

TEMPLATE POLICY PAGE

Category:	Domestic Violence
Country:	Latvia
Year:	/

Main policy page:	<p>1) The State policy guidelines for the year 2014-2017 One of the courses of action is “Family stability” and its aim is to reduce family destabilizing factors.</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Evaluate what data is prevalence of domestic violence, for their annual gathering, as well as to carry out regular studies to assess possibility of violence.2. Reduce level of tolerance about violence in society, to improve awareness of domestic violence and its recognition capabilities.3. Increase knowledge of specialists on successful work with victims of domestic violence.4. To improve legislation for protection and rehabilitation of victims who suffered from domestic violence and also violators themselves.5. Provide state-funded rehabilitation programs, psychological and legal assistances to victims and social rehabilitation programs for aggressors6. To define institutional mechanisms for exchange of information and cooperation in domestic violence cases.7. Provide that movies with scenes of violence on TV are banned before 22:00. <p>http://www.lm.gov.lv/text/1832</p> <p>2) European Council Convention about elimination of violence against women and domestic violence prevention and combating (Istanbul 2011). Goals of the Convention are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– to protect women against all forms of violence, and prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women and domestic violence;.– contribute to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and promote substantive equality between women and men, including by empowering women;;– design a comprehensive framework, policies and measures for the protection of and assistance to all victims of violence against women and domestic violence;– promote international co-operation with a view to eliminating violence against women and domestic violence;-provide support and assistance to organisations and law enforcement agencies to effectively co-operate in order to adopt an integrated approach to eliminating violence against women and domestic violence. <p>The eradication of domestic violence.</p>
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	<p>2. In order to ensure that Member States effectively realize the provisions of the Convention, this Convention provides special oversight mechanism.</p> <p>Contracting States should adopt laws and regulations and take other measures necessary to promote and protect everyone, in particular women, the right to live without violence, both in public and private life.</p> <p>1. Member States condemns any kind of discrimination against women and should immediately adopt laws and regulations to take other measures necessary to prevent this, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - including its national constitution or other relevant legislation of principle of equality between men and women and ensuring effective implementation of this principle; - banning discrimination against women, where necessary, with penalties; - By abolishing the law and generally accepted practices that discriminates women. <p>2. Member States guarantee that, implementing provisions of this Convention, in particular protection of rights to violence victims, no discrimination measures, irrespective on whatever discrimination is based on - sex, race, skin color, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, nationality, membership of a national minority, property, birth, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, health, disability, marital status, or refugee status or other status.</p> <p>3) The Convention recognizes Member States at all levels, promoting and supporting relevant non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations which actively combats violence against women, and is establishing effective cooperation with organizations</p>
<p>Relevant legislation:</p>	<p>Regulating acts in Latvia do not provide an exact definition of “violence in the family”; therefore right now it is not possible to separate domestic violence from other offences. It is only possible to receive information about separate offences under the Criminal Law and Administrative Violations Code of Latvia; however, the received information will not always reveal a connection with violence in the family.</p> <p>In cases of violence against a woman or a minor in the family the guilty party is called to criminal liability according to different Sections of the Criminal Law (CL), taking into account the way the crime was performed, its consequences and other features. Most frequently the criminal process is instigated for inflicting various (heavy, medium or light) deliberate bodily injuries, Articles 125-130 of the Criminal Law. It falls to the forensic experts to establish the degree of seriousness of bodily injury.</p> <p>The gravest crime against a woman is murder. Liability for murder is envisaged in several Sections of the Criminal Law. Thus, Section 116 of the Criminal Law envisages liability for murder performed due to personal relationships (jealousy, anger, revenge, etc.), during an argument, a fight and other similar cases without aggravating or</p>

mitigating circumstances indicated under Sections 117-122 of the CL. Section 117 of the Criminal Law, states murder of a woman who was raped and the perpetrator was aware of her pregnancy as murder under aggravated circumstances.

In connection with violence in the family, criminal processes are also initiated for rape, threat to commit murder or inflict a serious bodily injury, illegal restriction of personal freedom, hooliganism and other crimes.

The Code of Administrative Violations of Latvia envisages liability for physical and emotional violence against a child, Section 1722.

Criminal Law of the Republic of Latvia - http://www.vp.gov.lv/doc_upl/Criminal_Law.htm

Trends:

1) Informative report about prevalence of domestic violence in 2013 by Ministry of Welfare of Republic of Latvia

Results of the EU survey shows that 33% of women under age 15 years have been victims of violence. 34% of the same age girls in Latvia was victims of violence that was caused by grown-ups. Survey data also indicates that these violence cases are rarely reported to the police or other institutions. Only 17% of the women reported to the police incidents of domestic violence. Almost half of women in Latvia are not aware of possibilities to get help as a victim of domestic or gender based violence.

1st table. Data from electronic journal of State police of Latvia

	2010	2012	2013	2008 - 2013
Violence against child	167	173	221	1002
Intentional bodily injuries (light)	2004	3084	3364	15752
Intentional bodily injuries (medium)	121	124	128	719
Intentional bodily injuries (serious)	85	63	66	403
Rape	90	94	83	560
Sexual assault	34	48	163	353
Family conflict	2481	4526	5995	20717

Statistical data indicates that number of the family conflicts have

tendency to increase. The same negative tendency refers to light intentional bodily injuries. This table shows only data of State police of Latvia, however Municipal police also deals with family conflicts. Next table shows statistical data of Riga municipal police.

2nd table. Data from Riga municipal police (2008-2013)

	2008	2010	2011	2012	2013	2008 - 2013
Number of calls about family conflicts	4701	4501	3803	3831	3881	25280
Cases resulting with arrest	968	794	600	580	453	4218
Cases when under age kinds were present during conflict	157	347	327	224	238	1467

Data shows that contrary to the State police data, number of calls to Riga municipal police concerning family conflicts is decreasing. Cases that are resulting with arrest are also decreasing, but number of cases where children are involved is more or less invariable.

Contacts:

National organisations:

National level:

1. Ministry for Children and Family Affairs of the Republic of Latvia - <http://www.bm.gov.lv/eng/>
2. Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Latvia - <http://www.tm.gov.lv/en/>
3. Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Latvia - <http://www.iem.gov.lv/?lng=en>
4. 4. Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia - <http://www.lm.gov.lv/>

Local level:

1. Municipal police (as the Municipal police has to be financed from the municipality itself (municipal budget) only the biggest cities have them)
2. Social Services
3. Custody Courts

NGO`s:

1. Latvia's Children Rights Network - <http://www.rnc-rtb.lv/>

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Completed template to be sent to the EUCPN Secretariat at eucpn@ibz.eu.