

5th Annual Report on Violence against Women

Executive Summary

GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ATHENS NOVEMBER 2024

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INTRODUCTION

This publication is a summary version of the [5th Annual Report](#) of the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights (GSEHR) on violence against women, the completion and publication of which takes place on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women for obvious reasons. The Report serves as a tool for documenting and recording important actions, policies and initiatives of the General Secretariat for Human Rights regarding one of the most critical social issues of our time, that of gender-based violence. Violence against women in all its forms, visible and invisible, is not merely a matter of individual rights and protection. It does not concern only the women who experience it as part of their gender subjectivity, but also serves as a measure of democratic values within societies and a broader social phenomenon that affects social cohesion, health and well-being of the society as a whole.

The reference period for the actions of the Agencies of this report spans from **November 2023 to September 2024**. Regarding statistical data from the Network of Structures and the SOS Helpline 15900 two separate periods are presented for better comparative analysis: **the first covering January-December 2023 and the second covering January-September 2024**. Finally, in terms of **administrative data from relevant state institutions (National Centre for Social Solidarity, Hellenic Police, the Justice System, Prisons, etc.), the reference period is January – December 2023**.

The report records trends, challenges and efforts undertaken by the GSEHR, the Research Centre for Gender Equality (KETHI), the Network of Structures, the relevant Gender Equality Committees of the Regions, Municipalities and Universities across the country, to prevent and combat violence in all its forms. It outlines both the progress made and the challenges faced by Greek society and the GSEHR, which as the primary governmental body responsible for designing and implementing gender equality policies, as defined by Law 4604/2019, strives to combat all forms of violence against women and ensure their fundamental human rights.

Using both quantitative and qualitative data, as well as reports and statistics, the report highlights the official, recorded to a significant extent, dimensions of the problem in Greece. At the same time, it emphasizes the importance of promoting

policies for preventing and addressing the phenomenon, as well as fostering cooperation among all social stakeholders. Particular emphasis is placed on policies and measures adopted to enhance the protection and support of victims. The GSEHR updates, designs and adapts its policies based on current needs and to eliminate violence and promote equality and justice for all. The statistical data and analyses included, serve as indicators of the magnitude and severity of the phenomenon, while also underscoring the need for coordinated actions and policies.

The report aspires to serve as an essential institutional guide, providing an overview - without being exhaustive- of the GSEHR policies and actions aimed at preventing and addressing gender-based violence. Furthermore, by being aligned with the **National Action Plan for Gender Equality**, it supports and strengthens horizontal equality policies. It serves as both an instrument within the **National Action Plan for Gender Equality** for combating gender-based and domestic violence and an autonomous tool in its own right. Additionally, the report can help outline the necessary guidelines and policies that need to be implemented, reinforcing the State's commitment to promoting equality and protecting women's rights.

The introductory structure of the chapters provides a broad overview of their content in full detail. However, in this summarized version of the 5th Report, the focus is primarily on presenting the most significant national-level initiatives for preventing and addressing gender-based violence in Greece.

Chapter A, provides a brief overview of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family and the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights as well as KETHI. Subsequently, **Chapter B** highlights developments at the international, European and national levels. Notably it examines the Council of Europe's Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029 which is structured around six axes key pillars. The 5th pillar serves as the foundation for this year's central report theme: geopolitical conflicts and violence against women. Important milestones for the year include: The establishment of an Expert Committee on Combating Technology Facilitated Online Violence against Women and Girls and efforts for a more effective implementation of the Istanbul Convention, as well as the creation of a European Commission Network for the Prevention of Gender-Based and Domestic Violence, in which GSEHR also participates.

Equally important is the European Commission Directive 2024/1385 on combating violence against women and intimate violence, which introduces crucial legislative changes regarding gender equality. It sets measures for combating various forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, sexual harassment and stalking. A similar approach is taken by Directive (EU) 2024/1712 of the European Parliament and the Council, which amends Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating human trafficking and protecting its victims.

Furthermore, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), the EU's center for gender equality research and documentation, published two significant reports during the reference period of the 5th Report: *Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health for Women Fleeing Conflict in the EU* and *Methodological Guidelines for collecting administrative data on violence against women and domestic violence*. Through the creation of 13 indicators related to intimate partner violence, the European Institute for Gender Equality aims to guide the collection of relevant statistical data from law enforcement and justice sectors.

Regarding institutional and legislative developments at the national level, Law 5090/2024 on the modernization of the legislative framework for the prevention and combat of domestic violence, amends Law 3500/2006, introducing significant changes to the Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and Law 3500/2006 itself. These amendments bring substantial modifications to the institutional framework for combating domestic violence. National-level developments include recommendations from GREVIO and the Committee of the Parties regarding the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, which Greece is obliged to comply with, as well as the country's evaluation and the recommendations issued by the CEDAW Committee, the evaluative authority, in preparation for the submission of the 8th and 9th National Periodic Reports. Finally, the submission of Greece's national report within the framework of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, is expected to be evaluated by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

In Chapter C, we focused on geopolitical conflicts in relation to the increase in gender-based violence and its impact on women's lives. At the same time, reference texts of

international scope and acceptance are mentioned, emphasizing the need to strengthen and strengthen the role of women in contemporary geopolitical challenges and in addressing them. Documents such as the new Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029, which served as a foundational text for drafting this section and in particular its Pillar 5 - ensuring women's empowerment and gender equality in response to global geopolitical challenges-, as well as the Beijing Platform for Action and the UN “Women, Peace and Security” Agenda highlight the effort to ensure the horizontal participation of women, not only as victims/survivors of violence but also as active agents in peace-building and conflict resolution. For the first time, Greece has developed its 1st National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2023-2028, within the framework of its candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council (2025-2026) and in view of the 25th anniversary of Resolution 1325 in 2025. The NAPWPS was drafted based on: (a) the horizontal integration of the gender dimension into all national policies (gender mainstreaming) and consequently b) strengthening the coherence of national policies, both domestic and foreign.

Chapter D, titled “New National Action Plan for Gender Equality 2021-2024 and new subprojects of the GSEHR”, includes initiatives such as the Panic Button and its implementation so far, the active subsidized cooperation program with DYPA (since September 2022), which includes the creation of 10,000 new full-time jobs for individuals from vulnerable and special population groups, including women victims of gender-based and/or domestic violence supported by GSEHR structures. At the same time, through the "Special Assistance for Vulnerable Groups" program of DYPA, women victims of gender-based and/or domestic violence are beneficiaries of special assistance, while the Joint Action entitled, "Independent Strong Free" between DYPA and the Ministries of Labor and Social Security, Social Cohesion and Family, and Citizen Protection for the support of abused women, aims to create new employment opportunities and enhance the financial independence of women seeking to escape abusive environments. A crucial initiative concerning the protection of women victims of domestic violence, in the context of implementing the Cooperation Memorandum between GSEHR and the Hellenic Hoteliers Federation (HHF), provides GSEHR with access to HHF accommodation facilities, supplementing shelter services, for emergency housing needs for women victims of domestic violence and their children.

Finally, this section also highlights GSEHR efforts to respond to the current demand to address the climate crisis from a gender perspective. Initially a Project Team was established to develop a thematic guide on the gendered impacts of the climate crisis and corresponding policy recommendations. GSEHR has also contributed to shedding light on the gender dimension of migration as a result of the climate crisis and gender-based violence.

Regarding training actions for professionals, GSEHR and KETHI organized training seminars across various regions of the country covering a broad spectrum of topics related to the prevention and response to gender-based violence at the institutional level, but also with reference to the factors exacerbating the phenomenon and ways to combat it, with emphasis on refugee populations. In the same collaborative framework and the National Centre for Public Administration and local Government (EKDDA) developed an educational dossier titled "Istanbul Convention" and updated existing training materials.

In **Chapter E**, as in the 4th Report, the actions of GSEHR and KETHI for combating violence against women, primarily, are outlined. These actions were carried out either directly by GSEHR or through its Network of Structures. The work of KETHI in supervising, monitoring, and coordinating the Network of Structures for the Prevention and Combat of Gender-Based Violence, as well as its training activities for network staff and interpretation services, is also highlighted. Additionally, the educational program on workplace violence and harassment and the recent significant study on online violence against young women are mentioned. Regarding the work of RGEC and MGEC, efforts to expand their initiatives, which cover a wide range of options and within the capacities of each municipality are noted. For the first time, actions by University Gender Equality and Anti-Discrimination Committees are included following GSEHR's call for their participation in the 5th Report. This year, three Gender Equality Committees responded, with hopes for increased participation in the next annual report.

