LSE CENTRE FOR WOMEN, PEACE + SECURITY

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (ISTANBUL CONVENTION)

The purpose of the **Istanbul Convention** is to prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women and domestic violence and to contribute to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls in law and practice (Article 1)

CIVIL LAW

- Compensation (Article 30)
- Escape from forced marriage (Article 32)
- Sexual harrassment (Article 40)

CRIMINAL LAW

- Physical (Article 35) and psychological (Article 53) violence
- Stalking (Article 34)
- Sexual violence, including rape (Article 36)
- Forced marriage (Article 37)
- Female genital mutilation (Article 38)
- No 'honour' crimes (Article 42)
- No previous sexual history evidence (Article 54)
- Aggravating circumstances, including threat or use of a weapon; crimes committed in the presence of a child

MIGRATION LAW

- Survivors whose residence status depends on that of a violent spouse or partner have the right to apply for a separate residence permit (Article 59)
- Reflection of international refugee law about gender-based persecution (Article 60)
- Right not to be returned if face risk of torture or killing (Article 61)

STATES PARTIES COMMIT TO:

1. Take the necessary legislative and other measures to promote and protect the right for everyone, particularly women, to live free from violence in both the public and the private sphere, (Article 4 (1)).
2. Prevent discrimination and promote equality between women and men, girls and boys, in law and practice (Article 4(2)).

States parties commit to do this through coordinated policies (Article 7) which are developed in cooperation with civil society (Article 9) and which are properly financed (Article 8) and based on robust data (Article 11).

ACCESS TO SERVICES

- Information to survivors (Article 19)
- General and specialist support services (Articles 20-21)
- Sufficient shelters (Article 24)
- Support services for children in need (Article 26)

PREVENTION AND ATTITUDINAL CHANGE

- Awareness-raising campaigns among the general public (Article 13)
- Education for children and young people in schools (Article 14)
- Training of professionals who deal with survivors (Article 15)
- Working with the media on gender equality (Article 17)

PROTECTION OF SURVIVORS

- An immediate response (Article 50)
- Risk assessment – including lethality risk and access to firearms (Article 51)
- Emergency barring orders (Article 52)
- Restraining orders (Article 53)
- Safe contact, visiting and custody arrangements (Article 31)

Learn more about the Istanbul Convention at: http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/vaw/regional/europe/istanbul-convention/