



Home Office

**Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on
Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic
Violence (Istanbul Convention) – Report on Progress**

November 2017



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**Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on
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Violence (Istanbul Convention) – Report on Progress**

Presented to Parliament pursuant to section 2 of the
Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and
Domestic Violence (Ratification of Convention) Act 2017

November 2017



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ISBN 978-1-5286-0104-7

CCS1017309396 11/17

Printed on paper containing 75% recycled fibre content minimum

Printed in the UK by the APS Group on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office

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INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the UK's progress toward ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence ("the Istanbul Convention"). The Convention covers both reserved and devolved areas, and this report therefore covers the whole of the UK. It is the first annual report laid before Parliament in accordance with the requirements of section 2 of the Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Ratification of Convention) Act 2017¹. Accordingly, it includes information on:

- the administrative measures taken by the Government to enable the UK to ratify the Istanbul Convention;
- the legislative proposals brought forward, including those in the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Assembly, to enable the UK to ratify the Convention; and
- the measures to be taken and legislation required to enable the UK to ratify the Convention.

The report is set out in line with the Istanbul Convention's key objectives of:

- Integrated policy
- Prevention
- Protection
- Prosecution

¹*Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Ratification of Convention) Act 2017*

Section (2) Reports on progress:

(1) The Secretary of State shall each year until ratification lay before each House of Parliament a report on the following—

(a) if a report has been laid under section 1(1), any alteration in the timescale specified in that report in accordance with subsection (1)(b) and the reasons for its alteration;

(b) the administrative measures taken by Her Majesty's Government to enable the United Kingdom to ratify the Istanbul Convention;

(c) the legislative proposals brought forward, including those in the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Assembly, to enable the United Kingdom to ratify the Istanbul Convention;

(d) the measures to be taken and legislation required to enable the United Kingdom to ratify the Istanbul Convention.

(2) The first annual report shall be laid no later than 1 November 2017.

(3) Subsequent annual reports shall be laid no later than 1 November each year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Protecting women and girls from violence and supporting victims is a key priority for this Government. These are serious crimes and have a huge impact both on those subjected to them and more broadly on our economy, health services, and the criminal justice system. An estimated 4.3 million women in the UK have experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16, and today, one in three women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence.

The Government signed the Istanbul Convention in 2012 to signal the UK's strong commitment to tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG). The Convention consists of 81 articles aimed at tackling VAWG which focus on prevention, protection of victims, prosecution, and integrated policies. Since signing the Convention, we have continued to step up our efforts to combat VAWG.

In March 2016 we published our cross-Government VAWG strategy, which sets out our ambition that no victim of abuse is turned away from the support they need. The strategy follows and builds on the 2010 Call to End VAWG strategy and is underpinned by increased funding of £100 million between now and 2020. The VAWG strategy is overseen by a VAWG Inter-Ministerial Group chaired by the Home Secretary.

We have made strong progress. As this report sets out, since signing the Convention in 2012 we have strengthened the law, introduced new protective tools, and issued a range of guidance and support for frontline professionals. The UK complies with the vast majority of the Convention's articles and in most respects goes further than the Convention's requirements.

But we know there is more to do. That is why this Government will bring forward a landmark Domestic Abuse Bill which will protect and support victims and make sure agencies effectively respond to domestic abuse. The Bill will also help us to deliver on our commitment to ratifying the Convention by extending extra-territorial jurisdiction over VAWG related offences in England and Wales. Further, the Devolved Administrations are also considering what legislative or other changes are necessary for compliance with the Convention in their territories.

Devolved administrations

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland's Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy' defines 'domestic violence and abuse' and 'sexual violence' in line with the Istanbul Convention and acknowledges that anyone can be a victim irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability. A new governance structure has been put in place to oversee the Strategy's implementation which includes key stakeholders across the statutory, voluntary and community sectors.

Scotland

In Scotland, the Scottish Government is implementing Equally Safe, Scotland's strategy to tackle all forms of VAWG. A Delivery Plan for the Strategy will be published by the end of 2017. The Scottish Government is investing £11.8 million over 2017/2018 from the Equalities portfolio to support a range of projects and initiatives. The Scottish Government's Equally Safe (Violence Against Women and Girls) Fund for 2017– 2018 is £6.6 million and helps to provide access for children and young people experiencing domestic abuse to specialist support services. £20 million over the period 2015-18 from Justice budgets has been invested to tackle VAWG.

Wales

The Welsh Government has taken forward a range of measures to tackle VAWG, including a National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (2016-21) and the appointment of a national adviser. In addition, the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 aims to improve the public sector response in Wales to gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence. It is intended to provide a strategic focus and ensure consistent consideration of preventative, protective and support mechanisms in the delivery of services. In 2017-18 the Welsh Government is making £5.4 million available to tackle violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

INTEGRATED POLICY

Tackling VAWG requires an effectively co-ordinated multi-agency response. The Convention places a strong focus on the importance of multi-agency working and having national strategies in place to ensure a co-ordinated approach. Since signing the Convention in 2012, the UK has continued to put measures in place to encourage agencies to work across boundaries and ensure greater consistency.

Strategic approach

The Home Office leads the Government's response to VAWG, working in collaboration with other departments across Government, frontline agencies, and the voluntary and community sector (VCS).

On 8 March 2016 we published our cross-Government VAWG Strategy which sets out our ambition to drive a transformation in service provision and ensure that VAWG is 'everyone's business'. The strategy is aligned with the work of the Crown Prosecution Service, local authorities, Police and Crime Commissioners, the College of Policing, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service and the National Health Service in England.

In December 2016, we published a National Statement of Expectations (NSE) which sets out a clear blueprint for local action to tackle VAWG. The NSE sets out what local Commissioners need to put in place to ensure their response to VAWG is collaborative, robust and effective. It also makes clear that Commissioners should have access to a broad diversity of provision, considering how services will be accessible to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME), disabled, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT), and older victims and survivors.

The strategy, including the NSE, is supported by increased funding of £100 million. Across Government we have worked to provide multi-year funding opportunities and ensure that these funding streams complement one another. As part of this, we have provided:

- a £17 million VAWG Service Transformation Fund to support local provision of VAWG services, which will support early intervention and prevention, not just crisis response;
- a £20 million Domestic Abuse Accommodation Fund, which will support 76 projects creating 2,200 new bed spaces in refuges and other specialist accommodation; alongside this the Department for Communities and Local Government published their new 'Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services'. These have been developed with partners from the domestic abuse sector, and set out what local areas need to do to ensure their response to domestic abuse is as effective as it can be; and

- c£7.2million to 97 Rape Support Centres which provide direct support to male and female victims of sexual violence.

This is complemented by additional funding, including the £15 million Tampon Tax, half of which has been awarded to organisations supporting women and girls affected by violence or abuse; and £2.25 million from the Department for Education to VCS organisations for safeguarding priorities including FGM and domestic abuse.

To oversee delivery of the strategy, the Home Office leads a VAWG Inter-Ministerial Group, chaired by the Home Secretary. The Group meets quarterly to monitor delivery of the strategy and continue driving progress in tackling VAWG. In addition, the VCS plays a key role both in shaping the VAWG strategy and holding the Government to account for its delivery through a variety of forums including a VAWG Stakeholder Group.

Data

The Government publishes a wide range of data on VAWG. The Home Office is responsible for the collection and collation of recorded crime data supplied by the police in England and Wales. In addition, the Crime Survey for England and Wales monitors the extent of crime in England and Wales and is used to evaluate and develop crime reduction policies. It also provides vital information about the changing levels of crime over the last 30 years.

We are continuing to build on this to ensure professionals and the public have access to data. This includes supporting the publication of data on rape for every police force in the country, as a basis for improving recording and investigations of rape. In addition, in December 2016, the Office for National Statistics published, on behalf of the Home Office and Crown Prosecution Service, a new statistical bulletin and data tool in relation to domestic abuse, bringing together comprehensive data on domestic abuse at a local level.

The Home Affairs Select Committee's (HASC) interim report on prostitution was published on 1 July 2016 and made six recommendations. As set out in our response to the HASC interim report on prostitution, the Government recognises the need to gather a robust evidence base on the nature and prevalence of sex work in England and Wales. Funding of £150,000 has been assigned for research to deliver against the report's recommendations.