The final **Chapter F**, as in previous reports, presents statistical data from the GSEHR Network of Structures, the SOS 15900 Helpline, and the GSEHR Gender Equality Observatory, covering forms of violence against women as recorded by competent state authorities, the Hellenic Police (ELAS), judicial authorities, the National Centre

for Social Solidarity (EKKA), and others. These are not just numbers but documented cases of women of all ages, regardless of education, ethnicity, race, or other social characteristics, who have faced violence from their spouse, current or former partner, etc. The statistical representation of incidents and their chronological classification allows for better comparative understanding and interpretation, which in turn can be used to improve existing services and implement new ones.

Finally, as in the 4th Report, this year, the term "victim" is primarily used instead of "survivor" of gender-based violence. However, where the term "victim" appears, it may also be understood as the corresponding use of "survivor" or vice versa, unless there is a specific distinction intended between the two concepts.

Based on these findings and observations, with respect for and in defense of women's rights, the strengthening of policies for preventing and eliminating gender-based violence, and the improvement and enhancement of support services, we move forward steadily toward achieving our goals. This annual report also serves as a call to action, for collaboration in our shared effort to build a society free from violence, where women can live in safety and dignity.

CHAPTER A: PRESENTATION OF INSTITUTIONS

Chapter A provides a brief overview of the structure of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family (ΥΚΟΙΣΟ), the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights, as well as the Research Centre for Gender Equality (KETHI). Additionally, it summarizes the Ministry's responsibilities, which focus on policies and initiatives for:

- Strengthening families and ensuring the balance between professional and family life.
- Protecting individuals with disabilities by introducing initiatives that effectively eliminate discrimination and enable people with disabilities to participate in all daily activities.
- Promoting policies for equal treatment, equal opportunities, combating gender discrimination, and improving and revising the benefits policy.
- Supporting children and empowering young people.

Within this framework, **the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights** is designated as the government body responsible for designing, implementing, and monitoring policies that promote gender equality in all sectors. The Secretariat is tasked with advancing both legal and substantive gender equality in all aspects of social, political, and economic life.

For more information about the structure, policies, and initiatives of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family, the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights, and KETHI, you can visit their official websites:

- **Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family:** minscfa.gov.gr
- **General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights:** www.isotita.gr
- **Research Centre for Gender Equality (KETHI):** www.kethi.gr

CHAPTER B: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK IN THE FIELD OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE-INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN COLLABORATIONS-EVALUATIONS

Chapter B, as highlighted in the introduction, focuses on institutional developments regarding gender-based violence at the international, European, and national levels. For the sake of brevity in this summary version of the report, we will not elaborate on institutional developments at the European and international levels but will instead concentrate primarily on legislative and institutional changes at the national level.

DEVELOPMENTS AT NATIONAL LEVEL

A. Law 5090/2024

Law 5090/2024 on the modernization of the legislative framework for preventing and combating domestic violence constitutes an amendment to Law 3500/2006 and introduced significant modifications to the Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the institutional framework for combating domestic violence.

Initially, the protection of Law 3500/2006 is expanded to include individuals who are beneficiaries of services provided by social care institutions, in cases where the offender is an employee of such an institution. Additionally, psychological violence is now explicitly defined and punishable as a form of violence against minors that results in the consequences of inadequate parental care, in accordance with Article 1532 of the Civil Code.

Significant amendments have also been made to the criminal offenses covered by Law 3500/2006. Specifically, rape (Article 336 of the Penal Code) and the abuse of an individual incapable of resistance in a sexual act (Article 338 of the Penal Code) are now categorized as domestic violence offenses. Furthermore, stricter penalties are imposed when these offenses are committed in the presence of a minor. Minors are also treated independently as victims of domestic violence, even when the relevant acts are not directly committed against them.

Law 5090/2024 introduces substantial changes in the context of criminal mediation. More specifically, it extends the jurisdiction of investigative officers, allowing them, within the scope of ex officio preliminary investigations, to assess the possibility of classifying a misdemeanor under the process of criminal mediation. Additionally, it introduces mandatory participation in rehabilitation programs as a prerequisite for criminal mediation. The law also disconnects the mediation process from claims for financial compensation by the victim and the dissolution of marriage or civil partnership.

It is also noteworthy that a new procedure is established for victim compensation through a lump-sum payment by the Hellenic Compensation Authority in cases of proven financial incapacity of both the offender and the victim. Moreover, Law 5090/2024 increases the minimum amount of monetary compensation for moral damages from one thousand (1,000) euros to at least two thousand (2,000) euros.

Article 18 of Law 3500/2006 regulates the imposition of restrictive orders on individuals accused of domestic violence crimes. Specifically, the following restrictive orders are set: removal from the family home, relocation, prohibition from approaching the residence or workplace of the victim, as well as the homes of the victim's close relatives, children's schools, and shelters. Law 5090/2024 adds further orders, including the restrictive order of participation in therapeutic, counseling, or rehabilitation programs. It is explicitly stated that the judicial authority responsible for imposing, revoking, or modifying these restrictions may seek advisory opinions not only from experts working in public institutions but also from professionals in private institutions supervised by the Ministries of Interior, Health, or Social Cohesion and Family.

Law 5090/2024 also introduces significant interventions in social assistance for victims of domestic violence. The range of institutions providing necessary support is expanded to include organizations supervised by the Ministries of Interior, Social Cohesion, and Family. Additionally, police officers handling domestic violence cases are now required to immediately inform the relevant authorities to ensure that the victim receives the necessary support. In line with this, and to determine the appropriate immediate protection measures, there is now an obligation to conduct

individualized risk assessments and management for victims of domestic violence based on the specific characteristics of each case.

Finally, Law 5090/2024 amends Article 23 of Law 3500/2006 and specifies the obligations of professionals who, in the course of their duties, become aware of or confirm the commission of a domestic violence crime. It also establishes immunity for them regarding incidents they report while performing their duties.

Additionally, Article 23A is introduced into Law 3500/2006, providing for individual assessments of victims and the management of the risk of repeated violence and secondary victimization. Specifically, reception services for domestic violence victims—including police authorities, social services, healthcare services, and specialized support structures for domestic violence victims, particularly women—are required, with prior information and victim consent to: (a) conduct an individual assessment of the victim to evaluate the risk of repeated violence or secondary victimization, and (b) manage the risk by determining appropriate immediate protection measures to prevent the recurrence of violence and secondary victimization.

Notably, the Prosecutor's Office of the Supreme Court issued a circular on the implementation of the new legislative provisions for preventing and combating domestic violence, which came into effect on May 1, 2024, under Law 5090/2024 (Circular Induction 6/2024)¹.

¹ Supreme Court Prosecutor's Office (2024). Implementation of the new legislative provisions for the prevention and combating of domestic violence. Available at: <https://eisap.gr/%CE%B5%CE%B3%CE%BA%CF%8D%CE%BA%CE%BB%CE%B9%CE%BF%CF%82-5-2024-2/>.

B. Evaluation of European and International Organizations in Greece: Istanbul Convention – CEDAW – Beijing

B1.Istanbul Convention – Recommendations of GREVIO and the Committee of the Parties

The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, known as the "Istanbul Convention,"² was ratified in our country by Law 4531/2018. The General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family is responsible for coordinating, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating policies and measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by the Convention.

The 1st Baseline Evaluation Report of the GREVIO Committee³ for our country was published on the website of the Council of Europe for the Istanbul Convention on 14/11/2023. Subsequently, on 5/12/2023, as provided by the monitoring mechanism, the corresponding Recommendations of the Committee of the Parties were adopted and communicated to us. These recommendations are based on the findings recorded in the GREVIO Report, essentially reflecting the immediate priorities identified by GREVIO.

It is important to highlight the recognition of the significant positive steps and policies adopted in recent years for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Greece, as documented in the GREVIO Report and the recommendations of the Committee of the Parties, with emphasis on:

- The adoption of **successive national programs to combat violence against women** and domestic violence.
- The inclusion of **intersectionality/intersubjectivity** in programs and policies for the prevention and combating of violence against women.
- The **legislative establishment**, within 2019, of the **Network of Structures** for the prevention and combating of all forms of violence against women, which

² N. 4531/2018 (ΦΕΚ 62 Α').

³ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/greece>

includes shelters and counseling centers providing essential services to women victims of gender-based violence.

