



**Council of Europe Convention on
preventing and combating violence
against women and domestic violence
(Istanbul Convention)**

**First State Report
of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

October 2022

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1. Introduction

The Council of Europe Convention of 11 May 2011 on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) entered into force on 1 August 2014. Liechtenstein signed the Istanbul Convention on 10 November 2016 and ratified it on 17 June 2021. The Convention entered into force for Liechtenstein on 1 October 2021. The ratification reflects Liechtenstein's concern to strengthen the prevention and prosecution of violence against women and domestic violence in Liechtenstein.

This State report, which was adopted by the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein on 4 October 2022, is submitted to the competent Group of Experts (GREVIO) in accordance with Article 68 of the Istanbul Convention. This is Liechtenstein's first State report within the framework of review of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. The report was drafted on the basis of the GREVIO questionnaire of 11 March 2016 on legislative and other measures giving effect to the Istanbul Convention. It contains the legislative, administrative, and other measures to implement the Convention.

Preparation of the report was coordinated by the Office for Foreign Affairs (AAA), drawing on input from the offices responsible for the substantive issues. Relevant information was prepared in particular by the Office of Social Services (ASD), the Office of Justice (AJU), the Migration and Passport Office (APA), the Office of Education, the National Police, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, and the Court of Justice. Information and data from the Victims Assistance Office (OHS) as well as from the Children and Youth Service and the Psychiatric-Psychological Service (via the Office of Social Services) and other authorities and institutions were also taken into account. Information on the activities of various non-governmental organisations and the private sector was also consulted.

The data and information primarily refer to the years 2020 and 2021. Otherwise, the most recent data and information are used.

The texts of all the laws and ordinances referred to in the report are available at www.gesetze.li.

2. Policies and data collection

(Chapter II of the Convention, Articles 7 to 11)

2.1 Strategies and action plans

For many years, Liechtenstein has demonstrated its commitment to protecting human rights and, in particular, to strengthening and protecting women's rights. Liechtenstein's ratification of the Istanbul Convention was a further sign of the country's ongoing and consistent efforts at the national and international level to strengthen and protect women's rights and to protect women from violence. Liechtenstein protects women from violence and domestic violence on the basis of its comprehensive violence protection legislation and sexual criminal law, as well as its specific legislation on the protection of victims of violence set out in the Victim Support Act (OHG)¹.

On the basis of the forms of cooperation outlined in this report, Liechtenstein is able to ensure the development and implementation of State-wide effective, comprehensive, and coordinated policies for a holistic response to violence against women as required under Article 7 of the Convention.

Focus areas

The current focus of the State's engagement in combating violence against women and domestic violence is on the work of the State's regulatory structures such as the National Police, the Threat Management Services of the National Police, and the Victims Assistance Office. A further focus is on the annual awareness-raising work in the context of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and financial support provided to civil society actors such as the Liechtenstein Women's Shelter, infra – Information and Counselling Centre for Women, the Probation Service, the Liechtenstein Crisis Intervention Team (KIT), and the Association for Men's Issues. The Coordination Group for Implementation of the Istanbul Convention took up its work in November 2021.

The public authorities' engagement is based on strategic plans reviewed and adjusted annually by the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Equal Opportunities Unit of the Office of Social Services. In autumn 2022, the development of a comprehensive gender equality strategy will be launched in close cooperation between governmental and non-governmental bodies.

Actors

In Liechtenstein, the tasks relating to the measures to prevent and combat the forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention are carried out in a coordinated manner by several authorities and NGOs (mostly on the basis of a service agreement with the State).

The main actors of official inter-institutional cooperation are the **Office of Social Services** (Equal Opportunities Unit, Children and Youth Service, and Psychiatric-Psychological

¹ Victim Support Act (*Opferhilfegesetz*, OHG), LGBl. 2007 No. 228, LR 312.2.

Service), the **National Police**, the **Office of the Public Prosecutor**, the **Migration and Passport Office**, and the **Victims Assistance Office**.

Several multi-agency working groups, some of which include NGOs, deal with preventing and combating various forms of violence, guaranteeing a coordinated, State-wide approach to developing effective measures. For example, the **Working Group on Domestic Violence** is composed of the Office of Social Services, the Migration and Passport Office, the Victims Assistance Office, *infra*, and the Women's Shelter. As needed, the Working Group also invites other offices or institutions, such as representatives of the National Police, the Court of Justice, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, and the Probation Service, to coordinate its work. The **Round Table on Human Trafficking** is composed of the National Police, the Victims Assistance Office, the Office of Economic Affairs (AVW), the Migration and Passport Office, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, and the Office for Foreign Affairs. A further relevant actor is the **Expert Group on Protection from Sexual Abuse** (see [Chapter 4.4](#)).

The **Violence Protection Commission (GSK)** has representatives of the National Police, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Office of Social Services, the Office of Education, Open Youth Work, and the Office for Foreign Affairs. The GSK is primarily concerned with violence that occurs in the public sphere and threatens fundamental values of society. A further focus is on specific forms of youth violence. Within the Violence Protection Commission, a specialist group headed by the Office of Social Services deals with extremist violence.

