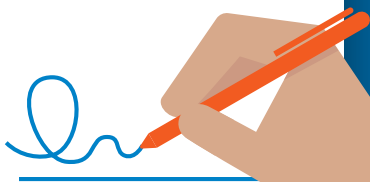


Gaps in response to violence against women and girls



19 Dec 2011



Albania signed the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, also known as the Istanbul Convention, on 19 December 2011, and ratified it on 4 February 2013.



Who are the key players in providing services for survivors of violence against women and girls in Albania?

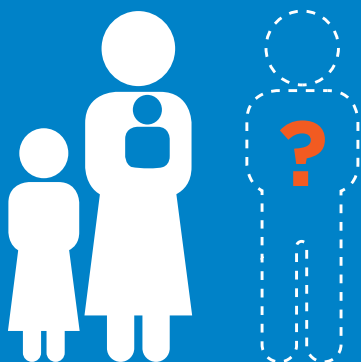
- Service providers in Albania are women's NGOs and state institutions, including key line ministries and other public institutions at central and local levels.
- Police are ranked first for collaborative efforts, followed by NGOs. Overall, multi-stakeholder collaboration is effective but needs improvement.



What are some gaps in services in Albania?



- Support services for children witnesses of violence need to be enhanced and expanded nation-wide.
- Access to services is restricted for many marginalised groups of women, including women with disabilities, elderly women, women dependent on substances and women with mental health disorders.
- There is only one specialist service provider in Albania which offers perpetrator programmes.
- Only 36% of service providers offer training on anti-discrimination and equality to staff members.
- Essential services for survivors of sexual violence are inadequate. Most notably, specialised rape crisis and sexual violence referral centres are missing.



What more can Albania do to better address violence against women and girls?

- Promotion of forgiveness under the pretext of traditional family values often contradicts the Istanbul Convention's principle of zero tolerance towards violence against women, and needs to be addressed.
- The Istanbul Convention needs to be fully implemented to end violence against women and girls, and achieve gender equality.

Information is drawn from a Multi-Country Study conducted in 2015 by UN Women in partnership with the Council of Europe to map support services for women and girls subjected to violence.



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