

SUNDAY Nov 13, Session 5, Item 33

"Istanbul Convention"-Ratification status and /or an UN Human Rights Covenant?

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence - why is it relevant to IAW- what is the contribution of IAW to it?

General remark: *This questions should only help us to identify what we can really do next. It is for to assess the realistic capacities of IAW to identify what we could mutually work on; please do not take this personally when you have already done a lot for the Istanbul Convention- it is to identify the current state of the art and options of us together.*

Theses: *IAW can provide and disseminate basic information on the Convention, lobby on various levels for the ratification, open access for country reports under the monitoring body GREVIO. Led's produce some information and fact sheets and focus on a realistic approach.*

What are IAWs strengths with this issue? _____

What is the unique feature of IAW (in the NGO world)_____

When it starts as a 'regional' Convention- how can we support in the same time other regions women to realize their own legal and other instruments against VAW/ GBV? And

How is it composed and how can IAW work in the best way for the ratification and implementation of the IC:

IAW is not a network of experts against violence against women itself. Its individual members might have work experience and expertise in this area. The affiliates and associate NGOs are more umbrella NGOs who cover the issue VAW/GBV as one among others, theoretically, but, they are in networks or in contact with the specializes NGOs and their umbrella NGOs (counseling centers, shelters, psychologists, trauma therapists). IAW itself is not working 'on the ground' even some of the members do. But, there is a broad general expertise on Conventions and how to make them work in IAW based on our historically work for other existing Conventions (CEDAW, SDGs 5,UNSCR 1325). We know that a unified work, persistence and long term lobbying is necessary, we have access.

Can we as IAW develop a SMART approach to our work on the Istanbul Convention?



Please fill in your ideas, plans, or what you are already doing for the Istanbul Convention while in plane, before the session 5 - pl. , make it simple so it will be done

| | | By IAW: what measure or action, where/on which targeted stakeholders/institutions | By whom(| In my country, by me/my NGO | By whom |
|-------------------|---|---|----------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Specify | What can be done | | | | |
| Measurable | How can I measure progress- indicators Choose easy to full fill indicators: number of ... xyz; obstacles reduced, persons, convinced, parties convinced, laws harmonized, | | | | |
| Achievable | Am I and are the other responsible persons aware of facts and convinced about action to be taken; steps to follow u | | | | |
| Realistic | Is all you need there and available for those who shall act; is everyone ready and MOTIVATED for to do it/ is everyone informed about the plan, resources and all steps | | | | |
| Timed | Time period for your achievement by measure/action: -remove reservation within XX years -ratify IC - training for xx persons within 3x years ... | | | | |

The approach shall be realistic, easy to follow by all members, nice are 'easy to copy actions' or tools.

Can we use the webpage, facebook twitter for providing 'free' tools or just information, knowledge?

Is there a unified approach? (Better to identify in media and for others)

Is the Istanbul Convention among the IAWs priorities?

If so: what do we need to work? What specifically could be as IAW and members offer, develop to bring the Istanbul Convention into force so that women gain from its provisions?

What's our human right- overall objective?

THE FREEDOM OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS - WO_MEN - TO LIVE 100% FREE FROM VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN or GENDER BASED VIOLENCE!

What are our objectives:

- led the Istanbul Convention in context of other treaties as CEDAW et al. improve the life of wo_men
- reduce and finally eliminate VAW/ GBV
- invent a living tool against VAW/ GBV
- build knowledge (basic knowledge, and: legal knowledge among social workers and the judiciary/ lawyers, NGOs, CSO, politicians, in schools, projects)
- report best practice (as reasons for results, implementation and the due use of the Convention in practice)
- gain ratifications (eliminations of reservations)
- see implementations

Status: 47+5+1 optional state parties- 22 signatures not followed by ratification- 20 ratifications

Looking to the low ratification status and high number of reservations of the European regions potential state parties of the Covenant IAW could reach out for lobbying on various levels by its membership. Lots to do for us. The process just started. A challenge on the long run.

What do we need for this: awareness and clear knowledge of facts, mutual support, training (fact sheets, webinar, best practice build on first experience of Austria, Monaco, can we build en own info section / menu item on the webpage on IC).

It has to be clear that IAW is informed about the facts to make efficient lobbying:

- who already has included the constant lobbying for the IC in the NGOs work? How? what is effective, what works?
- who knows the Convention by articles 1- 81;
- who knows the background and reasons for the reservations ((declarations, objections) in her own country, or others, and could you/ your NGO effectively work to lift this
- could the many reservations against Art. 78 be an focus to work in IAW

- who knows the rules of the GREVIO; Can IAW assist to access GREVIO? Who is in charge?

Is your country or a country where you work or where you have aligned partners among those who ratified or did not ratify until now? And why? What can IAW do? Which approach, which little but effective step could we as IAW undertake to support your NGO and NGO networks to improve or be strengthened on this behalf and how can IAW encourage or lobby these states governments to ratify and in which framework (UN, Asia Pacific, AU, COE, EWL/ EP/EC, national, OAS)?

Can we in IAW and member NGOs agree on a realistic approach:

and is may be the question of who else can join the Convention globally a more theoretical question?

Is it an important question for IAW? I guess, no.

Is it may be for now better to focus on the ones who drafted it and who are the 'core' countries, the pioneers and the willing followers? Would it not be very convincing if the 47 are role models? And would it not be a nice consequence if later the 5 (Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, USA) would follow?

Will the AU member states join, will they have an own AU Convention or would they prefer to have a Covenant on UN level under the roof of the OHCHR ?

Who really wants to have an own UN Treaty on and why? Is this our field of work?

What about other regions? What instruments against VAW/ GBV do they have and/or prefer?

SOURCES

The Convention's text in various languages (why such a few- who can help to translate?)

In 32 languages: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/about-the-convention> and

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210>

NGOs and IAWs duties under the Istanbul Convention and with the monitoring body GREVIO (the first 2 state reports and reporting dialogues gave been just now finalized in the 7th session):

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/ngo>

Questionnaire for NGOs Reports/information to GREVIO

<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016805c95b0>

Status of Signatures & Ratification:

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210/signatures>

Reservations and Declarations of 1/11/16:

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/search-on-treaties/-/conventions/treaty/210/declarations>

EU Commission suggests ratification of IC by the EU: 04. March 2016 Commissioner by Věra Jourová (Justice, Consumer and Gender Equality) http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-549_de.htm