- The **adaptation of Greek legal framework** to the Istanbul Convention, particularly through the adoption of a definition of rape based on the concept of free consent.
- The **ratification of ILO Convention 190** on violence and harassment in the world of work and the development of the relevant national legal framework to combat sexual harassment at work.
- Measures to improve **police** enforcement responses to violence against women, particularly through enhanced police training, the creation of 74 specialized Domestic Violence Response Units, the establishment of specific guidelines outlining police intervention procedures in cases of domestic violence, and the enhanced collection of quantitative and qualitative data on gender-based violence by the police.

The **recommendations** received by the Greek government from the Committee of the Parties concern the adoption of appropriate measures, as reflected in the country's Evaluation Report by the GREVIO Committee. The 19 recommendations of the Committee cover a broad range of policy areas, aiming at the cross-sectoral, institutional and legislative (e.g., training and guidelines for all criminal justice professionals **to ensure a common understanding of the definition of rape and sexual violence** as offenses based on **lack of consent**) reinforcement of protection against all forms of violence against women, as well as its adequate integration into programs and policies.

In a more concise view, the recommendations introduce and propose measures and policies, identify gaps in the effective response and protection of women victims of violence and their children, and suggest legislative, judicial, financial, and resource allocation improvements for all stakeholders involved, including the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights as the national coordination mechanism for monitoring the Convention. At the same time, they emphasize the role of training for perpetrators and professionals in the field, with particular reference to judicial

officials. Finally, special reference is made of the need for support and protection through specific measures and the respect for the principle of non-refoulement for women victims of violence and asylum seekers.

According to the procedure, all state parties must take into account and, where possible, implement the full range of GREVIO's recommendations and proposals. However, the state parties are given a period of three years from the receipt of the Committee of the Parties' Recommendations to submit a compliance report on these recommendations and the measures taken towards their implementation. Consequently, Greece must submit a report to the Committee of the Parties by December 5, 2026, detailing the measures taken for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention based on its recommendations.

In July 2024, the Recommendations (translated into Greek) of GREVIO and the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention were sent to the Hellenic Parliament, as provided for in Article 70 of the Convention.

The General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights and the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family are already working towards responding to the proposals made, especially those of urgent nature.

Initially, a cross-ministerial working group has been established and formed to monitor the implementation of the recommendations following the 1st Evaluation Report of the GREVIO Committee and the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention. This working group is expected to begin its work soon.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family has collaborated with the Council of Europe, seeking assistance for providing support to victims of sexual violence through the "Ending Violence against Women: Multi-Country Programme." The research conducted by the Council of Europe on addressing sexual violence and rape in Greece aims to map the support services currently available in Greece for victims of sexual violence. Additionally, the study evaluates who provides these services, in which areas they are available, whether state authorities and women's NGOs collaborate in providing these services, and identifies existing referral pathways and cross-sectoral cooperation among existing services and state agencies. The

research also highlights existing gaps in victim support and provides recommendations for developing specialized sexual violence services in Greece. The investigative mission of the Council of Europe team in Greece was completed in June 2024 and aims to assist the Greek government in selecting a model for providing assistance to victims of sexual violence.

B2. UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW): Evaluation of the 8th and 9th National Periodic Report by the CEDAW Committee

On February 6, 2024, at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, Greece underwent its review by the CEDAW Committee (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women) following the submission of its 8th and 9th National Periodic Reports in May 2023⁴. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was ratified by Greece in 1983 (Law 1342/1983) and constitutes the most significant international text for the promotion and protection of women's rights. For each country that has ratified it, it serves as a roadmap for legislative and policy initiatives toward gender equality in all areas of activity. Notably, CEDAW is one of the most widely ratified international human rights treaties.

At the conclusion of the review/evaluation process, the Committee adopts recommendations (concluding observations), which form the basis for the design of new policies and the drafting of the next periodic report for each country. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is an independent body of experts that monitors the implementation of the Convention. It is composed of 23 experts on women's rights from around the world.

The General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights (GSEHR) was responsible for preparing and coordinating this process due to its mandate on matters related to the Convention. In cooperation with all relevant ministries, it compiled the consolidated 8th-9th National Report. The GSEHR led the 20-member national interministerial delegation that traveled to Geneva. The CEDAW Committee's concluding observations

⁴ <https://isotita.gr/eksetasi-elladas-epitropi-ohe-eksaleipsi-diakrisewn/>

were published on February 19, 2024. In these observations, the Committee acknowledges the significant progress and policies implemented in recent years for the Convention's application in Greece, while also highlighting gaps and challenges that remain. This allows the state to take targeted measures to address them.

Specifically, regarding gender-based violence against women, the Committee recommends that Greece:

- (a) Amend the Penal Code to explicitly criminalize femicide.
- (b) Encourage the reporting of domestic violence incidents against women and girls by raising awareness among both women and men, with the active participation of women's organizations.
- (c) Ensure, through mandatory and continuous capacity-building for judges, prosecutors, police officers, and other law enforcement officials, that gender-based violence, including sexual violence against women, is effectively investigated and prosecuted, that perpetrators are adequately punished, and that protective orders are enforced and monitored effectively, with sanctions for violations.
- (d) Provide adequate funding for victim support services by strengthening state-run shelters, subsidizing shelters operated by non-governmental organizations, and expanding the network of specialized shelters for women and girls who are victims of gender-based violence, taking their specific needs into account.
- (e) Provide women and girls who cannot safely return to their homes with psychosocial counseling, financial support, education, vocational training, income-generating activities, affordable housing, and, if necessary for their safety, identity change.

The CEDAW Committee's concluding observations were translated into Greek and widely disseminated to all relevant and involved bodies, including the Hellenic Parliament.

B3. 30 years since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: National Report Submission

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the 4th World Conference on Women, the CSW will undertake a review and evaluation of the progress made in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in March 2025. This will accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. All countries are called to conduct comprehensive national reviews of the progress made and the challenges faced in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The assessment report for our country was prepared by GSEHR and was submitted electronically on June 1, 2024, with a reference period covering the last five years (2020-2024)⁵.

⁵ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), (2024). Thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Greek Review Report. Available at: <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/Greece-Report.pdf>

CHAPTER C: GEOPOLITICAL CONFLICTS AND WOMEN

The institutional basis for developing the central theme of the 5th Report, as mentioned in the Introduction, constituted the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029 of the Council of Europe (particularly axis 5: Ensuring the empowerment of women and gender equality in relation to global geopolitical challenges), the UN Agenda, "Women, Peace, Security," and the Beijing Platform for Action concerning the role of women in armed conflicts. On a national level, the first National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (NAPWPS) provided the basis. The coordination of the preparation and implementation of the NAPWPS has been entrusted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which, with the participation of public agencies, independent authorities, and representatives from the academic community, developed the 2021 Action Plan, which was also put up for public consultation. The General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights (GSEHR) played and continues to play an important role and contributes in this effort, based on its institutional role and Law 4604/2019 for the promotion of substantive gender equality. The NAPWPS was drafted with the aim of a) the horizontal integration of the gender dimension in all national policies (gender mainstreaming) and, therefore, b) the strengthening of the cohesion of national policies, both domestic and foreign. The NAPWPS was updated for the period 2023-2028 and was officially presented on March 8, 2024, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Specifically, for the 5th axis, the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029 highlights that developments in the broader global and regional context, such as the Russia-Ukraine war, the pandemic, the climate crisis and disasters, food and energy crises, migration, etc., disproportionately affect women and vulnerable groups, while these groups remain absent from decision-making centers, resulting in both the exacerbation of existing barriers to gender equality and the creation of new ones due to contemporary geopolitical challenges.

The term "geopolitical challenges" refers to a range of issues related to the geographical location and political developments of a region or country that affect the balance of power, security, and stability at both regional and international levels. These challenges may include competition between countries for territories, energy,

technology, weapons systems, spheres of influence, interstate, ethnic, religious conflicts, refugee and migration issues, trade and economic crises, the climate crisis, strategic influence and control, and a variety of issues that disrupt the fragile balance between countries. Geopolitical challenges are dynamic and vary depending on current political and economic conditions and choices.

