

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

## COUNTRY INFORMATION PAGE ON NATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

### LITHUANIA

#### 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

We are going to use the common slogan of the Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence. We hope The Council of Europe will not argue against.

- b. Campaign duration

Campaign duration: 2007-2009

- c. Campaign aims, messages and/or objectives

The main objectives of the campaign:

- to combat and prevent violence against women;
- to raise awareness, to educate society in the matters of women's rights as human rights, that violence against women is a human rights violation;
- to ensure support and protection for victims;
- to expand the network of crises centres guaranteeing assistance to victims;
- to improve legal acts, etc.

d. Expected or achieved results

Expected results of the campaign:

- legal base will be analysed and recommendations how to improve legal acts will be prepared;
- the network of crises centres will be expanded ensuring support for victims of violence and work with perpetrators;
- complex support needed by victims of violence will be guaranteed;
- collection of statistics and analysis in this field will be improved;
- intolerance of violence against women will be stimulated.

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

22 December 2006

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)

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania adopted the National Programme on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2003-2004 (later: 2005-2009). Violence against women - one of the largest part of the programme, including improvement of legislation, development of women's shelters system, support to victims of violence.

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)

2007-2015

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

On 22 December 2006, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania adopted the National strategy to combat violence against women in the family and the strategy implementation plan for 2007-2009.

Main directions of the Strategy are as follows:

- improvement of legislation;
- integrated support to victims of violence;
- development of women's shelters system;
- effective prevention;
- work with the person engaged committing acts of violence.

The Strategy covers a lot of activities to be carried out in 2007-2015, including improvement of legislation, especially related to, legal provisions on separation of the perpetrators from the family, development of women's shelters system, complex support to victims of violence, trainings for police officers, medical, social workers, pedagogues, other important activities are foreseen in this document.

Expected results of implementation of measures provided in the Strategy:

- legal base will be analysed and recommendations how to improve legal acts will be prepared. Draft amendments and supplements of legal acts or drafts of new legal acts will be developed on the basis of the aforementioned recommendations;
- the network of crises centres will be expanded ensuring support for victims of violence and work with perpetrators;
- complex support needed by victims of violence will be guaranteed;
- collection of statistics and analysis in this field will be improved;
- intolerance of violence against women will be stimulated.

b. Duration of the national plan of action

The National strategy to combat violence against women in the family will be implemented till 2015. The strategy implementation plans will be prepared every three years.

c. National Plan of Action website address

[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=289640&p\\_query=&p\\_tr2=](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=289640&p_query=&p_tr2=)

### **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 Inter-Ministerial Commission on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men carries the responsibility for coordination of implementation of the Strategy and for reporting to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the implementation of the Strategy's measures.

Inter-Ministerial Commission on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men consists of representatives of all ministries and one department, NGO's. This body is a primarily structure for gender mainstreaming. The Commission co-ordinates implementation of gender equality programmes and other gender-related measures. It submits proposals, recommendations concerning gender equality to the Government. The Commission works in close cooperation with other components of gender equality machinery: Equal Opportunities Ombudsmen, Advisor to the Prime Minister.

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

The Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania provides for criminal responsibility for domestic violence and provides for a new preventive measure - obligating the suspect to reside separately from the victim if there is justified cause to believe that suspect residing together with the victim will attempt to exert upon the victim an unlawful influence or commit new criminal acts against the victim or the persons residing together with him.

Different Ministries are responsible for implementation of appropriate activities: the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of culture and etc.

Over 25 NGOs, women's crisis centres in particular, provide assistance (psychological, legal and consulting) as well asylum to the victims of violence. A men' crisis and information centre, the main field of activities of which is working with men using violence, was established. Since 2003 implementing the National Programme for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, support has been given to the projects of NGOs, intended for provision of social assistance to victims of domestic violence, including their temporary accommodation, provision with food, legal, psychological consultations, other assistance.

Funding of the implementation of the measures under the National strategy to combat violence against women in the family from the EU structural funds' assistance is also possible (in particular projects by crisis centres ensuring social assistance to victims of domestic violence and work with persons using violence in the family).

Training of police officials and social workers is organised, research into sources of violence was carried out, gender role and gender studies were conducted (in particular into men's and boys' roles and into violence of all types including domestic violence). Active support on the part of the public, especially that of women's organisations (information campaigns) plays an important role in providing services to women – victims of violence.

The electronic network embracing women's crisis centres guaranteeing assistance to victims of violence and work with perpetrators (coordinated by the Women's Issues Information Centre) transmits information in the most efficient and speedy manner provides conditions for the exchange of ideas, experience, proposals, other necessary information, thereby promoting informal cooperation of different.