

**GERMAN CONTRIBUTION:
Implementation of UN-Resolutions:**

Resolution: Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment (A/RES/73/148)

1. Measures to address sexual harassment against women and girls, as per resolution 73/148.

The prevention and combating of violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a key objective of the German government - nationally, in its foreign policy and in its development policy.

In Germany:

- In 2019 the project “make it work! – for a workplace without discrimination, harassment and violence” by the Federal Association of the Women’s Support Services and Helplines (bff) started. This four-year project is funded by the German Government. The women’s helpline Frauennotruf Bielefeld e.V. is putting a specific focus on sexual harassment in care work.
- In October 2019 the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency funded and published a report by Dr. Monika Schröttle, Ksenia Meshkova, Clara Lehmann on the extent of sexual harassment in the workplace. As a result of this study, the campaign # betriebsklimaschutz (work climate protection) started with the aim to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace and create complaint mechanisms in organisations.
- Beginning in autumn 2020, several dialogue fora on the topic of sexism are planned with a group of relevant representatives from the employers and employee side, from the media and culture, politics, civil society and the state. The aim is to develop recommendations for action and commitments against sexism. Especially, dialogue fora on the topics of "sexism in culture and media", "sexism in public space" and "sexism at work" are considered in digital and analog form. The aim of the dialogue fora is to share scientific knowledge and experience and to exchange and develop good practices to prevent sexism. As a result, concrete recommendations for action and possibly voluntary commitments for the various areas of society are brought together in a guideline and are going to be presented to the public afterwards.
- In the years since its coming into force in January 2017 the so-called "psychosocial assistance" in court proceedings, Section 406 g Code of Criminal Procedure together with the Act on Psychosocial Assistance in Criminal Proceedings of 21 December 21, 2015 (BGBl. 2525, 2529) has turned out to be a very important measure especially for the victims of sexual harassment: Specially qualified and trained psychosocial assistants offer non-legal support, care for and accompany the victim before, during and after court proceedings and can give them general information e.g. about the course of the proceedings. This measure is intended to reduce the strain in the situation of the aggrieved persons, which they have to undergo as a consequence of the crime. Minors under the age of 18, who have been victims of sexual crimes are entitled to apply for a psychosocial assistant, who is appointed free of charge by the court. Other especially vulnerable victims of sexual

harassment may also apply for such an appointment of a psychosocial assistant.

- The Law for the Modernisation of Criminal Procedure from December 10th 2019 (Gesetz zur Modernisierung des Strafverfahrens, BGBl. 2019 I, 2121) also led to improvements for victims of sexual crimes in criminal procedures: In protection of their interests and with their consent the testimonies of all victims of sexual crimes - no matter whether they are minors or grown-ups -, that are given before a judge, are now to be recorded in picture and sound. These recordings can be displayed during the main proceedings and used as evidence (Sections 58a and 255a of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CCP - Strafprozessordnung - StPO)). Thereby repeated interviews and revictimization can be avoided.

Internationally:

German foreign policy and development cooperation support national efforts in partner countries by working towards eliminating violence against women and girls including sexual harassment in the private and public spheres. Moreover, Germany supports projects combatting existing structural inequalities, gender stereotypes and negative social norms. This includes supporting equal access to education and vocational training for women and girls and by reducing gender-specific differences in education resulting from diverse reasons including family's fear of sexual harassment and violence. We are incorporating boys and men in these efforts where possible.

Examples for measures that have been implemented since August 2018 to address sexual harassment:

- Germany funded a project in Gaza in 2018 that aimed at putting an end to the lack of prosecution of sexual offences against women by organising training sessions for women's rights organisations to provide them with basic knowledge of human rights instruments and by documenting cases of gender-specific violence.
- In Cameroon Germany funded projects in 2018, 2019 and 2020 that taught 100 young women and girls how to defend themselves against sexual violence through in a one-week training on the topic of gender-based violence and related issues. The projects also aimed at using trainings and community radio programs to educate community leaders and women's groups on human rights and prevention of gender-based violence in order to raise public awareness for women's rights as well to promote women's economic empowerment and establish a mechanism for reporting and follow up of cases of gender-based violence in communities in West-Cameroon.
- In 2019, Germany funded a school program for reduction of gender-based discrimination in Bolivia. The project aimed at motivating young people at 15 schools to engage in artistic activities (theater, dance etc.) dealing with gender equality, gender issues and gender discrimination.
- Germany also funded a project in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2019 that aimed at building awareness for human rights and humanitarian law through trainings, workshops, radio-spots and the screening of a film in eight communities in the conflict region for civilians and armed groups in order to

protect the civilian population and prevent human rights violations, especially gender-based violence and violence against children.