Statistics are published quarterly by the Ministry of Justice on the number of FGM and Forced Marriage Protection Orders applied for and granted in each quarterly period within England and Wales.² In addition, NHS Digital publishes statistics on the number of newly recorded cases of FGM in women and girls presenting in the NHS in England which give us the best picture of how many women and girls receive care from the NHS for FGM. They show us what *type* of FGM patients are receiving care for, and *where* patients are accessing treatment – both regionally and the type of NHS settings that patients present.

International work

The UK Government is proud to be demonstrating international leadership in our commitment to ending VAWG. We are investing in world-leading research and innovation on what works to prevent these crimes. For example, through the Department for International Development, we are drawing together experts from across the globe to test ideas and produce rigorous evidence on how interventions can prevent violence. Findings from the “*What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls*” programme will serve as a global public good, helping country governments, donors and women’s organisations working in a range of country contexts to address violence.

Devolved administrations

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, in March 2016 the Department of Health and the Department of Justice, as the lead policy Departments for domestic and sexual violence and abuse, published a new strategy for tackling domestic and sexual violence and abuse in Northern Ireland. The strategy’s vision is a Northern Ireland where no form of domestic or sexual violence is tolerated, effective tailored preventative and responsive services are provided, all victims are supported, and perpetrators are held to account.

Northern Ireland’s Crime Survey includes a self-completion module focusing on domestic abuse, and a national survey on the prevalence and effects of domestic abuse has also been conducted. Officials are working to ensure that the Crime Survey is updated to reflect the latest understanding of domestic and sexual violence and abuse.

² Ministry of Justice. “Family court statistics quarterly”.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/family-court-statistics-quarterly>

Scotland

In 2016, the Scottish Government updated its Equally Safe strategy, which provides a framework for taking action on VAWG. The strategy is overseen by a Joint Strategic Board co-chaired by the portfolio Cabinet Secretary and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities. The Scottish Government collects data on VAWG from a range of sources, including Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, and is continuing to develop work in this area, for example, in January 2017 Scotland published research into forced marriage.

2016 also saw the publication of the Scottish Government's refreshed International Development Strategy. It has a focus on capacity building work, with Scottish bodies and institutions sharing best practice and expertise with their counterparts in our partner countries.

The Police Scotland capacity building programme sees officers travel to Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda to work with police officers there to equip them and other agencies with essential knowledge and skills to tackle gender based violence and improve child protection. The programme resonates with the aims of the UN Global Goals, with the global north and south working in partnership to achieve, in this instance, Global Goal 5: "Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls."

Wales

The Welsh Government published its strategy for tackling violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in 2016, as required by section 3 of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015. Welsh Ministers are required by the Act to publish annual reports of the progress on both the strategy and the measures in the Act. In addition, section 11 requires Welsh Ministers to publish national indicators that may be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the purpose of this Act.

A data collection process has been developed. Monthly data on women and girls identified with FGM is being collated by Public Health Wales from maternity services across Wales, as part of routine enquiry. Any female infants born to women who have undergone FGM are being referred, as a matter of course, to social services for protective intervention.

PREVENTION

Preventing these crimes from happening in the first place is central to the Government's approach. To help achieve this, the Convention emphasises the importance of ensuring professionals are appropriately trained to support victims, raising awareness, and providing treatment programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Raising awareness

Awareness raising campaigns are key to changing mindsets, attitudes and beliefs about abusive behaviour. The Government has run a number of campaigns to raise public and professional awareness and understanding of VAWG.

In February 2017, we provided £3 million for the second wave of 'Disrespect Nobody' campaign which follows on from the 'This is Abuse' campaign which ran from 2010-14. The campaign is targeted at 12 to 18 year olds and aims to prevent them from becoming perpetrators and victims by helping them understand healthy relationships and encouraging them to re-think their views of controlling behaviour, violence, abuse, sexual abuse and what consent means.

In 2015, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) ran a social media campaign '#ConsentIs' to promote discussion about the issue of consent, and encourage understanding of how and why the CPS does and does not prosecute cases of sexual assault and rape, where consent is involved. The CPS is currently developing a VAWG communications strategy for 2017-18 to build upon the success of the #ConsentIs campaign.

The Government recognises the additional factors which may be involved in cases of so called 'honour-based' violence. That is why the Home Office's FGM Unit and joint Home Office and Foreign & Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit carry out extensive outreach programmes which deliver over 100 awareness raising events a year across the country. In addition, during the school holidays a number of operations take place at airports across the UK. These are joint police-Border Force operations that target inbound and outbound flights to countries where there is a high prevalence of FGM or forced marriage.

Professional awareness and training

We recognise that ending VAWG is 'everybody's business' and have taken a range of action to build understanding across all public services. We have made support and guidance available for professionals on all forms of VAWG to enable them to recognise the warning signs and ensure that the right action is taken to help protect those at risk. This includes statutory multi-agency guidance on forced marriage and FGM, free e-learning on FGM and forced marriage, and guidance on domestic abuse.

We know that professionals across all agencies may encounter victims of VAWG. That is why the Home Office is supporting the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance to build on their work to provide accredited domestic abuse training for housing providers, and in 2016 the Department for Communities and Local Government commissioned the National Practitioner Support Service to deliver face to face training for frontline housing staff to raise awareness of domestic abuse and to ensure victims are able to access support.

Health services are also an important part of the pathway for victims of VAWG. The IRIS programme is designed to encourage clinicians and administrative staff to ask clients about domestic abuse and violence and then either to react with an appropriate response to disclosure or continue with usual care.

Furthermore, between 2014-2018, £4 million funding is being provided by the Department of Health for their FGM prevention programme in partnership with NHS England, to support FGM care and prevention through a range of measures that provide tangible and lasting change to improve the NHS response to FGM.

In addition, the Troubled Families programme (2015-2020) continues to offer support to families where there are VAWG concerns. The programme's national eligibility criteria include domestic abuse and children in need of help, so local areas can consider VAWG when assessing a family's eligibility for their local programme. Each family is appointed a keyworker who will build trust and help develop the rapport needed to talk about serious underlying problems such as domestic abuse or sexual violence. The Government has committed £920 million to the Troubled Families Programme which aims to achieve significant and sustained improvement for up to 400,000 families by 2020.

The Government is determined to ensure that the police and Crown Prosecution Service response is as good as it can be. It is essential that every report of rape and sexual violence, domestic abuse, stalking and so-called honour-based violence is thoroughly investigated by the police. That is why the College of Policing has developed training on domestic abuse, rape and sexual offences, contained within the Public Protection Learning Programme. Initial response training for sexual offences is included in new recruit training. The College also provides Guidance on Investigating and Prosecuting Rape, and a toolkit providing rape investigating officers with in-depth guidance on challenging myths and stereotypes as well as evidential requirements on matters of consent.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service (HMICFRS) is charged with inspecting the efficiency and effectiveness of police forces in England and Wales. HMICFRS's role is key to providing transparency for the public and information for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and Chief Constables to ensure that improvements can be made to police performance.

HMICFRS reports are vital tools which help PCCs hold forces to account for any failings. HMICFRS operates a number of rolling inspection programmes, including:

- The PEEL Programme – an annual, all-force inspection which assesses police efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy (PEEL).
- Joint Targeted Area Inspections – carried out jointly with Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission and HM Inspectorate of Probation, these examine how local partners, including local authorities, police and probation, and health services, work together to protect children living with domestic abuse.
- HMICFRS also conducts thematic inspections on an *ad hoc* basis. In 2016/17, these include inspections on:
 - modern slavery;
 - hate crime;
 - police officers' abuse of authority for sexual gain;
 - counter-terrorism;
 - crime data integrity; and
 - stalking and harassment (joint inspection with HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate).

Education

Education has a vital role to play in encouraging young people to build healthy relationships, and to identify those relationships which are unhealthy. The Government wants to help all schools to deliver high-quality Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education so that all young people are equipped to have healthy and respectful relationships, and leave school with the knowledge to prepare them for adult life.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 places a duty on the Secretary of State for Education to make Relationships Education at primary and RSE at secondary, mandatory in England through regulations. It also provides powers for the Secretary of State to make PSHE, or elements therein, mandatory in all schools in England, in the future and subject to careful consideration.

Treatment programmes for perpetrators

Through the VAWG strategy we are driving forward work to deter and rehabilitate perpetrators. We recognise the need for innovative approaches to managing perpetrators, and both the NSE and the VAWG Transformation Fund set out to incentivise commissioning of effective perpetrator programmes.

