



## European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

### NEWS REPORT

<b>Country:</b>	Cyprus
<b>Title:</b>	Istanbul Convention
<b>Date:</b>	2 October 2015
<b>Expert:</b>	Lia Georgiades
<b>Context</b>	
<b>Issue at stake:</b>	Government of Cyprus signs Istanbul Convention
<b>Ground of discrimination:</b>	Sex
<b>Source:</b>	Legislation
<b>Field:</b>	Other
<b>Applicable law:</b>	Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

### Content

**Legislative development:** On 16 June 2015, the Government of Cyprus signed the Istanbul Convention over four years after it opened for signature on 11 May 2011.

Through this Convention, Cyprus can begin to increase action on all forms of violence against women including domestic violence, from a gender equality perspective.

The police keep statistical data on violence in the family.<sup>1</sup> Statistical data is also kept by the Association for Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family.<sup>2</sup>

Grave human rights violations against women and girls are becoming more prevalent and visible everyday:

- 1 in 5 women has experienced physical and/or sexual violence in Cyprus;
- 28 % of Cypriot women have experienced some form of abuse by current or former spouse or partner;
- 82 % of domestic violence victims are women and girls;
- Over 30 women have been killed by partners or ex-partners in the last 10 years.

However, the Convention can only fully come into force in Cyprus once it is ratified. This will require extensive legislative changes, the development of specialist support services, the implementation of prevention programmes, robust data collection and research, and comprehensive and coordinated policies across all Government services.

**Key points of analysis:** All national women's organisations were pleased with the signing of the Convention. It is hoped that the ratification will not be delayed, and that the proper legal measures will be taken.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.police.gov.cy/police/police.nsf/dmlstatistical\\_gr/dmlstatistical\\_gr?OpenDocument](http://www.police.gov.cy/police/police.nsf/dmlstatistical_gr/dmlstatistical_gr?OpenDocument)  
[http://www.police.gov.cy/police/police.nsf/All/CA09FD4ED28D8E87C2257E1B003ABC64/\\$file/%CE%92%CE%AF%CE%B1%20%CF%83%CF%84%CE%B7%CE%BD%20%CE%BF%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%BF%CE%B3%CE%AD%CE%BD%CE%B5%CE%B9%CE%B1.pdf](http://www.police.gov.cy/police/police.nsf/All/CA09FD4ED28D8E87C2257E1B003ABC64/$file/%CE%92%CE%AF%CE%B1%20%CF%83%CF%84%CE%B7%CE%BD%20%CE%BF%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%BF%CE%B3%CE%AD%CE%BD%CE%B5%CE%B9%CE%B1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.domviolence.org.cy/?lang=GR&cat=4&subcat=26>

For the purposes of ratification, the Attorney General is responsible for the amendments of the law, and the Government is obliged to establish more shelters for victims of domestic violence.