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NEWS REPORT

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| Country: | Croatia |
| Title: | New Act on the Protection against Domestic Violence |
| Date: | 15 February 2018 |
| Expert: | Nada Bodiroga-Vukobrat |
| Update of news report: | Croatia - Draft Act on Domestic Violence (PDF 134 kB) |
| <u>Context</u> | |
| Issue at stake: | New Act on Protection against Domestic Violence adopted and entered into force |
| Ground of discrimination: | Sex |
| Source: | Legislation |
| Field: | Other |
| Applicable law: | Act on Protection against Domestic Violence (Official Gazette <i>Narodne novine</i> No. 70/2017) |

Content

Law development: The new Act on the Protection against Domestic Violence was adopted in the Croatian Parliament on 4 July 2017 and entered into force on 1 January 2018. It sets aside and replaces the previous Act on the Protection against Domestic Violence (Official Gazette *Narodne novine* nos. 137/09, 14/10 and 60/10).

Key points of analysis: The new Act was adopted to bring the regulatory framework on domestic violence in line with the Criminal Code, which entered into force in 2013 (Official Gazette *Narodne novine* nos. 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15 and 101/17), especially concerning the categorisation of domestic violence offences. The Act implements Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA (OJ L 315/57), as well as some of the rights and standards guaranteed under the Istanbul Convention, whose ratification is still pending.¹ The Act prescribes rights of victims of domestic violence, defines protected persons and forms of domestic violence, sets sanctions for misdemeanours, procedures for data gathering and sets out the rules for the operation of a special committee for follow-up and improvement of the work of bodies involved in criminal or misdemeanour prosecution of domestic violence offences. Special protection is guaranteed for persons with disabilities and the elderly.

Internet link source: Draft Act No. 67 <http://www.sabor.hr/konacni-prijedlog-zakona-o-zastiti-od-nasilja-u-ob> .

¹ For a critical overview of the Act please see next section.