For example, on domestic abuse, in 2016/17 we are providing £515,000 through the Police Innovation fund to support the 'Drive' pilot in Sussex which will work with perpetrators to challenge them to stop their abusive behaviour. This will build on current accredited programmes for domestic abuse perpetrators including the *Building Better Relationships Programme* and the *Healthy Relationships Programme*. Evaluation of these programmes demonstrated a 13.2% reduction in reoffending and a significantly longer period to first re-offence.

The College of Policing has conducted a systematic review of perpetrator programmes to strengthen the evidence base and help police forces improve their response to perpetrators. Over 3,000 accredited programmes were completed in custody and the community in 2015/16 for domestic abuse perpetrators.

The Ministry of Justice also has a key role to play in tackling domestic abuse by bringing together prisons, providers of probation services and partners as part of its wider role of protecting the public and reducing reoffending. Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) has published guidance on domestic abuse to support practitioners working with offenders in prison and in the community to improve identification of and support for both victims and perpetrators.

There are a range of programmes both in custody and community settings that address the criminogenic needs of men who have committed domestic violence and/ or sexual offences. These programmes are accredited by an independent panel of experts and are evidence based. HMPPS are currently in the process of launching a new range of programmes for men convicted of sexual offences which incorporate the latest thinking in terms of effective practice in this area. These programmes are targeted according to risk and need, and have elements that can be adapted for those individuals who have learning difficulties.

We also understand the importance of changing the behaviour of perpetrators to help end the cycle of abuse at an earlier stage. Of the 41 projects funded through the £17 million VAWG Service Transformation Fund, 17 will focus on working with perpetrators of abuse (both adults and young people) to change their behaviour. Such programmes include:

- £1,417,334 to South Wales PCC's A Whole System Approach, which will employ a multi-agency approach to address a range of VAWG in South Wales. The project includes a 'Change That Lasts' framework, 'Ask Me' scheme, trusted professional, and perpetrator programmes;
- £297,852 to Portsmouth City Council's Up2U: Family Intervention programme which will work with Portsmouth Children's Social Care to identify families where domestic abuse is a factor, implementing the 'Up2U' perpetrator programme and up-skilling for Children's Social Care staff;

- £600,000 to the PCC for West Yorkshire's Action Research Prevention and Early Intervention which will support Break the Cycle: Women in Custody and Victim Support, DVPO team training, projects working with female offenders, and in up-skilling staff working on domestic violence protection orders; and
- £300,000 to support Hull City Council's programme of group work and one-to-one support to young men aged 16 -17 who are in an intimate partner relationship and at risk of perpetrating.

Additionally, the Police Innovation Fund is providing key funding to perpetrator programmes such as a programme by Northumbria's PCC who received £2.7 million in 2016/17 to support their whole system approach to tackling domestic abuse through early intervention and education.

Devolved administrations

Northern Ireland

The Department for Communities, the Department of Health and the Department of Justice jointly funds a regional 24 Hour Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline which provides support to victims. In addition, VAWG awareness raising campaigns have included 'behind closed doors' which ran in December 2013 and January 2014 and focused on encouraging family, friends, and neighbours to report in confidence incidents of domestic violence and abuse known to them.

A range of educational programmes are also in place in Northern Ireland, including the 'I-Matter' programme which promotes pupils' emotional health and wellbeing, the 'Helping Hands' programme which provides support and protection for children affected by domestic violence, and the 'Keeping Safe' preventative education project funded by the NI Department of Education and delivered by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Training and support is provided to professionals, including vocational training for police officers by the Police Service of Northern Ireland which features enhanced domestic abuse officer training, and domestic abuse awareness training for probation officers. Treatment programmes include the 'Building Better Relationships' programme which replaces the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme.

Scotland

The Scottish Government regularly carries out national awareness campaigns and recently funded a campaign about the new offence of non-consensual sharing of private intimate images introduced by the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm Act 2016. Funding was also provided to Rape Crisis Scotland to develop 'I Just Froze', a campaign to increase public understanding of responses to rape.

The Rights, Support and Wellbeing Team in Education Scotland works with local authorities and schools to promote positive relationships and behaviours. More generally, training on VAWG is provided by a range of different public bodies. The Scottish Government also works closely with Health Scotland to improve the health response to victims of VAWG, and is exploring capacity building for social care professionals with Social Work Scotland and the Chief Social Work Adviser.

In 2017-18, the Scottish Government is providing over £2 million for the Caledonian System in 13 Local Authority Areas, which aims to tackle domestic abuse.

Wales

The Welsh Government has run a series of multimedia campaigns aimed at tackling VAWG which have targeted the general public and specific audiences including victims and perpetrators. In addition, the National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (2016-21) includes dedicated objectives and actions in relation to communications.

Since 2008, Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) has been a statutory part of the curriculum in Wales. SRE policies must ensure that lessons regarding Personal and Social Education (PSE) are relevant to learners and sensitive to their needs. In March 2017, the Cabinet Secretary for Education established the SRE Expert Panel to help inform the development of the future curriculum and identify issues and opportunities which could support the teaching profession deliver high quality SRE in schools more effectively.

The National Training Framework on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence is set out in statutory guidance and makes a series of requirements under the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act. The Framework aims to create a consistent standard of care for those who experience these crimes and an unfailing standard of service throughout the public service to this client group.

The Welsh Government has recently established a Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) communications group which is working to inform and support the development of a National Communications Framework to achieve coherent and consistent messaging on VAWDASV with wide reach across the Welsh population, and shape and contribute towards the VAWDASV campaigns activity of the Welsh Government.

PROTECTION

We are clear that any victim suffering abuse should be supported, and we are committed to supporting all victims of violence. We expect every report of VAWG to be treated seriously from the point of disclosure, every victim to be treated with dignity, and every investigation and every prosecution to be conducted thoroughly and professionally. The Convention highlights the importance of police intervention (including to remove domestic violence perpetrators from their home), refuge provision for victims, appropriate sexual violence referral centres, helplines, and ensuring information for victims is accessible.

Support and advice for victims

The Victims' Code sets out the services that must be provided to victims of crime by organisations in England and Wales. This Code sets a minimum standard for these services. Under the Code all victims should be assessed by the police to identify any needs or support required, and be referred to victim support services unless they do not want their details passed on.

As part of increased dedicated funding of £100 million for VAWG we have provided:

- a £17 million VAWG Service Transformation Fund to support local provision of VAWG services, which funds 41 local areas to support early intervention and prevention, not just crisis response;
- a £20 million Domestic Abuse Accommodation Fund, which will support 76 projects creating 2,200 new bed spaces in refuges and other specialist accommodation, and giving support to over 19,000 victims;
- alongside this the Department for Communities and Local Government published their new 'Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services'. These have been developed with partners from the domestic abuse sector, and set out what local areas need to do to ensure their response to domestic abuse is as effective as it can be;
- funding for six national helplines for victims of VAWG providing confidential and free of charge advice to victims in England and Wales; and
- c£7.2 million per year to 97 Rape Support Centres which provide direct support to male and female victims of sexual violence.

The Home Office Female Genital Mutilation Unit and joint Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Home Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) provide support to professionals, and the FMU provides direct support to victims domestically as well as consular assistance overseas.

The Ministry of Justice is additionally providing funding for victims of all crimes, including VAWG, across the Spending Review period which totals £96 million.

In addition, the 2017/2018 Tampon Tax fund was launched on 1 December 2016 and provides around £15 million to causes focusing on improving the lives of disadvantaged women and girls. The fund sought proposals from organisations supporting women and girls affected by violence or abuse and those working to improve the lives of disadvantaged women and girls more generally. Through the 2017/18 Tampon Tax Fund we are funding a range of organisations to improve support to victims, including:

- £1 million to STADV to fund a Pathfinder Consortia to bring together domestic abuse systems leaders and pool expertise on women with multiple disadvantage and complex needs, and hard to reach survivors from BME, LGBT and disabled groups;
- The Shaping our Lives programme which received £58,180 to establish and pilot systems and practices that will ensure the needs of disabled women experiencing or at risk of violence or abuse are met through current service provision;
- Barnardo's Connections Plus project in Edinburgh which received £57,698 to support young women with learning disabilities who are affected by gender-based violence;
- £170,673 to support Volunteering Matters programme to improve the personal safety and maintain good sexual health of young women in Wales with learning difficulties;
- Sign Health project which received £200,000 to establish a domestic violence support service for deaf women and girls in Greater Manchester; and
- £200,000 to Housing for Women to support lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and non-binary women and girls experiencing violence.

