



# Proposal for a Directive on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

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# Violence against women and domestic violence

- **Violence against women** is gender-based violence, which is violence
  - directed against a woman or a girl because she is a woman or a girl, or
  - that affects women or girls disproportionately
- **Domestic violence** is any act of violence that occurs:
  - within the family or domestic unit, irrespective of biological or legal family ties, or
  - between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the offender shares or has shared a residence with the victim

# Objectives of the proposal

- Combat violence against women and domestic violence through effective **prevention, protection, access to justice, support and coordination.**
- Reduce prevalence, increase security, ensure full enjoyment of fundamental rights, including the right to equal treatment and non-discrimination between women and men.

# Approach

- **Criminal**

- Legal base:

- Article 83(1) TFEU – sexual exploitation of women and computer crime
    - Article 82(2) TFEU – minimum rules concerning the rights of victims of crime

- **Comprehensive**

- Prevention
  - Protection and access to justice
  - Victim support
  - Coordination and cooperation

- **Intersectionality**

# General elements of the proposal

- Violence against women and domestic violence as criminal acts under EU and under national law
- Specific needs of victims of violence against women and domestic violence
- Relationship to other EU acquis
- Measures may benefit any victim of this type of crime

# Overview of measures

- Minimum rules on the **definition of certain criminal offences and penalties**
- Minimum rules to strengthen **victims' protection** and **facilitate access to justice**
- Minimum rules providing a comprehensive set of **victim support** measures
- Minimum rules requiring meaningful measures of **prevention**
- Minimum rules ensuring efficient **coordination and cooperation** among relevant actors

# Coordination and cooperation at national and EU level

- Ensuring a **multi-agency** approach (Art. 40)
- Ensuring **cooperation** at Union level (Art. 43)
- Enhancing **data collection** on VAW and DV (Art. 44)

# Multi-agency cooperation

- (48) Victims of domestic violence and violence against women typically have **multiple protection and support needs**. In order to address these effectively, Member States should **provide such services at the same premises**, or have such services **coordinated through a central contact point**. To ensure also victims in remote areas or unable to physically reach such centres are reached, Member States should **provide for online access to such services**. This should entail setting up a single and updated website where all relevant information on and access to available support and protection services is provided (**one-stop online access**). The website should follow accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities.

## Article 40

# Multi-agency coordination and cooperation

- 1. Member States shall put in place appropriate mechanisms to **ensure effective coordination and cooperation, at the national level, of relevant authorities**, agencies and bodies, including local and regional authorities, law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, public prosecutors, support service providers as well as non-governmental organisations, social services, including child protection or welfare authorities, education and healthcare providers, social partners, without prejudice to their autonomy, and other relevant organisations and entities.
- 2. Such mechanisms **shall in particular pertain to** the individual assessments under Articles 18 and 19, and the provision of protection and support measures under Article 21 and Chapter 4, the guidelines for law enforcement and judicial authorities under Article 23, and in the trainings for professionals as referred to in Article 37.

# Child-specific elements of the proposal

- **Definitions**

- “victim” means any person, **regardless of sex or gender**, unless specified otherwise, who has suffered harm, which was directly caused by acts of violence covered under this Directive, **including child witnesses** of such violence

- **Safety of children**

- Contact between a child and a holder of parental responsibilities who is an offender or suspect of violence against women or domestic violence
  - In a safe place
  - supervision by trained professionals;
  - in the best interests of the child

- **Provisions in all areas**

Thank you!