

Statement by the Republic of Lithuania

Violence against women and children

OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

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Mr. Chair, while aligning with the statement of the EU on the issue of violence against women and children, Lithuania would like to share additionally in national capacity some experience in dealing with this grave violation of human rights.

In 2011 the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania adopted a special Law on Protection against Domestic Violence. The purpose of the law is to protect natural persons from domestic violence, which is attributed to public acts due to harm done to society, quickly respond to threats, apply protective measures with regard to the victim of abuse, provide adequate assistance and undertake preventive measures.

The law lays down legal mechanisms of protection against domestic violence, covering preventive education measures, protective measures with regard to the victims of abuse (an obligation to the abuser to temporarily move out of the place of residence, not to approach or communicate with the victim or look for any contacts with the victim), management, organisation and provision of assistance, defines concepts, and stipulates the rights, duties and responsibility of the abuser and the victim.

The NGO's play a key role in the implementation of the provisions of the Law. The adoption of the Law made it possible creation of the network of Specialised Assistance Centers covering all the country and run by the NGO's working in the field of combating domestic violence. Means for the functioning of the centers are provided by the state budget.

Recently National Programme for the prevention of Domestic Violence and Provision of Assistance to the Victims for 2014-2020 and the Action Plan for 2014-2016 were adopted. In the Programme we try to cover the most important aspects in this field: prevention, with the emphasis on public awareness raising, better protection of the victims, training for the people working in this field, inter-institutional cooperation. To ensure the inter-institutional cooperation a special high level working group was established.

Mr. Chair, we appreciate the work of the OSCE and other international bodies in this field. International cooperation, sharing of good practices is a crucial element combating domestic violence and it must be continued and strengthened using all the existing means.

Thank you for your attention