Protective tools

Since signing the Convention in 2012, we have created a range of additional protective tools and powers, including Sexual Harm Prevention Orders, Sexual Risk Orders, FGM Protection Orders, Domestic Violence Protection Orders, making breach of a Forced Marriage Protection Order a criminal offence, and announcing our intention to introduce a new civil stalking protection order.

We have also launched the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) – also known as “Clare’s Law” – which provides a framework for the police to disclose to the public information about previous violent offending by a current or former partner where this may help protect them from further violent offending. Latest figures show over 1,900 disclosures have been made.

In June 2017, the Queen’s Speech set out the commitment to create a new domestic abuse-specific order providing a single, clear pathway to simplify the process for all concerned, offer better protection for victims and help to tackle offending behaviour.

Protecting female migrants and asylum seekers

The Government is committed to ensuring that the asylum process is gender sensitive and have implemented an asylum gender action plan to achieve this. Work to date includes: a pilot for referring victims of sexual violence to specialist support services; arrangements for the provision of childcare for applicants at interview where this is not already available; and specific FGM training for all operational staff.

All decision-makers receive extensive training on considering asylum claims and must follow published Home Office policy guidance, including specific guidance on gender issues. All available evidence is carefully and sensitively considered in light of published country information which covers issues relating to gender based harm, including FGM, sexual exploitation, violence in conflict and domestic violence.

In addition, the Destitution Domestic Violence (DDV) concession was introduced by the Government in 2012. Under the concession, migrant spouses of permanent UK residents who are fleeing domestic violence are granted three months’ leave while they make an application for indefinite leave under the Immigration Rules. These individuals are able to access benefits and other services to ensure they are not forced to remain in violent relationships. In addition, applicants who can prove they are destitute are exempt from paying the application fee for indefinite leave to remain.

Migrant spouses who are in the UK on a different basis, for example, as the partner of a temporary migrant, are not eligible to apply under the specific domestic violence provisions, but may be eligible to apply for a different form of leave or request help to leave the UK. The Home Secretary also has discretion to grant leave outside of the Immigration Rules.

Devolved administrations

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, the Victim Charter sets out the entitlements and services that victims of crime in Northern Ireland can expect to receive from a range of services. A range of measures are in place, for example, a victim of crime leaflet giving an overview of the criminal justice process and services available is provided to all victims and available in six languages as well as English.

The Department for Communities, the Department of Health and the Department of Justice jointly fund a regional 24 Hour Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline which provides support to victims. The 'Supporting People' programme provides housing-related support services to vulnerable people including those affected by domestic abuse. 10 specialist housing support providers provide immediate short-term support through 13 refuges (138 places) and nine floating support services (1,163 places) across Northern Ireland.

Victims of sexual violence can be referred to Northern Ireland's Sexual Assault Centre, 'The Rowan', which delivers a range of support and services including medical and forensic examination, aftercare, and referral to additional counselling.

A variety of protective tools are in place in Northern Ireland, including non-molestation orders, FGM Protection Orders and Forced Marriage Protection Orders.

Scotland

The Scottish Government aims to ensure that victims and alleged victims have the right to receive information about their rights (in a form they understand). The Victims' Code for Scotland was updated in August 2017 and provides information on those rights in 11 languages as well as English. The Scottish Government provides funding for national VAWG helplines, including for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

In addition, the Scottish Government is investing £11.8 million in 2017-18 from the equalities portfolio to support a range of projects and initiatives and has established a Taskforce for the Improvement of Services for victims of rape and sexual assault. Shelters and refuges for victims exist across Scotland – there are currently 477 refuge spaces.

The Scottish Government provides funding to Rape Crisis Scotland, including £244,000 core funding, and provides £700,000 per year from 2017/2018 for 14 local rape crisis centres located across Scotland and £260,000 per year from 2017/2018 for the Rape Crisis Helpline.

Wales

The Supporting People programme provides housing-related support to help vulnerable people to live as independently as possible. Welsh Government invests over £124.4 million in the programme annually. It supports more than 57,000 people each year to live as independently as they can. It aims to prevent problems by providing help as early as possible, including support for households fleeing domestic violence

In June 2017, Welsh Government launched 'Safeguarding Older People in Wales' Guidance with Sarah Rochira, the Older People's Commissioner for Wales. This Guidance will enable professionals to work more effectively with older people who are experiencing, or who have previously experienced, domestic abuse.

Welsh Government wholly funds the Live Fear Free Helpline which is managed under contract, by Welsh Women's Aid. The Welsh Government's Live Fear Free website has been significantly restructured to provide a comprehensive resource for victims and survivors, families and friends and professionals. The new site has been designed to be the main source of information on violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in Wales and supports the work of the Helpline in providing advice and signposting.

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 introduced a strengthened, robust and effective partnership approach to safeguarding. If any relevant partner has reasonable cause to suspect that any child or an adult is at risk of abuse or neglect, it must inform the local authority. Following such notification, or where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that any person within its area is at risk, it must make whatever enquiries it thinks necessary to decide whether any action should be taken.

All relevant partners are required to inform the local authority where they have reasonable cause to believe a child to be at risk, including those children who may be at risk through domestic abuse.

The All Wales 'Honour-based' Violence (HBV) Leadership Group has been set up to take forward actions in Wales in regards to HBV, forced marriage and FGM. A data collection process has been developed. Monthly data on women and girls identified with FGM is being collated by Public Health Wales from maternity services across Wales, as part of routine enquiry. Any female infants born to women who have undergone FGM are being referred, as a matter of course, to social services for protective intervention. FGM Safeguarding Leads have been appointed in all Health Boards and an FGM Care Pathway for Wales has been developed.

PROSECUTION

Where these crimes are committed, we have robust laws in place to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice. The Convention requires state parties to have a range of VAWG offences in place, have in place measures to ensure the effective investigation of allegations, and to carry out judicial proceedings in a way that respects the rights of victims.

Legal framework

We have significantly strengthened the legislation in place to tackle VAWG since we signed the Convention in 2012. This includes the introduction of:

- two new stalking offences in 2012, and we recently raised the maximum sentence to 10 years through the Policing and Crime Act 2017;
- a coercive or controlling behaviour offence which came into force in 2015. The offence aims to protect victims who would otherwise be subjected to sustained patterns of abuse that can lead to total control of their lives by the perpetrator;
- a 'revenge porn' offence introduced in 2015, making it a criminal offence to disclose private sexual photographs and films without the consent of an individual who appears in them and with the intent to cause that individual distress;
- stronger FGM legislation including a new offence of failure to protect a girl from the risk of FGM; granting victims lifelong anonymity; the extension of extra-territorial jurisdiction over FGM offences to habitual as well as permanent UK residents, the introduction of FGM Protection Orders, and making it mandatory for regulated health and social care professionals and teachers to report known cases of FGM in girls under 18 to the police (all introduced in 2015); and
- a specific offence of forced marriage was introduced in 2014, and in 2017 lifelong anonymity for victims of forced marriage was introduced to encourage more victims to come forward.

Prosecutions and convictions

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is prosecuting, and convicting, more defendants of domestic abuse, rape and sexual offences than ever before.

VAWG Convictions (England and Wales)						
2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
68,154	66,860	58,276	67,380	78,773	87,275	84,565

Despite year-to-year fluctuations, there is a clear upward trend in convictions. Between 2007-08 and 2016–17, conviction volumes have risen from 43,977 to 70,853 – a rise of 26,876 convictions – a 61% rise over this ten year period.³

Victims and the criminal justice system

The Victims' Code sets out that victims are entitled to receive information at key stages of the case, given the option to make a Victim Personal Statement to explain how the crime affected them; and the right to review the CPS's decision not to prosecute in qualifying cases.

The CPS's Victim's Right to Review (VRR) scheme allows a victim to challenge a CPS decision not to prosecute their case in qualifying cases. The CPS also operates both a feedback and complaints scheme to deal with concerns about legal decisions and the service provided by the CPS.

CPS VAWG strand specific legal guidance and training ensures that prosecutors consider whether there are any other vulnerabilities which could be aggravating factors (e.g. physical disability, poor health, learning difficulties or intellectual maturity, age of the complainant, etc.). Prosecutors must ensure these are articulated to the magistrates or judiciary for them to consider when sentencing. It is also clear within CPS guidance that any offending committed in a domestic context is an aggravating factor because of the abuse of trust involved.

