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NEWS REPORT

Country:	Liechtenstein
Title:	Istanbul Convention signed by Liechtenstein
Date:	22 December 2016
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<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Government signed the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence
Ground of discrimination:	Sex
Source:	Miscellaneous
Field:	Other
Applicable law:	Not yet in force formally

Content

Law development: Liechtenstein signed the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) on 10 November 2016 in Strasbourg. The Istanbul Convention is the first legally binding pan-European instrument aiming to protect especially women and girls from any form of violence and particularly from domestic violence. With the signing of the Convention, which was formally decided by the government on 5 October 2016, Liechtenstein has given a clear sign of supporting the aim of the Convention. A working group nominated by the government in March 2016 examined the prevailing legal norms regarding the requirements of the Convention. In its final report, the working group concluded that Liechtenstein already largely fulfils the standards of the Istanbul Convention.

According to the practice in Liechtenstein, international agreements are only ratified when the national norms are fully corresponding to the exigencies of the Convention. For a possible ratification of the Istanbul Convention, Liechtenstein should have to make a reservation to the provisions concerning the residence permit status of victims. Additionally, there are some marginal gaps in the fields of jurisdiction, grounds for increase in penalty and criminal law regarding norms against forced marriages. These gaps are likely to be closed by the autonomous adaptation of parts of the revised Austrian Criminal Code.

The next step should be to ratify the Istanbul Convention in the near future.

Internet link source:

Press release of the government of Liechtenstein

<http://www.regierung.li/news1.aspx?id=117256&nid=7212> accessed 22 December 2016.