- In 2019, Germany furthermore funded a project in Mozambique that aimed at strengthening the role of men in defending women's rights and combating gender-based violence through trainings, testimonials and good practice examples of men who oppose violence against women, gender-specific role models and traditional understanding of masculinity.
- In Malaysia, Germany funds a project in 2020 that aims at reducing gender stereotyping and victim blaming and raising public awareness of the problem of violence against girls and women through an educational video promoted via social media.
- In Ecuador, Germany funds a project in 2020 that raises awareness for gender-based violence in order to improve the situation for those affected in the long term and increases confidence in the judicial system.
- In Ukraine, Germany funds a project in 2020 that provides information and education on prevention of human trafficking in order to raise awareness among especially vulnerable groups of the population.
- In Egypt, Germany is working actively on combating sexual harassment together with the Ministry of Youth and Sports as well as selected non-governmental actors. Activities include self-defence courses for girls and young women, as well as awareness raising measures especially for young men in order to sensitize as many people as possible to the dangers and adverse societal consequences of sexual harassment. The programme runs from 2016 to 2021 with a budget of 4 million EUR.
- In Zambia, South Africa, Lesotho and, as of 2020, Zimbabwe, Germany supports a regional programme to prevent violence against women and girls (PfP) (12/2017 – 11/2021, budget: 10 million EUR). The objective is to spark transformative and long-term engagement of governmental, nongovernmental and private sector actors by strengthening cooperation and forming multi-stakeholder partnerships. The programme is fighting sexual harassment in the South African film and television industry in collaboration with UN Women by working on a concept and training for "Safety Contact Persons" responsible for women's safety on sets.
- Germany supported until December 2019 a Liberian-German project aimed to tackle gender-related barriers at each stage of a female health worker's career. Part of the project was a campaign launched by the Ministry of Health to protect employees against sexual harassment at the workplace.

2. Impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak in regards to violence against women and girls and measures undertaken to address those in the short, medium and long-term:

- **Continued running of the National Helpline "Violence Against Women":** The National Helpline "Violence Against Women", funded by German government is continuing their extremely important service during the Coronavirus crisis. It offers around the clock support on 365 days per year and can be reached via phone, chat or email. More than 80 qualified female support workers offer help and guidance to women, who are affected by violence, people from their social circle and professionals working in the sector. The support is free, anonymous, confidential and available in 18

languages and regardless of disability. Due to Coronavirus-related measures the helpline team is facing additional challenges, but everything is done to ensure the continued running of the service.

- **“Not safe at home?” campaign in supermarkets:** The German government recently started a nationwide campaign in supermarkets, as part of the “stronger than violence” initiative. The aim of the campaign is to inform people who experience domestic violence and their friends and family about available help and support services.
- **Initiative “stronger than violence” offers information about support services:** The website of the initiative #stronger than violence (www.staerker-als-gewalt.de) by the German government brings together existing support services for women and men, who are affected by violence, and offers practical solutions and ways to help and support. The website additionally offers up to date information on where to access help and support during the coronavirus crisis. An overview of the most important (crisis) support services are instantly available when opening the website
- **Government funding programme “Against Violence towards Women”:** On top of the Coronavirus-related measures, the German government supports the building of women’s refuges and other support organisations with the government funding programme “Together against violence towards women”. In total, the German federal government offers 120 Million Euros to better equip the support structure for women, who experience violence. The aim is to make support services easier accessible, especially for groups, who have previously struggled to access protection and help. In addition to the investment programme the Federal Government launched a second branch of the funding programme “Together against violence towards women” containing 31 Million Euros in four years to support innovative projects to advance support services. This includes funding for projects of support services to deal with special challenges.

Use of technology and innovation in responding and preventing to violence against women and girls in the context of COVID-19: Projects supported by the German Government are currently readjusting their activities to accommodate the new working environment and include measures in response to Covid-19. Good practices can already be seen in Mali and South Africa. In Mali the German government is supporting the interfaith cooperation between the NGOs World Vision and Islamic Relief to overcome gender-based violence in Mali. The project activities have been amended to respond to immediate and mid-term needs arising during the pandemic by distributing audio messaging as well as flyers with information on gender-based violence reaching approx. 10.000 people. Another approach will be targeting faith leaders as multipliers in communicating how to prevent Covid-19 infections and specifically emphasizing on the role of women in fighting the pandemic. In South Africa the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) produced the descriptive, fact-based video “The Effects of Covid-19 on Gender-based Violence (GBV)”. In this video, viewers are sensitized regarding domestic violence, and receive information on contact points and services concerning GBV for all SADC member states.

Resolution: Trafficking in women and girls (A/RES/73/146)