In addition, the CPS has developed a proactive prosecution approach, which looks at how strong cases can be presented at court without the need for the victim to attend. This includes the use of technology such as body worn video and recordings of 999 calls where appropriate. As part of this strategy, three e-learning courses were launched, with one specifically focusing on evidence-led prosecutions.

The work carried out by the CPS and other prosecuting agencies is inspected by Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPsI). The purpose of their work is to enhance the quality of justice and make an assessment of prosecution services that enables or leads to improvement in their efficiency, effectiveness and fairness.

³ Crown Prosecution Service. "Violence Against Women and Girls , Tenth Edition 2016-17". <http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/docs/cps-vawg-report-2017.pdf>

Risk assessment

The Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and 'Honour-Based' Violence (DASH) model is used by the majority of police forces in England and Wales to assess risk in cases of domestic abuse, stalking and so called 'honour-based' violence.

Following a 2014 inspection into the police response to domestic abuse, the DASH was reviewed by Cardiff University and the College of Policing who found that it is not being applied consistently and does not effectively promote recognition of non-violent abuse such as coercive control. The College of Policing is currently piloting a revised risk assessment tool intended to improve recognition of coercive control and provide a more structured method of obtaining information to assess the threat posed by the perpetrator.

Offender management

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are a statutory set of arrangements operated by criminal justice and social care agencies that seek to reduce the serious re-offending behaviour of sexual and violent offenders and to protect the public. There is a duty on the police, Probation Service and Prison Service, to establish arrangements for the assessment and management of risk posed by specified sexual and violent offenders, including registered sex offenders.

Offenders eligible for MAPPA are identified and information is gathered/ shared about them across relevant agencies. The nature and level of the risk of harm they pose is assessed by the lead agency and a risk management plan is implemented to protect the public. The notification requirements for registered sex offenders also form an invaluable tool in the management of offenders within the community.

In 2012, the Government strengthened the notification requirements for registered sex offenders under the Sexual Offences Act 2003. Additional measures were introduced which make it mandatory for all registered sex offenders to notify to the police:

- all foreign travel;
- weekly, where they are registered as having 'no fixed abode';
- where they are living in a household with a child under the age of 18; and;
- their bank account and credit card details, and information about their passports or other identity documents.

Devolved administrations

Northern Ireland

There is a variety of legislation in place in Northern Ireland to address VAWG offences, including specific offences of FGM and forced marriage. The Department of Justice is reviewing the operation of the law in Northern Ireland to establish whether a specific offence of stalking should be created. There are a variety of special measures available for victims and witnesses.

The Department of Justice has adopted a measure in relation to the monitoring/supervision of a convicted person, which requires judicial oversight based on the principles of problem solving justice, in order to encourage greater reporting of domestic abuse, an improvement in conviction rates, and more effective oversight of perpetrators. Notification requirements for registered sex offenders are also in place.

Scotland

Scotland has a range of legislation to tackle VAWG crimes. This includes specific offences of forced marriage, FGM, and stalking. There are also a number of more general offences that be used in prosecuting VAWG crimes. In addition and only if passed by the Scottish Parliament, the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill will create an offence of domestic abuse which specifically criminalises engaging in a course of behaviour likely to cause a partner or ex-partner to suffer psychological harm. Both the criminal and civil courts in Scotland provide a range of special measures for vulnerable victims and witnesses.

The Scottish Government has invested an additional £2.4 million with the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service and Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service in each of 2015-16, 16-17, and 17-18 which helped ensure that trial dates in domestic abuse cases were generally set within 8-10 weeks by the end of 2016-17.

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are also in place in Scotland. The Police, Local Authorities, Scottish Prison Service and NHS Health Boards are the responsible authorities in the operation and governance of the MAPPA. National guidance provides the framework to allowing for the sharing of information, joint assessment of risk and application of resources to more effectively protect the public from certain categories of offender. Registered sex offenders, mentally disordered restricted patients and certain other offenders assessed as posing a risk of serious harm are included in MAPPA in Scotland.

Similarly the notification requirements for registered sex offenders are also in place in Scotland and the Scottish Government has strengthened these requirements in line with its counterparts in the rest of the UK to ensure that there is alignment in the systems, where possible.

NEXT STEPS

The Government remains fully committed to ratifying the Istanbul Convention and as this report highlights, we have made significant progress in tackling VAWG in the UK.

The Government takes its international commitments very seriously and will only take steps toward ratification when we are absolutely satisfied that the UK complies with all articles of the Convention. Before the UK can be considered to be fully compliant, there remain outstanding issues which will need to be addressed, including in relation to extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) – that is, the ability to prosecute certain offences that occur outside our national borders.

The UK has already taken ETJ over certain offences (e.g. forced marriage and FGM) but there are still some VAWG offences, including rape of an over 18 and sexual assault, where ETJ does not yet apply. For this, further amendments to domestic law are necessary. These require primary legislation to be introduced across the UK.

In June 2017, the Government announced it would introduce the ETJ measures necessary for compliance in England and Wales as part of the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Bill. The Bill will bring forward legislation to establish a domestic violence and abuse commissioner and set out a legal definition of domestic abuse, recognising that domestic abuse extends beyond violence. Further, amongst other things, it will also create a consolidated new domestic abuse prevention and protection order regime to create a clearer pathway of support for victims.

We are also committed to delivering a comprehensive programme of non-legislative work to support the measures in the Bill. This cross-Government programme will seek to transform the response to domestic abuse by driving culture change, improvement to support and recovery services and to victims' experience of the justice and courts system, reduction in reoffending and by driving consistency in the response of all agencies to domestic abuse.

We will be consulting widely with professionals, victims, experts and wider communities as we develop the detail of the suite of non-legislative policy options to work alongside and support the aims of the Bill. This will take place in the coming months. We will introduce legislation once we have thoroughly consulted with partners and analysed responses.

The criminal law and the majority of the areas covered by the Convention are devolved to Scotland and Northern Ireland, and the Devolved Administrations are considering what legislative or other changes are necessary for compliance with the Convention in their territories.

The Government will set out a timetable for ratification in line with the requirement of section 1 of the Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Ratification of Convention) Act 2017 in due course.

We remain committed to doing all that we can to tackle VAWG. Everyone has the right to live in safety, regardless of their gender. As we drive forward our VAWG strategy, we will ensure we continue to deliver for all, leave no one behind and make VAWG everyone's business.

Annex A - Table of Compliance: England and Wales

Article	Status
<p>Principles / Administrative articles: 1. Purposes of the Convention 2. Scope of the Convention 3. Definitions 4. Fundamental rights, equality and non-discrimination 5. State obligation a due diligence principle 6. Gender-sensitive policies 7. Comprehensive and co-ordinated policies 8. Financial resources 9. Non-governmental organisations and civil society 12. General obligations 18. General obligations</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>10. Co-ordinating body</p> <p>1. Parties shall designate or establish one or more official bodies responsible for the co-ordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by this Convention. These bodies shall co-ordinate the collection of data as referred to in Article 11, analyse and disseminate its results.</p> <p>2. Parties shall ensure that the bodies designated or established pursuant to this article receive information of a general nature on measures taken pursuant to Chapter VIII.</p> <p>3. Parties shall ensure that the bodies designated or established pursuant to this article shall have the capacity to communicate directly and foster relations with their counterparts in other Parties.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>

Article	Status
<p>11. Data collection and research</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For the purpose of the implementation of this Convention, Parties shall undertake to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. collect disaggregated relevant statistical data at regular intervals on cases of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention; b. support research in the field of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention in order to study its root causes and effects, incidences and conviction rates, as well as the efficacy of measures taken to implement this Convention. 2. Parties shall endeavour to conduct population-based surveys at regular intervals to assess the prevalence of and trends in all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention. 3. Parties shall provide the group of experts, as referred to in Article 66 of this Convention, with the information collected pursuant to this article in order to stimulate international co-operation and enable international benchmarking. 4. Parties shall ensure that the information collected pursuant to this article is available to the public. 	Compliant
<p>13. Awareness-raising</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parties shall promote or conduct, on a regular basis and at all levels, awareness-raising campaigns or programmes, including in co-operation with national human rights institutions and equality bodies, civil society and non-governmental organisations, especially women's organisations, where appropriate, to increase awareness and understanding among the general public of the different manifestations of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention, their consequences on children and the need to prevent such violence. 2. Parties shall ensure the wide dissemination among the general public of information on measures available to prevent acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention. 	Compliant
<p>14. Education</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parties shall take, where appropriate, the necessary steps to include teaching material on issues such as equality between women and men, non-stereotyped gender roles, mutual respect, non-violent conflict resolution in interpersonal relationships, gender-based violence against women and the right to personal integrity, adapted to the evolving capacity of learners, in formal curricula and at all levels of education. 2. Parties shall take the necessary steps to promote the principles referred to in paragraph 1 in informal educational facilities, as well as in sports, cultural and leisure facilities and the media. 	Compliant

