

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
**Statement of Slovenia for Working Sessions 8 and 9: Specifically selected topic:
Violence against women and children (with focus on domestic violence)**
Friday, 26 September 2014

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU.

Slovenia pays special attention to combating violence against women and children, also in the context of domestic violence.

We must have in mind that domestic violence has different impact on children, both girls and boys, as on women. Children are traumatized/affected by domestic violence also when witnesses and not victims of violence. Therefore protection of children, the most vulnerable members of family, is the focus of the Family Violence Prevention Act, in force in Slovenia since 2008.

This Act encompasses various forms of domestic violence, not just physical violence. We should not forget that violence against children at home and in the family is also neglect of care of children and of course, sexual abuse of children in the circle of trust, which is the most common and hidden form of sexual abuse of children.

In a past few years Slovenian government has invested also in training for qualified teaching professionals, enabling them to work more effectively and quickly identify various forms of violence (in the family). The training programme focused on the legal bases for addressing domestic violence, its identification and prevention, the duties of staff at education institutions in addressing violence, and cooperation with other institutions. The programme also included practical testing of acquired knowledge, reflection and exchange of experience.

Violence against women represents one of the main obstacles for equal participation of women in private and public life and therewith also one of the main obstacles for the achievement of gender equality. Slovenia is, through different activities, striving for the elimination of all forms of violence against women, including sexual violence and different forms of violence against women during and after armed conflicts. With the aim to eliminate violence and discrimination against women it is important that women are provided with equal access to justice. This is important also to end the impunity. It results in persistent discriminatory/unequal position of women.

Domestic violence is a complex issue, and its prevention depends on a number of factors that require a comprehensive approach. In 2009, Slovenia adopted the Resolution on the 2009–2014 National Programme on Prevention of Family Violence. In This strategic document sets out objectives, measures and key players to reduce and prevent domestic violence in Slovenia over a five-year period. The document aims to combine measures implemented by various ministries and provides for effective activities to reduce domestic violence, both in terms of identification and prevention.

At the end of 2010, the results of the first empirical national research on violence in the private sphere and partnerships were published, to be followed at the end of 2011 by analyses on the work of the Police, courts and social services concerning violence against women and domestic violence. The research has also shown that the number of cases of domestic violence that are detected, identified and processed by institutions is increasing. With a view to raising public awareness, the Police additionally published on its web page all information on domestic violence and all police procedures.

In 2014 Slovenian Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities launched a two-year nation-wide awareness-raising campaign on violence against women. The project runs under the slogan "VESNA – to live a life free of violence". The nation-wide campaign officially started on 7 March 2014 with a national conference. The target group is women of three generations (young women, adults and old women), for whom different, target-oriented activities have been envisaged. Activities are tailored to the needs and lifestyle of each target group.

We agree that education and awareness-raising also of men and boys on the consequences of violence is crucial. Also human rights education is an important tool to foster nonviolent behaviour and empower women, men, boys and girls to respond to violations of their rights. In this context we would like to recall the project "Our Rights", a successful OSCE pilot project on human rights education in 2005.