

Cyprus



Following ratification of the Istanbul Convention on 10 November 2017, Cyprus has been making headway with the implementation of the Convention's measures. The government has submitted significant amendments to the family code and has prepared legal acts penalising violence against women, stalking and harassment. Despite this, Cyprus maintains reservations to some of the Convention's articles, including the provision of financial compensation to victims, which constitutes a cause for concern for women's rights groups. MIGS took a pro-active stance during this period to advocate for government's collaboration with NGOs and civil society and to involve them in any law making, as well as in the planning and implementation of policies and measures. To facilitate this process, MIGS carried out a [study to examine compliance of national standards](#) (in Greek), legislation and policy with the standards of the Convention, making specific recommendations for the adoption of specific legislative and other measures. The study was commissioned by the Ministry of Justice and Public Order and provides a valuable tool that would facilitate the process of ratification, by providing a blue-print for comprehensive legislation on violence against women in Cyprus. This led to a close cooperation with the Ministry of Justice in the drafting of the first law to combat all forms of violence against women and girls which is currently open for public consultation and legal review before submission to the Cyprus Parliament. Ratification is not the end of the road – following a robust law fully complying with the standards of the Convention a concerted effort is needed for implementation. A coordinating body is needed that has sufficient human and economic resources as well as the mandate to effectively coordinate state efforts to implement the provisions of the Convention. Short- and long-term objectives for implementation need to be defined along with indicators to measure policy impact. A mechanism for the collection of data on all forms of violence against women is a priority. Without data collection and analysis, interventions are no more than someone's good ideas, however well-intentioned their design and implementation. Robust data collection and analysis provide the foundation for measuring the extent of the problem, for estimating progress (or lack thereof), for estimating resource needs, for profiling perpetrators and victims, and for programme planning. Most importantly, data helps us establish the impact of policy and services on the problem—are we making a difference?