Within this international and geopolitical context, various forms of gender-based violence play a prominent role, either as a consequence of geopolitical challenges and conflicts, or as a means-target of conflicts in communities, ethnicities, minorities, etc. For this purpose, the Council of Europe's action will seek the recognition of gender equality and women's rights as key elements of multilateral relations and crisis management, among others, in policies, strategies, and programs, aiming for inclusive sustainable peace and development, highlighting the role of women and men in conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding, addressing sexual and gender-based violence in conflict situations and post-conflict, and supporting women and girls from diverse and varied backgrounds as positive agents for conflict prevention, conflict resolution, relief, recovery, and building sustainable peace⁶.

With this in mind, we proceeded to develop the central theme by presenting the forms of violence against women during conflicts and its consequences, as the annual report of the GSEHR also addresses the issue of violence against women, while armed conflicts, despite declarations, continue to exist. For practical reasons, space economy, and the scope of the 5th Report, we only briefly touched upon the role of women in conflict resolution and the promotion of sustainable peace, as well as the need for their participation in decision-making centers—elements that are emphatically highlighted in the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029 of the Council of Europe, as well as in widely accepted and influential texts. Women and girls should not only be seen as victims of conflicts and instability, survivors of wartime gender-based and sexual violence. Historically, they have had and continue to have a role as fighters, as members of organized civil society, as human rights defenders, as members of resistance movements, emancipated agents of democratic change, and

⁶ [Council-of-Europe-Gender-Equality-Strategy-2024-2029.pdf \(isotita.gr\)](#)

active participants in both formal and informal processes of international peacebuilding and recovery.

CHAPTER D: NEW NSPA 2021-2025 AND NEW SUBPROJECTS OF GSEHR

D1. Panic Button

This chapter includes a series of projects by the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights (GSEHR), starting with the implementation and widespread use of the Panic Button. This is a digital application provided to women who are victims of domestic violence. Once installed on a smartphone, the app allows immediate and secure notification to the Hellenic Police in cases of domestic violence involving threats or danger to life or physical integrity. During the pilot phase, eligible users for registration and installation of the application were women victims of domestic violence in the Region of Attica and the Regional Unit of Thessaloniki.

Police authorities and Counseling Centers in Attica and Thessaloniki informed eligible women about the opportunity to acquire and use the Panic Button app. The application and its installation are provided **free of charge**.

How the Application Works

According to Article 19 of Law 4995/2022 (Government Gazette A' 216), a pilot program for the utilization of the ***Panic Button digital application*** was established. The pilot implementation began in March 2023 in Attica and Thessaloniki and lasted until the end of the year. During this period, the General Police Directorates of Attica and Thessaloniki informed **3,599** women victims of domestic violence about the app, and **915** of them installed it on their mobile phones. From the Counseling Centers, **352** women were informed and **71** of them installed the app via the Centers.

A total of **187** automated help messages were sent to the relevant Police Departments—i.e., activations of the Panic Button. The General Secretariat for Information Systems of Public Administration (GSISPA) of the Ministry of Digital Governance maintains and operates a database named *Panic Button*, which securely stores the encrypted, personalized information of registered users, strictly for the purpose of the app's function.

App Distribution via Counseling Centers

Distribution of the app by the Counseling Centers takes into account each woman's specific needs and risk factors, as assessed during the counseling process and jointly evaluated by the counselor and the woman receiving support. The app may be provided at any stage of the counseling process where a serious risk to the woman's physical integrity or life is identified.

The functionality of the Panic Button has been positively evaluated by the Counseling Centers' staff. Women who received the app reported feeling safer and reassured by the availability of such a tool, even if they never had to use it. It has proven to be a vital and effective tool for enhancing the safety and protection of women who are victims of violence.

Based on this data, the geographical expansion of the pilot Panic Button program to the entire country and an extension of the app's provision and operation was proposed — via recommendation no. 105992/4.12.2023. Ministerial decisions regarding this geographical and temporal expansion, along with the related regulatory details, were published in Government Gazette B' 2921/23.5.2024 and B' 2922/23.5.2024.

The Panic Button is now distributed **nationwide** by all Counseling Centers and the Hellenic Police. The GSEHR has created a Google Drive platform where all Counseling Centers across the country record the data related to the distribution of the application.

Additional eligible users for the Panic Button app and its installation on smartphones now include all adult victims of domestic violence, as defined in paragraph 3 of Article 1 of Law 3500/2006 (Government Gazette A' 232).

Between 01/01/2024 and 30/09/2024 (starting from 10/06/2024 across the entire country), **11,825** women victims of domestic violence were informed about the app by police directorates, and **3,826** installed it on their mobile phones. During the same period, **649** women were informed by the Counseling Centers, and **111** of them installed the app on their mobile phones.

A total of 513 automated help messages (i.e., Panic Button activations) were sent during this period. This number also includes messages from other groups of eligible adult victims of domestic violence who received the application from police departments.

D2. Cooperation between GSEHR and the Public Employment Service (DYPA)

Active Employment Subsidy Program for Women Victims of Domestic and/or Gender-Based Violence Supported by the GSEHR Network of Structures

Within the framework of cooperation between the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights (GSEHR) and the Public Employment Service (DYPA) since March 2021, provisions were made to include unemployed women victims of gender-based and/or domestic violence in the employment program for vulnerable social groups.

Since September 2022, the active subsidized program (Government Gazette B' 5106/29-09-2022) includes the creation of 10,000 new full-time job positions for individuals belonging to vulnerable and special population groups. Among them are women victims of gender-based and/or domestic violence who are supported by the GSEHR Network of Structures.

Since the beginning of this collaboration with DYPA, 253 applications have been submitted, and the respective certificates have been issued for the beneficiaries within the GSEHR network.

For the period from November 2023 to September 2024, the number of certificates issued is as follows:

- a) thirty-five (35) for beneficiaries of the Counseling Centers, and
- b) four (4) for women residing in Shelters.

Special Allowance for Vulnerable Groups – For Women Victims of Domestic and/or Gender-Based Violence Supported by the GSEHR Network of Structures

As of February 2024 (Government Gazette B' 7469/29.12.2023), women victims of gender-based and/or domestic violence are eligible for the "Special Allowance for Vulnerable Groups" by DYPA. This new benefit aims to support this specific group of women, who, due to their vulnerable status, face challenges in entering the labor market. The allowance is granted every two years. The amount is €718.50, increased by 10% for each child.

"Independent, Strong, Free" – Joint Action by DYPA and the Ministries of Labor and Social Security, Social Cohesion and Family, and Citizen Protection to Support Abused Women

This nationwide joint initiative aims to create new employment opportunities and strengthen the economic independence of women seeking to leave abusive environments. It allows women to participate without requiring prior registration in the Unemployed Registry. The initiative is implemented in collaboration with the Medium and Large Enterprises Service Unit of DYPA.

D3. Emergency Accommodation

On **January 18, 2024**, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between **GSEHR** and the **Hellenic Chamber of Hoteliers**, with the goal of jointly developing initiatives and actions to prevent and combat violence against women and gender-based harassment in the workplace, in accordance with ILO Convention No. 190 as ratified by Law 4808/2021. The **Hellenic Chamber of Hoteliers** represents 55 hotel associations with 6,500 member hotels employing around 200,000 individuals, more than 50% of whom are women.

GSEHR has the ability to utilize accommodations offered free of charge by the Chamber, which operate in a supplementary role to the shelters of the network, providing immediate accommodation in emergency cases to women victims of domestic violence and their children.

Women may temporarily reside in emergency accommodation until the process of permanent admission and stay in a shelter, as defined in the Operating Regulations, is completed. From May to September 2024, emergency accommodation provided by the Chamber was offered to thirty-one (31) women in need of immediate shelter.

D4. Training Activities for Professionals

GSEHR, in collaboration with the Research Center for Gender Equality (KETHI) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) organized training seminars under the central theme: “Training on Gender-Based Violence and Abusive/Violative Behaviors,” aimed at field professionals supporting asylum seekers and refugees. For the implementation of the seminars, the co-organizers partnered with the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the Hellenic Police, the National Public Health Organization (EODY), and the Management Team of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for the protection of human trafficking victims – NRM – EKKA, with representatives of these bodies contributing presentations.

In total, approximately 400 professionals participated in person and online. GSEHR, in collaboration with KETHI and UNHCR, will continue these training programs in the near future, expanding the themes and involving the physical presence of representatives from participating organizations in more municipalities and regions.

