

Gaps in response to violence against women and girls



11 May 2011



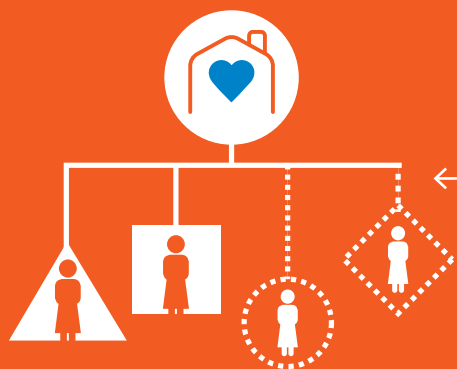
- Montenegro signed on 11 May 2011, and ratified on 23 April 2013, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, also known as the Istanbul Convention.

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



- Service providers are women's NGOs and state institutions, including Centres for Social Work and multidisciplinary teams to combat violence against women and girls.
- Service providers cooperate best with police and other NGOs serving women and girl survivors of violence.

What are some gaps in services in Montenegro?



- Services are available to all ethnic minority groups in principle, although not all services are available in minority languages. Services are not accessible in all geographical areas.
- All shelters are in the northern and central regions of the country, leaving women and girls in the entire southern region without access to shelters.
- Only 44% of service providers offer staff training on anti-discrimination and equality.
- In 2015, Montenegro established its first free, national telephone helpline that is available 24/7, however the helpline is not fully integrated with other services and does not fully meet the standards of the Istanbul Convention.
- There are no programmes for perpetrators of violence against women. Also, counsellors work with perpetrators and survivors together, encouraging both to take responsibility for violence and directly contradicting the Istanbul Convention's principle of zero tolerance towards violence.

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



- Funding for services is often project-based and insecure. Legislation to address this issue needs to be fully implemented.
- Several municipalities developed plans for advancing gender equality and preventing violence, but actions toward full implementation have yet to be achieved.
- 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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