Article	Status
<p>15. Training of professionals</p> <p>1. Parties shall provide or strengthen appropriate training for the relevant professionals dealing with victims or perpetrators of all acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention, on the prevention and detection of such violence, equality between women and men, the needs and rights of victims, as well as on how to prevent secondary victimisation.</p> <p>2. Parties shall encourage that the training referred to in paragraph 1 includes training on co-ordinated multi-agency co-operation to allow for a comprehensive and appropriate handling of referrals in cases of violence covered by the scope of this Convention.</p>	Compliant
<p>16. Preventive intervention and treatment programmes</p> <p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to set up or support programmes aimed at teaching perpetrators of domestic violence to adopt non-violent behaviour in interpersonal relationships with a view to preventing further violence and changing violent behavioural patterns.</p> <p>2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to set up or support treatment programmes aimed at preventing perpetrators, in particular sex offenders, from re-offending.</p> <p>3. In taking the measures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, Parties shall ensure that the safety of, support for and the human rights of victims are of primary concern and that, where appropriate, these programmes are set up and implemented in close co-ordination with specialist support services for victims.</p>	Compliant
<p>17. Participation of the private sector and the media</p> <p>1. Parties shall encourage the private sector, the information and communication technology sector and the media, with due respect for freedom of expression and their independence, to participate in the elaboration and implementation of policies and to set guidelines and self-regulatory standards to prevent violence against women and to enhance respect for their dignity.</p> <p>2. Parties shall develop and promote, in co-operation with private sector actors, skills among children, parents and educators on how to deal with the information and communications environment that provides access to degrading content of a sexual or violent nature which might be harmful.</p>	Compliant

Article		Status
19. Information	Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that victims receive adequate and timely information on available support services and legal measures in a language they understand.	Compliant
20. General support services	<p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that victims have access to services facilitating their recovery from violence. These measures should include, when necessary, services such as legal and psychological counselling, financial assistance, housing, education, training and assistance in finding employment.</p> <p>2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that victims have access to health care and social services and that services are adequately resourced and professionals are trained to assist victims and refer them to the appropriate services.</p>	Compliant
21. Assistance in individual/collective complaints	Parties shall ensure that victims have information on and access to applicable regional and international individual/collective complaints mechanisms. Parties shall promote the provision of sensitive and knowledgeable assistance to victims in presenting any such complaints.	Compliant
22. Specialist support services	<p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to provide or arrange for, in an adequate geographical distribution, immediate, short- and long-term specialist support services to any victim subjected to any of the acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention.</p> <p>2. Parties shall provide or arrange for specialist women's support services to all women victims of violence and their children.</p>	Compliant
23. Shelters	Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to provide for the setting-up of appropriate, easily accessible shelters in sufficient numbers to provide safe accommodation for and to reach out pro-actively to victims, especially women and their children.	Compliant

Article	Status
<p>24. Telephone helplines</p> <p>Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to set up state-wide round-the-clock (24/7) telephone helplines free of charge to provide advice to callers, confidentially or with due regard for their anonymity, in relation to all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention.</p>	Compliant
<p>25. Support for victims of sexual violence.</p> <p>Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to provide for the setting up of appropriate, easily accessible rape crisis or sexual violence referral centres for victims in sufficient numbers to provide for medical and forensic examination, trauma support and counselling for victims.</p>	Compliant
<p>26. Protection and support for child witnesses</p> <p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that in the provision of protection and support services to victims, due account is taken of the rights and needs of child witnesses of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention.</p> <p>2. Measures taken pursuant to this article shall include age-appropriate psychosocial counselling for child witnesses of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention and shall give due regard to the best interests of the child.</p>	Compliant
<p>27. Reporting</p> <p>Parties shall take the necessary measures to encourage any person witness to the commission of acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention or who has reasonable grounds to believe that such an act may be committed, or that further acts of violence are to be expected, to report this to the competent organisations or authorities.</p>	Compliant
<p>28. Reporting by professionals</p> <p>Parties shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the confidentiality rules imposed by internal law on certain professionals do not constitute an obstacle to the possibility, under appropriate conditions, of their reporting to the competent organisations or authorities if they have reasonable grounds to believe that a serious act of violence covered by the scope of this Convention, has been committed and further serious acts of violence are to be expected.</p>	Compliant

Article	Status
<p>29. Civil lawsuits and remedies</p> <p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to provide victims with adequate civil remedies against the perpetrator.</p> <p>2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to provide victims, in accordance with the general principles of international law, with adequate civil remedies against state authorities that have failed in their duty to take the necessary preventive or protective measures within the scope of their powers.</p>	Compliant
<p>30. Compensation</p> <p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that victims have the right to claim compensation from perpetrators for any of the offences established in accordance with this Convention.</p> <p>2. Adequate state compensation shall be awarded to those who have sustained serious bodily injury or impairment of health, to the extent that the damage is not covered by other sources such as the perpetrator, insurance or state-funded health and social provisions. This does not preclude Parties from claiming regress for compensation awarded from the perpetrator, as long as due regard is paid to the victim's safety.</p> <p>3. Measures taken pursuant to paragraph 2 shall ensure the granting of compensation within a reasonable time.</p>	Compliant
<p>31. Custody, visitation rights and safety</p> <p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that, in the determination of custody and visitation rights of children, incidents of violence covered by the scope of this Convention are taken into account.</p> <p>2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the exercise of any visitation or custody rights does not jeopardise the rights and safety of the victim or children.</p>	Compliant
<p>32. Civil consequences of forced marriages</p> <p>Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that marriages concluded under force may be voidable, annulled or dissolved without undue financial or administrative burden placed on the victim.</p>	Compliant

Article	Status
<p>33. Psychological violence</p> <p>Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the intentional conduct of seriously impairing a person's psychological integrity through coercion or threats is criminalised.</p>	Compliant
<p>34. Stalking</p> <p>Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the intentional conduct of repeatedly engaging in threatening conduct directed at another person, causing her or him to fear for her or his safety, is criminalised.</p>	Compliant
<p>35. Physical violence</p> <p>Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the intentional conduct of committing acts of physical violence against another person is criminalised.</p>	Compliant
<p>36. Sexual violence, including rape</p> <p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the following intentional conducts are criminalised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. engaging in non-consensual vaginal, anal or oral penetration of a sexual nature of the body of another person with any bodily part or object; b. engaging in other non-consensual acts of a sexual nature with a person; c. causing another person to engage in non-consensual acts of a sexual nature with a third person. <p>2. Consent must be given voluntarily as the result of the person's free will assessed in the context of the surrounding circumstances.</p> <p>3. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the provisions of paragraph 1 also apply to acts committed against former or current spouses or partners as recognised by internal law.</p>	Compliant
<p>37. Forced marriage</p> <p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the intentional conduct of forcing an adult or a child to enter into a marriage is criminalised.</p> <p>2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the intentional conduct of luring an adult or a child to the territory of a Party or state other than the one she or he resides in with the purpose of forcing this adult or child to enter into a marriage is criminalised.</p>	Compliant

Article	Status
<p>38. Female genital mutilation</p> <p>Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the following intentional conducts are criminalised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. excising, infibulating or performing any other mutilation to the whole or any part of a woman's labia majora, labia minora or clitoris; b. coercing or procuring a woman to undergo any of the acts listed in point a; c. inciting, coercing or procuring a girl to undergo any of the acts listed in point a. 	Compliant
<p>39. Forced abortion and forced sterilisation</p> <p>Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the following intentional conducts are criminalised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. performing an abortion on a woman without her prior and informed consent; b. performing surgery which has the purpose or effect of terminating a woman's capacity to naturally reproduce without her prior and informed consent or understanding of the procedure. 	Compliant
<p>40. Sexual harassment</p> <p>Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that any form of unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person, in particular when creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment, is subject to criminal or other legal sanction.</p>	Compliant
<p>41. Aiding or abetting and attempt</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to establish as an offence, when committed intentionally, aiding or abetting the commission of the offences established in accordance with Articles 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38.a, and 39 of this Convention. 2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to establish as offences, when committed intentionally, attempts to commit the offences established in accordance with Articles 35, 36, 37, 38.a and 39 of this Convention. 	Compliant

