

Beijing+20 factsheet - Area D: Violence against Women



Policy Context

According to the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993), Violence against women (VAW) is understood as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women. All forms of violence against women seriously violate and impede or nullify the enjoyment by women of their human rights, most specifically the fundamental rights to life, security, freedom, dignity and physical and emotional integrity, and cannot therefore be regarded as legitimate.

The Council of the European Union has adopted three sets of Council conclusions

- In 2005, the Council emphasized the need to strengthen data collection on the persistence of violence against women and girls.
- In 2012, the Council called Member States to ensure that support services for victims of violence are in adequate supply and apply a gender equality perspective and called upon/jurisdiction the Commission to consider additional legal instruments and to develop a European strategy on combating gender-based violence.
- In 2014, the Council called Member States to tackle the issue of under-reporting, improving access to services and setting up appropriate and sustainable funding for combating gender-based violence and female genital mutilation.

Directive on common minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crimes (Directive 2012/29/EU)

- Recognises violence against women as gender-based violence, and emphasizes the need for specialized services for vulnerable groups of victims, such as women victims of sexual violence.

Directive on the European protection order in the area of administrative, civil and criminal law

- Ensures that restraining and protection orders issued in one EU Member State can be recognized across other EU Member States who have sufficient domestic evidence and protection from their perpetrators if they transfer their residence in the EU.

Regulation 606/2013 on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters

The European Commission

- Has funded numerous European projects aiming at eliminating violence against women within the Directive and the RVDG/REIS program and will continue through the Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme, supplemented by funds under the Justice programme.
- Dignity, integrity and award to gender-based violence is a key area of the Commission's strategy for equality between women and men for 2010-15.
- In 2015, the Commission announced the policy communication on eliminating violence against women (ECAD) and a series of actions, and also called for concrete measures in the Member States.

The strategic objectives of the BPfA and the EU indicators

- D.1.** Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women.
- D.2.** Tackle the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures.
- D.3.** Eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to human rights violations/human trafficking.

Read more:

[EIGE's work on the Beijing Platform for Action](#)

Downloads



Beijing+20: The Platform for Action (BPfA) and the European Union Area D: Violence against Women

EN (PDF, 147.08 KB)




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Metadata

AREAS: Beijing Platform for Action

BPFA AREA: D. Violence against Women