

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

COUNTRY INFORMATION PAGE ON NATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

NORWAY

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
- b. Campaign duration
- c. Campaign aims, messages and/or objectives
- d. Expected or achieved results
- 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

The Norwegian government's first action plan (2000-2002) to combat violence against women expired in November 2003. The plan was a joint project between four ministries; the Ministry of Justice, Social Affairs, Health, and Children and Family Affairs. The Ministry of Justice performed a coordinating function for the work involved. The programme consisted of a wide range of activities to reduce domestic violence and to improve services to victims.

Focus was directed at improving existing measures and achieving enhanced competence among all actors. This included competence-enhancement and improved networking at the local level between all responsible actors such as police, social welfare services, childcare services, staff from shelters, etc. Improved research and routines for registration of information were also in focus.

To continue the work against domestic violence, the Norwegian government launched a new action plan for the period 2004-2007 in June 2004. The plan places emphasis on reinforcing the forms of treatment offered to women exposed to violence and sexual abuse, focus on immigrant women, on the services offered to children growing up in families in which violence is practised, and on reinforcing measures available to men with problems of violence. While the previous action plan all but lacked a children's perspective, the new one has given children a main focus. The plan has four general objectives:

- improving the level of cooperation and knowledge in the support services;
- increasing the visibility of violence in intimate relationships and improving the prevention of violence through behavioural change;
- securing victims of violence in intimate relationships the necessary help;

- protection and assistance;
 - breaking down the spiral of violence by reinforcing forms of treatment available to perpetrators of violence.
- b. Duration of the national plan of action
2004 - 2007
- c. National Plan of Action website address
<http://www.odin.no/jd/english/doc/plans/012101-990562/dok-bn.html>

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 Justice is responsible for coordinating the Government's efforts to combat domestic violence. To meet the need for coordination at central level, a *permanent* inter-ministerial working group has been established comprising representatives from the Ministry of Health and Care Services, the Ministry of Labour and Inclusion, the Ministry of Children and Equality and the Ministry of Justice. This working group was a result of the work on the Action Plan to combat Violence against Women (2000-2003), and helps ensure that the lessons learned from measures already implemented have an impact on the ongoing formulation of policy. One of the working group's main goals is to examine the consequences of the measures implemented.

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

Pilot project - electronic monitoring of violent offenders. The Ministry of Justice has established a working group to report on the implementation of a pilot project involving the use of electronic exclusion monitoring in the case of persons who have violated a ban on visits. The working group has been asked to present proposals regarding the type of electronic monitoring that should be used in the project and to study the need for, and make proposals regarding, solutions for organising electronic monitoring. The working group is to draw on the experience gained by Sweden, the UK, the USA and Spain, all of which have tested or are in the process of testing the use of electronic monitoring of persons who have breached a ban on visits. The report is to be finalised in spring 2007, and the pilot project will begin in autumn 2007.

The Government has appointed a broad-based public committee to report on the situation of women who have been subjected to rape or other types of sexual violence. The committee, was appointed in August 2006, and will identify factors that contribute to rapes not being reported, propose measures and strategies to increase the rate of reported rape, assess how alternative conflict resolution strategies can be applied in rape cases and assess the situation of rape victims, both female and male, with various disabilities, minority backgrounds or, in particular, experience of prostitution.