Article	Status
<p>42. Unacceptable justifications for crimes, including crimes committed in the name of so-called "honour"</p> <p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that, in criminal proceedings initiated following the commission of any of the acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention, culture, custom, religion, tradition or so-called "honour" shall not be regarded as justification for such acts. This covers, in particular, claims that the victim has transgressed cultural, religious, social or traditional norms or customs of appropriate behaviour.</p> <p>2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that incitement by any person of a child to commit any of the acts referred to in paragraph 1 shall not diminish the criminal liability of that person for the acts committed.</p>	Compliant
<p>43. Application of criminal offences</p> <p>The offences established in accordance with this Convention shall apply irrespective of the nature of the relationship between victim and perpetrator.</p>	Compliant

Article	Status
<p>44. Jurisdiction</p> <p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to establish jurisdiction over any offence established in accordance with this Convention, when the offence is committed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> in their territory; or on board a ship flying their flag; or on board an aircraft registered under their laws; or by one of their nationals; or by a person who has her or his habitual residence in their territory. <p>2. Parties shall endeavour to take the necessary legislative or other measures to establish jurisdiction over any offence established in accordance with this Convention where the offence is committed against one of their nationals or a person who has her or his habitual residence in their territory.</p> <p>3. For the prosecution of the offences established in accordance with Articles 36, 37, 38 and 39 of this Convention, Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that their jurisdiction is not subordinated to the condition that the acts are criminalised in the territory where they were committed.</p> <p>4. For the prosecution of the offences established in accordance with Articles 36, 37, 38 and 39 of this Convention, Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that their jurisdiction as regards points d and e of paragraph 1 is not subordinated to the condition that the prosecution can only be initiated following the reporting by the victim of the offence or the laying of information by the state of the place where the offence was committed.</p> <p>5. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to establish jurisdiction over the offences established in accordance with this Convention, in cases where an alleged perpetrator is present on their territory and they do not extradite her or him to another Party, solely on the basis of her or his nationality.</p> <p>6. When more than one Party claims jurisdiction over an alleged offence established in accordance with this Convention, the Parties involved shall, where appropriate, consult each other with a view to determining the most appropriate jurisdiction for prosecution.</p> <p>7. Without prejudice to the general rules of international law, this Convention does not exclude any criminal jurisdiction exercised by a Party in accordance with its internal law.</p>	Partially compliant

Article	Status
<p>45. Sanctions and measures</p> <p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the offences established in accordance with this Convention are punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions, taking into account their seriousness. These sanctions shall include, where appropriate, sentences involving the deprivation of liberty which can give rise to extradition.</p> <p>2. Parties may adopt other measures in relation to perpetrators, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -monitoring or supervision of convicted persons; -withdrawal of parental rights, if the best interests of the child, which may include the safety of the victim, cannot be guaranteed in any other way. 	Compliant
<p>46. Aggravating circumstances</p> <p>Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the following circumstances, insofar as they do not already form part of the constituent elements of the offence, may, in conformity with the relevant provisions of internal law, be taken into consideration as aggravating circumstances in the determination of the sentence in relation to the offences established in accordance with this Convention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the offence was committed against a former or current spouse or partner as recognised by internal law, by a member of the family, a person cohabiting with the victim or a person having abused her or his authority; b. the offence, or related offences, were committed repeatedly; c. the offence was committed against a person made vulnerable by particular circumstances; d. the offence was committed against or in the presence of a child; e. the offence was committed by two or more people acting together; f. the offence was preceded or accompanied by extreme levels of violence; g. the offence was committed with the use or threat of a weapon; h. the offence resulted in severe physical or psychological harm for the victim; i. the perpetrator had previously been convicted of offences of a similar nature. 	Compliant
<p>47. Sentences passed by another Party</p> <p>Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to provide for the possibility of taking into account final sentences passed by another Party in relation to the offences established in accordance with this Convention when determining the sentence.</p>	Compliant

Article	Status
<p>48. Prohibition of mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes or sentencing</p> <p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to prohibit mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes, including mediation and conciliation, in relation to all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention.</p> <p>2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that if the payment of a fine is ordered, due account shall be taken of the ability of the perpetrator to assume his or her financial obligations towards the victim.</p>	Compliant
<p>49. General obligations</p> <p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that investigations and judicial proceedings in relation to all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention are carried out without undue delay while taking into consideration the rights of the victim during all stages of the criminal proceedings.</p> <p>2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures, in conformity with the fundamental principles of human rights and having regard to the gendered understanding of violence, to ensure the effective investigation and prosecution of offences established in accordance with this Convention.</p>	Compliant
<p>50. Immediate response, prevention and protection</p> <p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the responsible law enforcement agencies respond to all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention promptly and appropriately by offering adequate and immediate protection to victims.</p> <p>2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the responsible law enforcement agencies engage promptly and appropriately in the prevention and protection against all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention, including the employment of preventive operational measures and the collection of evidence.</p>	Compliant

Article	Status
<p>51. Risk assessment and risk management</p> <p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that an assessment of the lethality risk, the seriousness of the situation and the risk of repeated violence is carried out by all relevant authorities in order to manage the risk and if necessary to provide co-ordinated safety and support.</p> <p>2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the assessment referred to in paragraph 1 duly takes into account, at all stages of the investigation and application of protective measures, the fact that perpetrators of acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention possess or have access to firearms.</p>	Compliant
<p>52. Emergency barring orders</p> <p>Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the competent authorities are granted the power to order, in situations of immediate danger, a perpetrator of domestic violence to vacate the residence of the victim or person at risk for a sufficient period of time and to prohibit the perpetrator from entering the residence of or contacting the victim or person at risk. Measures taken pursuant to this article shall give priority to the safety of victims or persons at risk.</p>	Compliant
<p>53. Restraining or protection orders</p> <p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that appropriate restraining or protection orders are available to victims of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention.</p> <p>2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the restraining or protection orders referred to in paragraph 1 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - available for immediate protection and without undue financial or administrative burdens placed on the victim; - issued for a specified period or until modified or discharged; - where necessary, issued on an <i>ex parte</i> basis which has immediate effect; - available irrespective of, or in addition to, other legal proceedings; - allowed to be introduced in subsequent legal proceedings. <p>3. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that breaches of restraining or protection orders issued pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be subject to effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal or other legal sanctions.</p>	Compliant

Article	Status
<p>54. Investigations and evidence</p> <p>Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that, in any civil or criminal proceedings, evidence relating to the sexual history and conduct of the victim shall be permitted only when it is relevant and necessary.</p>	Compliant
<p>55. <i>Ex parte</i> and <i>ex officio</i> proceedings</p> <p>1. Parties shall ensure that investigations into or prosecution of offences established in accordance with Articles 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39 of this Convention shall not be wholly dependant upon a report or complaint filed by a victim if the offence was committed in whole or in part on its territory, and that the proceedings may continue even if the victim withdraws her or his statement or complaint.</p> <p>2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure, in accordance with the conditions provided for by their internal law, the possibility for governmental and non-governmental organisations and domestic violence counsellors to assist and/or support victims, at their request, during investigations and judicial proceedings concerning the offences established in accordance with this Convention.</p>	Compliant