CHAPTER E: ACTIONS BY AGENCIES – GSEHR, KETHI, RGEC, MGEC, GEAC FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THE PROMOTION OF EQUALITY

E1. Actions by GSEHR and the Network of Structures

Chapter 5 refers to the wide-ranging actions and initiatives of the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights (GSEHR) and its Network of Structures, both at central and regional level. These actions include awareness campaigns, cultural events, conferences, educational programs, article publications, school interventions, etc., aimed at informing the public, preventing, and addressing gender-based violence. These efforts were supported by political leadership, institutions, organizations, municipalities, regions, and a wide range of stakeholders. Similarly, at the regional level, the Regional Gender Equality Committees (RGEC) and, at the municipal level, the Municipal Gender Equality Committees (MGEC), as well as the Gender Equality and Anti-Discrimination Committees of Greece's higher education institutions (GEAC), played a complementary role.

E2. Projects and Actions by KETHI

The Research Centre for Gender Equality (KETHI) is responsible for overseeing, monitoring, and coordinating the structures of the network for the prevention and combat of gender-based violence. KETHI manages the operation, organization, administration, and staffing of fourteen Counseling Centers located in the regional capitals. These Centers are part of the nationwide network of support structures (Counseling Centers, Shelters, and the SOS Helpline 15900) for the prevention and elimination of violence against women, under the GSEHR. KETHI also provides scientific, organizational, and administrative supervision and coordination of the overall work of the network's structures. The goal is the prevention and combat of

gender-based violence and/or multiple discrimination against women, as well as the proper and effective implementation of both the Common Operational Framework of the network's structures, the methodology used in the counseling approach and the development of services, for the psychosocial and legal support, as well as the employment promotion support. Additionally, it aims to ensure optimal performance in terms of organizational and administrative actions and features.

During the reference period (01/11/2023 to 15/09/2024), 1,789 women contacted the 14 KETHI Counseling Centers for the first time and received information and counseling services. Of these, 1,630 women reported gender-based violence, while 159 faced issues of multiple discrimination.

According to the intake forms and data in the electronic database, the profile of the women who accessed the 14 Centers is as follows: 83% were Greek nationals, 23% had secondary education, 43% were married, 74% had children, 42% were unemployed, 42% were employed, and 29% were aged between 36-45. In 73% of the cases, the perpetrator was the current or former husband/partner. The most common service requests were legal support (30%) and psychological support (29%).

Beyond these services, KETHI has conducted and implemented studies (e.g., on online violence against young women), programs, and training actions for both the staff of the Network's structures and public and private sector professionals. KETHI also continues joint school interventions with GSEHR staff on gender-based violence issues and has provided interpretation services in Arabic and Farsi at the support structures, specifically for sessions of social, psychological, and legal support and information provision.

KETHI has also played a significant role in shaping national action plans (e.g., against racism and intolerance for 2024–2027), updating the operational regulations of the network structures, creating cooperation protocols among competent authorities for the management of incidents of gender-based and domestic violence, and designing and implementing training programs for frontline professionals in Ministries, public bodies, and local government authorities (first and second degree).

CHAPTER F: STATISTICAL DATA FROM THE OBSERVATORY AND THE NETWORK OF STRUCTURES

F1. Observatory: Indicators on violence against women

This chapter presents the available administrative data concerning domestic violence in Greece. For the sixth consecutive year, the Gender Equality Observatory of the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights (GSEHR) has published monitoring indicators on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention⁷. It adopts the indicators proposed by EIGE⁸ and the GREVIO questionnaire⁹ and compiles the available data on an annual basis.

The data from the Hellenic Police were provided by the **Department for the Prevention of Domestic Violence**. For the second year, statistics are also published regarding cyber violence and specifically offenses related to online threats, cyberstalking, and revenge pornography. These data are provided by the **Cyber Crime Division of the Hellenic Police**, in accordance with Articles 333 and 346 of the Penal Code.

The ability to extract gender-specific data from **judicial sources** remains limited, as statistics are not disaggregated by gender. As a result, for the second year, the four EIGE-developed indicators related to justice¹⁰ (indicators 10, 11, 12, and 14) cannot be presented by gender. However, data regarding criminal prosecutions, first-instance convictions, acquittals, postponements, appeals filed against first-instance decisions, and second-instance convictions (Appeal Courts) for the years 2016–2023, are

⁷ For the data from the years 2016–2018, see the 23rd Information Note of the Observatory; for the data from 2019, see the 27th Information Note of the Observatory, as well as the 1st Annual Report on Violence against Women by the General Secretariat for Demographic and Family Policy and Gender Equality; for the data from 2020, see the 2nd Annual Report on Violence against Women by the GSDFPGE; for the data from 2021, see the 3rd Annual Report on Violence against Women by the same Secretariat; and for the data from 2022, see the 4th Annual Report on Violence against Women by the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights.

⁸ More detailed information on the indicators and data availability can be found here.

⁹ The full questionnaire used by the Group of Experts (GREVIO) to assess the implementation of the Istanbul Convention can be found here. The report submitted by Greece in March 2022 is available here, and the GREVIO Committee's evaluation can be found here.

¹⁰ The indicators refer to the number of restraining orders (indicator 10), criminal prosecutions (indicator 11), and convictions (indicator 12) for acts of domestic violence. During the initial years of data collection, the Observatory also gathered data for a 14th indicator concerning the number of criminal mediation cases in the context of domestic violence.

included. These are collected by the **Justice Statistics Collection and Processing Office (Juststat) of the Ministry of Justice**. The data for the 13th justice indicator (men serving custodial sentences) are presented as in previous years, based on information from the **Department of Strategic Planning and Evaluation of Anti-Crime Policy under the General Secretariat for Anti-Crime Policy of the Ministry of Citizen Protection**.

Data regarding offender treatment programs were collected from the relevant departments of the **National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA)**. Since 2008, EKKA has been the main public body implementing specialized counseling and therapeutic programs in Athens and Thessaloniki for perpetrators of domestic violence, within the framework of criminal mediation procedures (Chapter D, Law 3500/2006).

This chapter also includes data from the **General Secretariat for Migration Policy and the Asylum Service of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum**, regarding migrant and refugee women who have applied for and received residence permits and asylum due to gender-based violence. Finally, data are presented from the **Independent Department for Monitoring Violence and Harassment at Work, under the Labour Inspectorate (SEPE)** of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security. As the Greek Authority for the Compensation of Victims of Criminal Acts under the Ministry of Justice has not granted compensation to any domestic violence victims in the past 16 years, the relevant section has been omitted.

1.POLICE

Table 1: *Indicators on violence against women (2010-2023, Hellenic Police)*¹¹

Indicators	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1. Annual number of			1.630	1.818	2.302	2.321	2.696	3.196	3.815	4.171	4.264	7.375	10.131	9.886

¹¹ Since the available administrative data from Greece do not meet the comparability criteria set by EIGE, the indicators corresponding to the available data are listed in the left column of the table. Furthermore, as the Hellenic Police database is under revision, the available data for indicators 4–7 are presented in aggregate form for the respective offences, without including variables such as the gender of the victim and the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

women victims of domestic violence														
2. Annual number of reported incidents of domestic violence	1.303	2.005	2.455	2.896	3.512	3.572	3.839	3.134	4.722	5.221	5.669	8.776	11.534	11.589
3. Annual number of male perpetrators of domestic violence			1.620	1.886	2.351	2.428	2.891	2.395	4.202	4.619	4.436	7.571	10.166	9.937
4. Annual number of victims of physical violence (bodily harm and unlawful violence)											3.609	6.166	7.430	7.213
5. Annual number of victims of psychological violence (threat) ¹²											2.906	6.057	7.754	7.712
6. Annual number of victims of sexual violence (violation of sexual dignity) ¹³											69	192	630	590
7. Annual number of victims of economic violence (violation of											-	-	1.626	2.879

¹² This indicator records the offences defined in Articles 7 and 8 of Law 3500/2006.

¹³ This indicator records the offences defined in Article 9 of Law 3500/2006.

alimony obligation) ¹⁴														
8. Annual number of women victims reporting rape	263	226	234	222	194	183	217	223	142	148	126	226	303	254
9. Women victims of intentional homicide (Article 299 of the Penal Code) in conjunction with the law on domestic violence	11	12	6	13	12	11	13	7	13	8	8	23	24	12

Table 2: Number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of femicide under the Domestic Violence Law as a percentage of total female homicide victims per year (2010–2023, Hellenic Police)

Year	Femicide within the context of domestic violence	Homicides with female victims	% of femicides among total female homicide victims
2023	11	17	64,7%
2022	24	45	53,3%
2021	23	33	69,7%
2020	8	18	44,4%
2019	8	19	42,1%
2018	13	29	44,8%
2017	7	23	30,4%
2016	13	26	50%
2015	11	30	36,7%

¹⁴ This indicator records the offences defined in Article 358 of the Penal Code in combination with Law 3500/2006.

