



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

### FLASH REPORT

<b>Country:</b>	Estonia
<b>Title:</b>	Action plan intimate partner violence
<b>Date:</b>	18 September 2019
<b>Expert:</b>	Anu Laas
<b><u>Context</u></b>	
<b>Issue at stake:</b>	National Action Plan for preventing intimate partner violence
<b>Grounds of discrimination:</b>	Gender
<b>Field of application:</b>	Violence against women
<b>Source:</b>	Policy development
<b>Applicable law:</b>	Action Plan for Preventing Intimate Partner Violence for 2019-2023 ( <i>Lähisuhtevägivalla tegevuskava aastateks 2019-2023</i> )

### **Content**

**Policy development:** The Action Plan for Preventing Intimate Partner Violence for 2019-2023 was adopted by the Government in May 2019. The Action Plan includes the promotion of awareness raising, and a multi-sectoral approach for supporting victims of domestic violence. The Social Insurance Board has initiated a campaign #meieajakangelane (*the hero of our time*) to encourage victims of intimate partner violence to seek help and to report their case.

**Key points of analysis:** The aims of the campaign #meieajakangelane consist of awareness raising and empowerment, to encourage survivors to share their personal stories. Real stories are told by well-known actors. Shared personal experiences and daring stories give courage and reduce the stigma around domestic abuse. Victim support officials and women's shelter specialists encourage women to speak about their experience.

Shared personal stories are published on social media and interviews are made public through public broadcast media channels. However, there are problems with violent partners and/or ex-partners who are suing their partners (current survivors) for privacy violations. Estonia is a small country and individuals are easy to identify. For example, the trial of *Jari Eriq Ilonen vs Haini Ilonen* (case No. 2-16-18973) is ongoing in the Pärnu County Court. Jari Eriq Ilonen has brought an action before the court against his ex-wife Haini Ilonen. Haini is a survivor, and she has told her story without explicitly mentioning the name of her ex-husband. However, she presented her story under her own name. Jari Eriq Ilonen requested the court to oblige Haini Ilonen to stop making statements about Jari Eriq Ilonen's violent behavior towards her and their children and to publicly refute allegations made by her in the media about Jari Eriq Ilonen's mental, physical and sexual abuse. In August 2019, Jari Eriq Ilonen also added a claim for compensation in respect of non-pecuniary damages for an amount of EUR 2 million. This is an important court case



to follow as it discusses perpetrator blaming vs victim blaming in the framework of data and privacy protection laws.

**Internet link source:** Social Insurance Board (2019), Campaign #meieajakangelane, <https://www.sotsiaalkindlustusamet.ee/et/uudised/kampaania-meieajakangelane-julgustab-vagivaldses-suhtes-olijaid-abi-kusima>.

Teadlikkus lähisuhtevägivallast kasvatab politsei väljakutsete arvu. Siseministeeriumi pressiteade, 26.07.2019 (*Number of reported cases to the police has increased due to awareness about intimate partner violence. Ministry of Interior. Press release of 26 July 2019*), available in Estonian at: <https://www.siseministeerium.ee/et/uudised/teadlikkus-lahisuhtevagivallast-kasvatab-politsei-valjakutsete-arvu>.