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## **ANNEX: Compilation of recommendations from the Finnish Human Rights Centre/NHRI for the consideration of the Government mid-term report on Istanbul Convention 2023**

### **I. Fundamental rights, equality, and non-discrimination**

1. The HRC recommends that Finland explicitly criminalises FGM in the Criminal Code.
2. The HRC recommends that Finland immediately begins to evaluate the feasibility of criminalizing forced marriages.
3. The HRC recommends more training to relevant public sector service providers on different forms of violence against people with disabilities to increase awareness and knowledge of the issue.
4. The HRC recommends Finland ensures enough accessible shelters and low threshold victim services throughout the country and that all shelter personnel have cultural competences and culturally sensitive approach in their work. Furthermore, HRC recommends that the Act is amended or alternatively the Government assures that all the new shelters established in the future are accessible.

### **II. Comprehensive, and co-ordinated policies implemented under the responsibility of an adequately mandated and resourced co-ordinating body**

5. The HRC recommends streamlined and improved coordination of the efforts in combatting violence against women and continuation of actions over the four-year election periods.

6. The HRC recommends that the wellbeing services counties be mandated to designate a domestic violence prevention work coordinator and a multi-professional working group coordinating domestic violence prevention work. This should be done by legislative measures that would define clear responsibilities and duties for different actors in combatting violence against women.

### **III. Financial resources**

7. The HRC recommends that Finland increases significantly funding for efforts to combat violence against women and meet the minimum requirements of Istanbul Convention, including the units of family spaces in shelters and providing other low-threshold services for the victims of violence against women. This funding should be made permanent and not dependent on the will of the parliament bi-annually.

### **IV. Non-governmental organisations and civil society**

8. The HRC recommends that Finland secures long-term funding for organisations working on combatting violence against women to ensure continuity of the low threshold services they provide.

### **V. Data collection and research**

9. The HRC recommends that whenever possible the publicly funded research incorporates an intersectional approach and provides disaggregated information.
10. The HRC recommends that Finland provides funding for research that would study the operationalisation and effects of amended provisions on sexual offences in the Criminal Code.

### **VI. Custody, visitation rights and safety**

11. The HRC recommends that Finland conducts substantive research on how violence is recognised and considered in the decisions regarding custody and visitation rights. Similar research should be conducted with regard personnel in social services as in many cases they either decide or at least monitor visitations and custody.

### **VII. Immediate response, prevention and protection**

12. The HRC recommends Finland to ensure that cases of violence against women are investigated in a proper and timely manner to secure the rights of the victims. This could be done by mandatory capacity-building training on violence against women to sensitise law enforcement officials about the serious and multifaceted nature of the violence against women and increase their knowledge of the matter.

13. The HRC recommends that relevant professionals, particularly in the field of social and health care, are trained with relevant skills to identify signs of violence.

### **VIII. Emergency barring, restraining or protection orders**

NA

### **IX. Specific recommendations (mediation and deportation)**

14. The HRC recommends that Finland evaluates whether police should have the authority to propose a mediation process to victims. Also, more attention should be paid to recognising repetitive violence and not allowing those cases being mediated.
15. HRC recommends that Finland amends section 54, subsection 7 of the Aliens Act to remove the requirement of sufficient financial resources for issuing individual residence permits in such cases.

### **X. Other issues**

16. The HRC recommends that Finland repeals the section 2 of the Act on Sterilisation.
17. The HRC recommends that Finland introduce a legal ban on medically unnecessary procedures on intersex children without their free and informed prior consent.
18. The HRC recommends that the use of gender as grounds for increasing the punishment is monitored and analysed to improve the recognition and the penalisation of gender-motivated hate crimes.