Article	Status
<p>56. Measures of protection</p> <p>1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to protect the rights and interests of victims, including their special needs as witnesses, at all stages of investigations and judicial proceedings, in particular by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. providing for their protection, as well as that of their families and witnesses, from intimidation, retaliation and repeat victimisation; b. ensuring that victims are informed, at least in cases where the victims and the family might be in danger, when the perpetrator escapes or is released temporarily or definitively; c. informing them, under the conditions provided for by internal law, of their rights and the services at their disposal and the follow-up given to their complaint, the charges, the general progress of the investigation or proceedings, and their role therein, as well as the outcome of their case; d. enabling victims, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of internal law, to be heard, to supply evidence and have their views, needs and concerns presented, directly or through an intermediary, and considered; e. providing victims with appropriate support services so that their rights and interests are duly presented and taken into account; f. ensuring that measures may be adopted to protect the privacy and the image of the victim; g. ensuring that contact between victims and perpetrators within court and law enforcement agency premises is avoided where possible; h. providing victims with independent and competent interpreters when victims are parties to proceedings or when they are supplying evidence; i. enabling victims to testify, according to the rules provided by their internal law, in the courtroom without being present or at least without the presence of the alleged perpetrator, notably through the use of appropriate communication technologies, where available. <p>A child victim and child witness of violence against women and domestic violence shall be afforded, where appropriate, special protection measures taking into account the best interests of the child.</p>	Compliant

Article	Status
<p>57. Legal aid</p> <p>Parties shall provide for the right to legal assistance and to free legal aid for victims under the conditions provided by their internal law.</p>	Compliant
<p>58. Statute of limitation</p> <p>Parties shall take the necessary legislative and other measures to ensure that the statute of limitation for initiating any legal proceedings with regard to the offences established in accordance with Articles 36, 37, 38 and 39 of this Convention, shall continue for a period of time that is sufficient and commensurate with the gravity of the offence in question, to allow for the efficient initiation of proceedings after the victim has reached the age of majority.</p>	Compliant
<p>59. Residence status</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that victims whose residence status depends on that of the spouse or partner as recognised by internal law, in the event of the dissolution of the marriage or the relationship, are granted in the event of particularly difficult circumstances, upon application, an autonomous residence permit irrespective of the duration of the marriage or the relationship. The conditions relating to the granting and duration of the autonomous residence permit are established by internal law. 2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that victims may obtain the suspension of expulsion proceedings initiated in relation to a residence status dependent on that of the spouse or partner as recognised by internal law to enable them to apply for an autonomous residence permit. 3. Parties shall issue a renewable residence permit to victims in one of the two following situations, or in both: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. where the competent authority considers that their stay is necessary owing to their personal situation; b. where the competent authority considers that their stay is necessary for the purpose of their co-operation with the competent authorities in investigation or criminal proceedings. 4. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that victims of forced marriage brought into another country for the purpose of the marriage and who, as a result, have lost their residence status in the country where they habitually reside, may regain this status. 	Compliant

Article	Status
<p>60. Gender-based asylum claims</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that gender-based violence against women may be recognised as a form of persecution within the meaning of Article 1, A (2), of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and as a form of serious harm giving rise to complementary/subsidiary protection. 2. Parties shall ensure that a gender-sensitive interpretation is given to each of the Convention grounds and that where it is established that the persecution feared is for one or more of these grounds, applicants shall be granted refugee status according to the applicable relevant instruments. 3. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to develop gender-sensitive reception procedures and support services for asylum-seekers as well as gender guidelines and gender-sensitive asylum procedures, including refugee status determination and application for international protection. 	Compliant
<p>61. <i>Non-refoulement</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to respect the principle of <i>non-refoulement</i> in accordance with existing obligations under international law. 2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that victims of violence against women who are in need of protection, regardless of their status or residence, shall not be returned under any circumstances to any country where their life would be at risk or where they might be subjected to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. 	Compliant

Article	Status
<p>62. General principles</p> <p>1. Parties shall co-operate with each other, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, and through the application of relevant international and regional instruments on co-operation in civil and criminal matters, arrangements agreed on the basis of uniform or reciprocal legislation and internal laws, to the widest extent possible, for the purpose of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. preventing, combating and prosecuting all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention; b. protecting and providing assistance to victims; c. investigations or proceedings concerning the offences established in accordance with this Convention; d. enforcing relevant civil and criminal judgments issued by the judicial authorities of Parties, including protection orders. <p>2. Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that victims of an offence established in accordance with this Convention and committed in the territory of a Party other than the one where they reside may make a complaint before the competent authorities of their state of residence.</p> <p>3. If a Party that makes mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, extradition or enforcement of civil or criminal judgments imposed by another Party to this Convention conditional on the existence of a treaty receives a request for such legal co-operation from a Party with which it has not concluded such a treaty, it may consider this Convention to be the legal basis for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, extradition or enforcement of civil or criminal judgments imposed by the other Party in respect of the offences established in accordance with this Convention.</p> <p>4. Parties shall endeavour to integrate, where appropriate, the prevention and the fight against violence against women and domestic violence in assistance programmes for development provided for the benefit of third states, including by entering into bilateral and multilateral agreements with third states with a view to facilitating the protection of victims in accordance with Article 18, paragraph 5.</p>	Compliant

Article	Status
<p>63. Measures relating to persons at risk</p> <p>When a Party, on the basis of the information at its disposal, has reasonable grounds to believe that a person is at immediate risk of being subjected to any of the acts of violence referred to in Articles 36, 37, 38 and 39 of this Convention on the territory of another Party, the Party that has the information is encouraged to transmit it without delay to the latter for the purpose of ensuring that appropriate protection measures are taken. Where applicable, this information shall include details on existing protection provisions for the benefit of the person at risk.</p>	Compliant
<p>64. Information</p> <p>1. The requested Party shall promptly inform the requesting Party of the final result of the action taken under this chapter. The requested Party shall also promptly inform the requesting Party of any circumstances which render impossible the carrying out of the action sought or are likely to delay it significantly.</p> <p>2. A Party may, within the limits of its internal law, without prior request, forward to another Party information obtained within the framework of its own investigations when it considers that the disclosure of such information might assist the receiving Party in preventing criminal offences established in accordance with this Convention or in initiating or carrying out investigations or proceedings concerning such criminal offences or that it might lead to a request for co-operation by that Party under this chapter.</p> <p>3. A Party receiving any information in accordance with paragraph 2 shall submit such information to its competent authorities in order that proceedings may be taken if they are considered appropriate, or that this information may be taken into account in relevant civil and criminal proceedings.</p>	Compliant
<p>65. Data Protection</p> <p>Personal data shall be stored and used pursuant to the obligations undertaken by the Parties under the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS No. 108).</p>	Compliant

Article	Status
<p>66. Group of experts on action against violence against women and domestic violence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Group of experts on action against violence against women and domestic violence (hereinafter referred to as "GREVIO") shall monitor the implementation of this Convention by the Parties. 2. GREVIO shall be composed of a minimum of 10 members and a maximum of 15 members, taking into account a gender and geographical balance, as well as multidisciplinary expertise. Its members shall be elected by the Committee of the Parties from among candidates nominated by the Parties for a term of office of four years, renewable once, and chosen from among nationals of the Parties. 3. The initial election of 10 members shall be held within a period of one year following the entry into force of this Convention. The election of five additional members shall be held following the 25th ratification or accession. 4. The election of the members of GREVIO shall be based on the following principles: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. they shall be chosen according to a transparent procedure from among persons of high moral character, known for their recognised competence in the fields of human rights, gender equality, violence against women and domestic violence, or assistance to and protection of victims, or having demonstrated professional experience in the areas covered by this Convention; b. no two members of GREVIO may be nationals of the same state; c. they should represent the main legal systems; d. they should represent relevant actors and agencies in the field of violence against women and domestic violence; e. they shall sit in their individual capacity and shall be independent and impartial in the exercise of their functions, and shall be available to carry out their duties in an effective manner. 5. The election procedure of the members of GREVIO shall be determined by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, after consulting with and obtaining the unanimous consent of the Parties, within a period of six months following the entry into force of this Convention. 6. GREVIO shall adopt its own rules of procedure. 	N/A

Article	Status
<p>7. Members of GREVIO, and other members of delegations carrying out the country visits as set forth in Article 68, paragraphs 9 and 14, shall enjoy the privileges and immunities established in the appendix to this Convention.</p> <p>Procedural:</p> <p>67. Committee of the Parties</p> <p>68. Procedure</p> <p>69. General recommendations</p> <p>70. Parliamentary involvement in monitoring</p> <p>71. Relationship with other international instruments</p> <p>72. Amendments</p> <p>73. Effects of this Convention</p> <p>74. Dispute settlement</p> <p>75. Signature and entry into force</p> <p>76. Accession to the Convention</p> <p>77. Territorial application</p> <p>78. Reservations</p> <p>79. Validity and review of reservations</p> <p>80. Denunciation</p> <p>81. Notification</p>	<p>N/A</p>









CCS1017309396
978-1-5286-0104-7