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Did you know that Institutions are making important steps for the fight against gender-based violence?

The international community altogether and Cyprus have accomplished important steps towards **gender equality**

Here's a legal overview that addresses the problematic !

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Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

signed on 11 May 2011, in Istanbul, Turkey

Ratified by the Republic of Cyprus by **law n°14 (III)/2017**

The **Convention** aims to protect women against all forms of violence, and prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women and modestin violence

It promotes international cooperation

It also considers, at **art. 4, par. 3**, migrant women, which are mostly afflicted

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European Union law

Directive (Eu) 2024/1385 of 14 May 2024

The **Directive** aims to establish a minimun level of protection across all member States

The purpose of the Directive is to provide a comprehensive network to **prevent and combat** violence against women throughout the European Union

All member States should implement **national legislation** to pursue the objectives fixed in the directive

The directive ciminalises, amongst others: non-consensual sharing of intimate images, cyberstalking and harassment, domestic violence, rape, etc.

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Republic of Cyprus national legislation

Law 6 (I)/2000

Provide for the recognition of refugees and for better implementation of the Convention on the legal Status of refugees

At **art. 9KC and following**, it refers to vulnerable people that seek refuge and, among them, victims of torture, rape or other serious acts of violence are considerd

Law 119 (I)/2000

Adoption of a gender-neutral definition of domestic violence

Law 115 (I)/2021
VAW Law

This law focuses on **reinforcing actions** and acknowledging the needs of preventing measures. The definition of gender-based violence now align with international standards

Law 117 (I)/2022

This law recognize femicide as a **distinct criminal felony**

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Legal rights

As recognized by Law n° 115(I)/2021

Right to legal aid: Art. 23

"Every victim [...] has the right to direct access to legal representation in civil proceedings [...] and, in case of not having adequate means, has the right to free legal aid under the provisions of the Legal Aid Law"

"[...] the victim shall have the right to claim damages against the offender for any culpable act punishable under this Law [...]"

Right to compensation: Art. 25

Support measure for victims: Art. 34

"The Services involved shall, within the framework of their responsabilities, take all necessary measures in order to assist and support victims"

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Supports and services in Cyprus

Helpline 1440

Helpline which victims of domestic violence can use to **seek immediat support** and to provide information and assistance

Shelters for victims of Gender-based Violence

Victims can seek help in shelters provided by the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (**SPAVO**)

Home for Women

From December 2020, the Government opened the **Home for Women**, as a shelter where victims can find protection and specialised support. It also hosts migrant women and refugees regardless of their immigration status

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Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (SPAVO)

Phone: 1440
Text only: +357 99 984042
e-mail:
info@domviolence.org.cy

Cyprus police: Domestic Violence office

Phone: +357 22 808442 or 112

Contacts

Governamental Legal Aid

Request information from the Police or the Social Welfare officers

Solidarity Network in Action

Phone: +357 22 797870
e-mail:
polidinamo@nicosiamunicipality.org.cy

Cyprus Refugee Council

Phone: +357 22 205959
Mobile: +357 99 668709 or 97 767329
e-mail:
info@cyrefugeecouncil.org

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