

On the dangers of the cultural turn brought about by the Istanbul convention

The topic of domestic gender violence has seen constant discussions in Germany over the last two decades. More than twenty years the German legislation has been working to bring about a cultural turn. But what kind of result can Germany present to the international community after 20 years of constant and emotionally heated reforms, when every successive government has domestic violence as the highest priority?

In 1999 the biggest argument against domestic violence was that every third women in Germany has been subjected to domestic violence. Let us put aside that this unfounded statement was not supported by any serious statistics; for some reason, feminist discourse has been reduced to overly emotional statements based on false statistics... In 1999 Germany had around two hundred female deaths due to domestic violence. And in 2018 the death count is still the same. There is absolutely **no upward trend** when we look at the statistical data!

So what kind of trend *can* we observe? The first thing is the increased interference of the state into family affairs **despite** protests by the population. There is a reason why the Germans associate **that** with the experience of the 1930s, when the Nazi government also considered it necessary to intervene in the internal affairs of the family. The negative Nazi experience is suddenly not as important compared to the **alleged** horrors of domestic violence. *Apparently*, the family again needs to be reformatted for a new globalist ideology.

We can observe the second result in the legal sphere. All these hysterical demands essentially blur the principles of law. Leading German experts are sounding the alarm about the destruction of the rule of law. The essence of the conflict lies in the question which principle is more important: the presumption of innocence or the principle that **the woman is a victim**, which must always be protected. **Why** this dilemma has to be decided in favor of female victimization while combating domestic violence and **how** this is coupled with women's emancipation, remains unanswered by contemporary feminist organizations.

One gets the impression that *the **problem** of domestic violence* is being used as an instrument to create an atmosphere of fear and guilt, in which the real democratic struggle for the emancipation of humanity becomes an impossible task. The goal of all this, including the Istanbul Convention, is not the fight against gender inequality, but rather to establish **the dominance** of *a supranational and antidemocratic bureaucracy*. That is why thousands of people in Europe are protesting against this Convention.

The erosion of legal norms is influenced by the so-called principle of *evolutionary interpretation* that are based on **non-normative sources**. Such "soft law" acts can **significantly** change the essence of previously signed documents and impose principles on states that they **did not sign** when they ratified certain conventions. I call for a more transparent, broad, and objective discussion of such "innovations" with all of the members of the international society. Thank you for your attention.