.