2014	12	27	44,4%
2013	13	52	25%
2012	6	40	15%
2011	12	31	38,7%
2010	11	33	33,3%

Regarding the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, it emerges that the majority of cases concern intimate partner violence. Specifically, 6 women were murdered by their current or former partner or spouse (54.6%), 3 women were killed by their son (27.3%), 1 by her father (9.1%), and 1 by her uncle (9.1%).

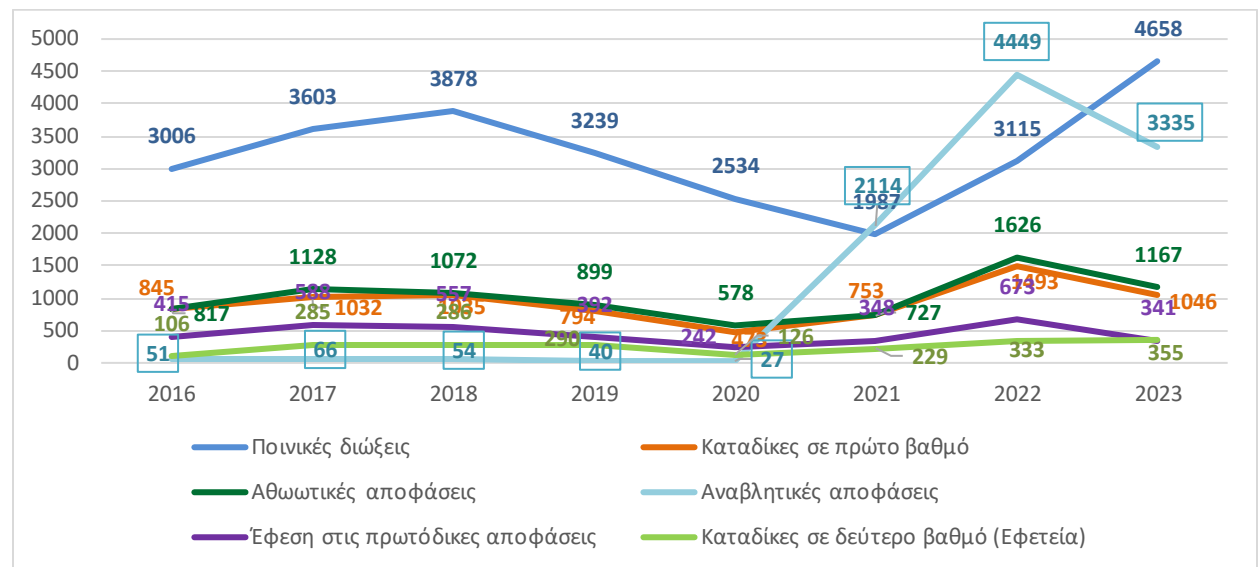
2.JUSTICE

Chart 1 presents an overview of the available data regarding domestic violence cases processed by the justice sector (Law 3500/2006). Since data regarding the gender of the victim and the perpetrator, as well as their relationship, is still not available from the justice database, the six lines in the chart reflect:

- criminal prosecutions (blue),
- acquittals (green),
- appeals against first-instance decisions (purple),
- first-instance convictions (orange),
- postponements (light blue), and
- second-instance convictions, i.e., at the Court of Appeals (light green), for each year between 2016–2023¹⁵

¹⁵ It should be noted that acquittals, convictions, and deferred decisions, as well as one-year appeals, do not represent the progression of criminal prosecutions initiated in the same year.

Chart 1: *Development of domestic violence cases within the justice system in Greece by year (2016–2023, JustStat)*



Initially, it appears that the delays in the administration of justice for domestic violence victims — a negative consequence of the pandemic management — did not persist in 2023, as the number of criminal prosecutions is shown to be increasing. Furthermore, the sharp rise in postponement decisions observed in 2021 and 2022 due to the pandemic conditions seems to have been mitigated in 2023, although they remain at high levels. Lastly, the trend of acquittals and convictions running parallel continues throughout the reporting period.

The final indicator (see Table 3) concerning justice data focuses on the annual number of newly incarcerated individuals who received a conviction within the year and are serving a custodial sentence for committing a criminal act against a family member. These figures were collected from the Department of Strategic Planning and Anti-crime Policy Evaluation of the General Secretariat for Anti-Crime Policy of the Ministry of Citizen Protection and concern all detention facilities in the country.

Table 3: *Number of men and women (aged 18 and over) serving custodial sentences in detention facilities for criminal acts against a family member per year (2016–2023, Articles 6, 7, 8, 9 of Law 3500/2006)*

	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
Sex	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C
Annual number	10	4	10	6	81	3	79	2	90	0	126	0	111	2	124	13
	4		4													

In 2023, the number of domestic violence offenders convicted and serving a custodial sentence amounted to 124 men and 13 women. The victim-perpetrator relationship in cases involving male offenders is unknown in 26.6% of cases. In half of the remaining 91 cases with available information, the relationship was intimate (34.1% were spouses, 11% were current or former partners, 4.4% were former spouses). In 12.1% of the cases, the perpetrator was the parent of the victim, and in 4.4%, the perpetrator was the victim's son. The gender of the victim is known in 61.8% of the cases, with **adult women** comprising almost the entirety (88.9%) of the victims of male offenders serving prison sentences, followed by **minor girls (6.3%)**, **minor boys (3.2%)**, and **adult men (1.6%)**.

The offenses for which the 124 male offenders were imprisoned in 2023 were: **59.7%** for physical violence (52.4% under Articles 6, and 7.3% under Article 7 of Law 3500/2006), and **37.9%** for threats. Only one man was imprisoned for **rape** in 2023, while one man was also convicted and is serving a custodial sentence for each of the following crimes: intrafamilial sexual assault and sexual abuse of a person incapable of resistance.

3. PROGRAMS FOR PERPETRATORS

The provision of free mental health services to perpetrators of domestic violence in Greece is stipulated by the law on the prevention of domestic violence (Article 11 of Law 3500/2006, as amended). These specific provisions of the law draw from the spirit of restorative justice and aim at preventing the recurrence of violence. According to the institution of criminal mediation, the country's prosecutors examine cases of

misdemeanor domestic violence and, if deemed appropriate, refer the perpetrators to local organizations that implement relevant therapeutic and counseling programs. Successful completion of these programs leads to the avoidance of criminal prosecution, while failure to complete them reinstates the criminal process. The purpose of the programs is to protect the victim and to change the behavior of the perpetrator. The primary public entity responsible for implementing these therapeutic programs for domestic violence perpetrators (case. b, par. 2, Article 11 of Law 3500/2006) is the National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA), which provides these services in Athens and Thessaloniki. The table below presents data on the annual number of perpetrators who applied for inclusion in EKKA programs and the annual number of those who completed them for the years 2020-2023, categorized by victim-perpetrator relationship.

Table 4: *Number of perpetrators who applied for inclusion and completed EKKA's treatment programs by victim-perpetrator relationship per year (2020-2023, EKKA)*

	2020			2021			2022			2023		
Victim-offender relationship	Current or former partners /spouses	Parents - children	Relatives	Current or former partners /spouses	Parents - children	Relatives	Current or former partners /spouses	Parents - children	Relatives	Current or former partners /spouses	Parents - children	Relatives
Number of perpetrators who applied for enrollment	142	31	20	286	22	13	218	38	27	91	24	8
Number of perpetrators who completed the program	31	6	4	62	7	6	102	8	3	76	19	7
Program completion rate	21,8%	19,4%	20%	21,7%	31,8%	46,2%	46,8%	21%	11,1%	83,5	79,2	87,5

Initially, a decrease in the number of offenders who requested to join the EKKA program (123 offenders) is observed, while the number of those who completed the program remained relatively stable and high (102 offenders). As a result, the completion rate of the programs significantly increased (83.4%). It is worth noting that the number of offenders referred to EKKA by the Public Prosecutor's Offices in the country is much higher than the number of those who eventually request to join. Specifically, in 2023, 311 offenders were referred. However, since offenders must complete the relevant program within three years, they delay their enrollment in the programs.

4.MIGRATION

The data from the Gender Equality Observatory regarding victims of domestic violence who have been granted residence permits in Greece is collected according to provisions stating that victims of domestic violence are entitled to a one-year residence permit, which can be renewed each time for up to two years as long as the same conditions are met. A residence permit of equal duration is also granted to the minor children of victims of domestic violence (paragraph 1c of article 19A of Law 4251/2014 – as stipulated in Law 3500/2006).

Table 6: *Number of residence permits granted to third-country nationals for humanitarian reasons as victims of domestic violence, by gender and year (2018-2023, General Secretariat for Migration Policy).*

	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Issuance of residence permit	2	9	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Renewal of residence permit	0	1	2	1	1	1	2	15	8	27	3	16
Total	2	10	3	5	1	1	2	15	8	27	3	16

5.ASYLUM

The vulnerability categories recorded by the Asylum Service's statistics do not include gender-based or domestic violence. In an attempt to address this phenomenon, vulnerability related to torture, rape, or other forms of psychological, physical, or sexual violence or exploitation, as well as vulnerability related to human trafficking, has been selected.

However, the Asylum Service notes that the statistics presented below may lack completeness either due to inadequate registration in the database or because applicants disclosed vulnerabilities later on (i.e., during the interview and not at the initial registration). Additionally, these vulnerabilities may not constitute the primary reason for granting refugee status or subsidiary protection.

Table 7: Number of asylum grants to third-country nationals based on vulnerability related to torture, rape, or other forms of psychological, physical, or sexual violence or exploitation, by gender, year, and granted status (asylum and subsidiary protection) (2018-2023, Asylum Service).

	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Granting of refugee status	106	46	82	36	67	41	19	44	29	50	63	293
Granting of subsidiary protection	17	8	3	1	2	10	2	4	2	2	0	4
Total	123	54	85	37	69	51	21	48	31	52	63	297

Table 8: Percentage of women granted asylum for reasons of vulnerability related to torture, rape, or other forms of psychological, physical, or sexual violence or exploitation compared to the total number of women applying for asylum in Greece (2018-2023, Asylum Service)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Women	Women	Women	Women	Women	Women
Granting of refugee status	46	36	41	44	50	293
Granting of subsidiary protection	8	1	10	4	2	4
Total number of female asylum seekers	21.727	25.513	12.725	6.707	8.301	16.805
Percentage of women granted asylum or subsidiary protection out of the total number of female asylum seekers	0,2%	0,1%	0,4%	0,7%	0,6%	1,8%

Finally, Table 9 shows a significant increase in the number of women, particularly victims of human trafficking, granted asylum, as in 2023, three times as many refugees were granted refugee status compared to the period 2018-2022.

Table 9: Number of asylum grants to third-country nationals based on vulnerability related to human trafficking, by gender, year, and granted status (asylum and subsidiary protection) (2018-2023, Asylum Service).

	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Men	Women	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women

Granting of refugee status	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	5	14
Granting of subsidiary protection	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	5	14

6.VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

The Independent Department for Monitoring Violence and Harassment in the Workplace of the Labour Inspection Body collects and publishes annual statistics regarding its activities¹⁶, following the ratification of ILO Convention 190 on the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work (par.1 Article 16 of Law 4808/2021).

According to the 3rd Annual Report covering the period 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023, the volume of requests handled by the Labour Relations Inspection Services across the country increased by more than 50% compared to the previous year, with 230 applications from 300 individuals. The majority of victims were women (60%, 180 individuals), while the majority of perpetrators were men (70%, 173 out of the 248 reported individuals).

F2. Statistical Data from the Network Structures (January-December 2023)

The data presented in this 5th Annual Report is based on the analysis of statistics extracted from the database maintained by the EETAA¹⁷ (data recorded for the Shelters and Counselling Centers of the Network of the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights) as well as from the data maintained by the 24-hour SOS

¹⁶ <https://www.sepe.gov.gr/organismos/ektheseis-pepragmenon/ektheseis-pepragmenon-parakolouthisis-tis-vias-kai-tis-parenochlisis-stin-ergasia/>

¹⁷ The EETAA, in its capacity as the Lead Beneficiary, supports the creation and operation of the structures of the GSEHR through a series of actions, including the establishment and maintenance of a Database that collects data from all the structures, concerning the women beneficiaries who are survivors of violence and the staff working in these structures.

Helpline 15900¹⁸. The presentation of the data will be made in two periods to facilitate comparison between years. The first period covers the entire year of 2023 (January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023), and the second period covers the first nine months of 2024 (January 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024)¹⁹.

Counselling Centres²⁰

During the reporting period, 4,656 women survivors of violence and multiple discrimination were supported by the Counselling Centers of the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights across Greece, receiving counselling support. Additionally, 381 individuals received useful information (Table 1).

Table 1: BENEFICIARIES & THIRD PARTIES at the COUNSELLING CENTRES			
Time period 01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023			
	In person	Third Parties	Total
Reception forms	4.656	381	5.037

The majority of the records for the year 2023 concerned incidents of gender-based violence, with a percentage of 87% (4,381) compared to incidents of multiple discrimination²¹, which accounted for 13% of the records (656).

¹⁸ The website against violence towards women: <http://womensos.gr/15900-24ori-tilefoniki-grammi/>

¹⁹ A woman beneficiary may have received services from all three Support Structures of the GSEHR (Counseling Centers, Shelters and the SOS Helpline 15900). For example, a beneficiary may call the SOS Helpline 15900, visit a Counseling Center and eventually be accommodated in one of the available Shelters.

²⁰ The Annual Report does not analyze the characteristics of the "Third Parties" who primarily received useful information from the Counseling Centers of the GSEHR Network of Structures.

²¹ Refugee women, migrant women, women with disabilities, women with substance abuse issues, long-term unemployed women, single mothers, etc. The unique cases (beneficiaries) at the Counseling Centers may simultaneously report incidents of gender-based violence and incidents of discrimination(s).

Table 2: BENEFICIARIES & THIRD PARTIES at the COUNSELLING CENTRES			
Time period 01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023			
	Gender-based violence	Multiple Discrimination	Total
Reception forms	4.381	656	5.037

Regarding the marital status of the beneficiary women, 44% stated that they were married, 21% were single, and 13% were divorced. 11% were separated, 4% were in a cohabitation arrangement, and 3% were widows, while 5% did not provide this information. Additionally, of the total number of beneficiary women, **77%** stated that they have one or more children, while 23% stated that they do not. The relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, as reported by the beneficiary women, was mainly **marital (57%)** and partner-related (19%), while 10% referred to abuse by another family member.

Shelters²²

During the reporting period, a total of **562** individuals were hosted in the Shelters of the Network: **279 women and 283 children**²³. Of the total women and children hosted, 55 women were refugees and 61 children were refugees. Furthermore, based on the date of entry during the examined period, a total of **183 new admissions** for accommodation were made, while 210 women and children from the hosted population left during the same period to a safe destination of their choice. Gender-based violence against women during the eleven-month reference period is predominant in records, accounting for 74% (207) compared to incidents of multiple discrimination faced by women, which account for 24% (72).

²²The data refers to 19 out of the 20 Shelters in the GSEHR network of structures, as the Shelter for Women Victims of Gender-Based Violence or/and Multiple Discriminations in the Municipality of Central Corfu and the Diapontia Islands reopened in May.

²³ Capacity of Shelters in Structures: approximately 400 safe housing spaces for women and their minor children.

The hosted women during the reporting period stated that **80% had children**, while 20% did not. Of the total of 283 children hosted, 22% (61) were refugee children. Furthermore, of the total children during the reporting period, 57% were girls under 18 years old, and 43% were boys under 12 years old. The predominant form of violence during the eleven-month reporting period in the Shelters was **domestic violence, with a percentage of 77%** of all recorded forms of violence. This was followed by incidents of rape (4%) and trafficking victims (4%). **Nearly 1 in 2 hosted women reported their current or former husband as the perpetrator (47%)**, 1 in 4 (25%) reported a partner (current/former), while nearly 1 in 5 (18%) reported that the perpetrator was another family member.

SOS Helpline 15900

During the reporting period, a total of **8,575²⁴** calls were recorded, of which 5,796 were "violence incidents" and 1,609 were "useful information" (Graph 1). Of the total calls recorded by the 24-hour SOS Helpline 15900 concerning violence incidents, 74% were from women beneficiaries, and 26% concerned third parties.

The percentage of female beneficiaries who called the SOS Helpline 15900 and reported Greek nationality in 2023 was 41%, 5% reported being refugee and immigrant women living in Greece, while 54% of the total female beneficiaries during the reporting period did not disclose their nationality.

Regarding the age group of the female beneficiaries who called the Helpline 15900, it was observed that women between the ages of **40-54 made up the largest percentage (21%)** of all calls concerning violence incidents. The next largest group was women aged 25-39 (18%), while significantly fewer calls were made by women aged 55-64 (6%). Calls from those aged 24 and below accounted for 5%, and calls from those over 65 years old accounted for 4%. Finally, 46% of the total beneficiaries did not disclose information regarding their age during the call.

²⁴ Irrelevant calls and hoaxes, etc., are not analyzed in the 5th Annual Report of the GSEHR.

Additionally, **domestic violence** continues to account for the largest percentage, **79%**, of all forms of gender-based violence recorded on the 24-hour SOS Helpline 15900 for 2023. 2% of the calls concerned sexual harassment, and 1% of the calls concerned incidents of rape. The forms of abuse²⁵ reported were 66.6% psychological violence, 58.9% verbal violence, 45.6% physical violence, 7.6% economic violence, and 4.0% sexual violence. Furthermore, 43.8% reported cohabitation with the perpetrator (Table 1).

**Table 1: Forms of gender-based violence in the context of domestic violence
(01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023)**

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OFFENDER	TOTAL	PHYSICAL	PSYCHOLOGICAL	SEXUAL	VERBAL	ECONOMIC	UNSPECIFIED	COHABITATION
Spouse	1.846	1.082	1.435	19	1.354	208	32	1.332
Ex-Spouse	180	68	152	2	127	27	7	21
Partner	568	332	451	14	391	39	8	302
Ex- partner	282	108	249	12	180	10	7	15
Father	162	89	117	7	95	6	2	72
Mother	121	45	97	2	79	10	2	51
Brother/Sister	114	65	82	4	64	8	3	45
Child	177	109	129	4	132	18	3	87
Other family member	79	37	46	8	40	2	5	11
Third known party	321	85	189	94	150	11	6	16
Unknown party	26	8	10	13	8	0	2	0
Unspecified	16	2	5	1	1	0	8	0
<No data>	556							
Total	4.448	2.030	2.962	180	2.621	339	85	1.952

²⁵ It should be noted that more than one answer may be given, as multiple forms of gender-based violence (psychological, physical, sexual, etc.) often coexist.

Statistics of the Network of Structures (January-September 2024)

Counselling Centres²⁶

During the reporting period, a total of **3,626** women survivors of violence and multiple discriminations were supported by the Counseling Centers of the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights (GSEHR) throughout Greece, receiving counseling support, as well as **299** individuals who received useful information.

Table 1: BENEFICIARIES & THIRD PARTIES at the COUNSELLING CENTRES			
Time period 01-01-2024 to 30-09-2024			
	In person	Third Parties	Total
Reception forms	3.626	299	3.925

The majority of the records for the reporting period, **89%** (3,490), concerned incidents of **gender-based violence**, compared to incidents of multiple discrimination²⁷, which made up 11% of the records (435).

Table 2: BENEFICIARIES & THIRD PARTIES at the COUNSELLING CENTRES			
Time period 01-01-2024 to 30-09-2024			
	Gender-based violence	Multiple Discrimination	Total
Reception forms	3.490	435	3.925

²⁶The Annual Report does not analyze the characteristics of the "Third Parties" who primarily received useful information from the Counseling Centers of the GSEHR Network of Structures.

²⁷ Refugee women, migrant women, women with disabilities, women with substance abuse issues, long-term unemployed women, single mothers, etc. The unique cases (beneficiaries) at the Counseling Centers may simultaneously report incidents of gender-based violence and incidents of discrimination(s).

The most prevalent type of gender-based violence reported by the beneficiary women was **domestic violence (85%)**. Far fewer women reported rape (2%) and sexual harassment (1%), while there were 7 cases of trafficking. 5% of the beneficiary women reported another form of violence, and 7% did not provide this information. The survivor-perpetrator relationship, as reported by the beneficiary women, was mostly **spousal (57%)** and partner-related (19%), while 10% involved abuse by another family member.

Shelters²⁸

During the reporting period, **491 individuals** were hosted in the Network Shelters: 248 women and 243 children²⁹. Of the total number of women and children hosted, 33 were refugee women, and 49 were refugee children. Additionally, based on the date of entry during the examined period, a total of 169 new admissions were made for accommodation, while 180 women and children from the hosted group left during the same period to a safe destination of their choice. Gender-based violence against the hosted women was the most frequent form of violence during the nine-month reporting period, with 83% (206) of the recorded incidents, compared to incidents of multiple discrimination, which made up 17% (42). During the reporting period, 81% of the hosted women reported having children, and 19% reported not having children. Of the total **248** children hosted, 20% (49) were refugee children. Additionally, 65.7% of the children were girls under 18 years old, and 34.3% were boys under 12 years old. The most common form of violence for the entire eleven-month reporting period in the shelters was **domestic violence**, making up **82%** of all recorded forms of violence. Much smaller percentages were recorded for rape cases (3%) and victims of trafficking (3%).

Nearly 1 in 2 hosted women reported the perpetrator as their **current or former spouse (51%)**, and nearly 1 in 4 (26%) reported a partner (current/former), while 14%

²⁸The data refers to 19 out of the 20 Shelters in the GSEHR network of structures, as the Shelter for Women Victims of Gender-Based Violence or/and Multiple Discriminations in the Municipality of Central Corfu and the Diapontia Islands reopened in May.

²⁹ Capacity of Shelters in Structures: approximately 400 safe housing spaces for women and their minor children.

of the women beneficiaries reported that the perpetrator was another family member.

SOS Helpline 15900

During the reporting period, a total of **6,488³⁰** calls were recorded, of which 4,250 concerned "violence incidents" and 1,339 concerned "useful information." Of the total number of calls recorded by the 24/7 SOS Helpline related to violence incidents, 71% were from women beneficiaries, and 29% concerned third parties. Of the total calls recorded, 9 out of 10 (91%) were first-time calls to the 24/7 SOS Helpline, 7% were second-time calls, and 1% of the beneficiaries called for the third or fourth time. Additionally, **domestic violence continues to represent the largest percentage, 84%**, of all forms of gender-based violence recorded on the SOS 15900 Helpline during the reporting period. 3% of calls concerned sexual harassment, while 1% of calls were related to rape incidents. Of the forms of abuse reported, the most common was **psychological violence (71%)**, followed by verbal violence (60%), physical violence (45%), economic violence (8%), and sexual violence (5%). Additionally, 45% of the callers reported living with the perpetrator (Table 1).

Table 1: Forms of Gender-Based Violence in the Context of Domestic Violence

(01-01-2024 to 30-09-2024)³¹

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OFFENDER	TOTAL	PHYSICAL	PSYCHOLOGICAL	SEXUAL	VERBAL	ECONOMIC	UNSPECIFIED	COHABITATION
Spouse	1.295	725	1.047	23	951	151	32	967
Ex-Spouse	182	64	156	7	122	29	6	15

³⁰ Irrelevant calls and hoaxes, etc., are not analyzed in the 3rd Annual Report of the GSEHR.

³¹ It should be noted that more than one answer may be given, as multiple forms of gender-based violence (psychological, physical, sexual, etc.) often coexist.

Partner	410	231	337	9	280	23	14	230
Ex- partner	232	81	205	10	148	10	1	9
Father	123	60	85	14	75	3	4	56
Mother	98	50	68	1	55	3	6	46
Brother/Sister	91	48	58	1	52	8	3	16
Child	141	91	102	0	90	26	5	68
Other member Family	52	12	39	6	29	4	1	5
Third known Party	195	39	108	74	70	4	5	6
Unknown Party	19	6	9	5	4	0	1	0
Unspecified	7	2	3	0	2	2	2	0
<No data>	283							
Total	3.128	1.409	2.217	150	1.878	263	80	1.418

Finally, during the reporting period, the women beneficiaries who called the Helpline reported abuse **primarily by their husband (current or former) at 47%, by their partner (current or former) at 20%**, while in smaller percentages, the beneficiaries reported abuse by a third known person (6%), their child (5%), and their father (4%), with the same percentage (3%) for siblings and their mother. 9% of the beneficiaries did not disclose details about their relationship with the perpetrator.

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