Pursuant to the Victim Support Act, the **Victims Assistance Office** ensures that the interests and rights of victims are duly taken into account in these working groups. The work with perpetrators by the Psychiatric-Psychological Service of the Office of Social Services and the Probation Service likewise focuses on the protection of victims. Victims also receive support from the Liechtenstein Crisis Intervention Team. All institutions, authorities, and NGOs working in this field benefit from a tight network, work closely together, and meet regularly in the context of several NGO dialogues.

Networking with **civil society** takes place through regular exchanges (e.g. the Equal Opportunities Unit of the Office of Social Services meets regularly with national NGOs). The most important civil society partners of the State in preventing and combating violence include the Women's Shelter, *infra*, the Probation Service, KIT, the Association for Human Rights in Liechtenstein (VMR), and the Association for Men's Issues.

Specific examples of implementation

In cooperation with various NGOs, the Government participates in the international campaign "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence", which takes place annually between 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) and 10 December (International Human Rights Day). The aim of the campaign is to raise public awareness of the issue of violence against women, to raise the visibility of counselling centres, and to demonstrate non-violent solutions. During this campaign, the Equal Opportunities Unit of the ASD, in cooperation with the Women's Shelter, has for many years carried out the awareness campaign "Violence – No way!" (*Gewalt kommt*

nicht in die Tüte)²: About 33,000 bread bags are distributed in Liechtenstein bakeries with the campaign slogan, a list of all support organisations, and emergency numbers. Given that the resident population is just under 40 000, the number of bread bags distributed contributes to the wide reach of the campaign. Thanks to the fact that the bread bag campaign is officially launched by the Minister of Social Affairs in the presence of the media, it is given further weight and social attention.

See [Chapter 3.1](#) for a further discussion of specific campaigns and programmes.

2.2 Financial resources

The Office of Social Services, which has primary responsibility for measures to prevent violence and protect women from violence, has human and financial resources available in the areas of prevention (Equal Opportunities Unit), counselling (Psychiatric-Psychological Service and Social Service), and protection (Children and Youth Service). When preparing the annual budget for the following year, the ASD checks whether the resources are sufficient or whether they need to be adjusted.

At the National Police, the Threat Management Services with a Domestic Violence Coordination Unit was created in 2019 with one full-time equivalent position.

Numerous civil society actors relevant to the responsibilities under the Istanbul Convention receive financial support from the State by way of service agreements (see [Chapter 2.3](#)).

With the financial resources budgeted each year, Liechtenstein is able to finance the measures necessary to prevent and combat the forms of violence that fall within the scope of the Istanbul Convention. Adequate human resources are also available for this purpose.

2.3 Cooperation with NGOs and civil society

All NGOs working on preventing and combating forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention receive financial support from the State under **service agreements**. For example, the expenses for the operation, infrastructure, and human resources of the Women's Shelter are borne entirely by the State. *infra*, the Probation Service, the Crisis Intervention Team, and the Association for Men's Issues have likewise concluded service agreements with the State. NGOs are also able to apply for financial support for specific projects. Cooperation between public authorities, NGOs, and civil society is accordingly very close. Regular exchanges also take place via the annual NGO Dialogue on Human Rights Issues hosted by the Office for Foreign Affairs, which encourages networking. The NGO Dialogue on the Istanbul Convention, which was initiated by the coordinating body upon ratification, is a further opportunity to exchange views on specific topics (see [Chapter 2.4](#)).

² The transnational intervention programme against domestic violence "S.I.G.N.A.L.", which had been approved by the Government, concluded in 2010. This gave rise to the annual awareness campaign "Violence – No way!" under the leadership of the Equal Opportunities Unit of the Office of Social Services.

Since it was established at the end of 2016, the **Association for Human Rights in Liechtenstein** has received an annual contribution from the State. In November 2019, the Liechtenstein Parliament decided to maintain this contribution in the amount of CHF 350 000 annually for the years 2020 through 2023.

For 30 years, the Liechtenstein **Women's Shelter** has offered counselling and emergency housing to women and children affected by domestic violence. The Government supports this indispensable organisation through a service agreement in the amount of CHF 320 000 each year, which covers the administrative expenses of the Women's Shelter. Women affected by violence also receive counselling and support from **infra**. A service agreement has been concluded with **infra** in the amount of CHF 220 000 as compensation for professional, need-oriented, and women-specific services.

Work with perpetrators is also important as a preventive approach against violence. The **Liechtenstein Probation Service** association accompanies suspects, convicts, inmates, and releasees as well as victims. It is an important partner in the prevention of violence, especially by working with perpetrators to consider the causes and consequences of their offences and in order to achieve social reintegration and prevention of recidivism. The services provided by the association are fully funded by the State as part of an agreement with the Government.

The **Association for Men's Issues** also advises, supports, and sensitises men who use or are willing to use violence. A service agreement was concluded with the Association for Men's Issues at the beginning of 2022. On the basis of this service agreement, the Association for Men's Issues provides counselling services for men and couples; these services are compensated with CHF 100 000 per year. In emergency situations, the Association for Men's Issues provides housing and living space for men or fathers and their families.

The **Psychiatric-Psychological Service** of the Office of Social Services also intervenes in cases of domestic violence and offers support measures to both victims and perpetrators.

2.4 Coordinating body under Article 10 of the Convention

In October 2021, the Government established a Coordination Group chaired by the Office of Social Services, whose mandate includes coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating policies and other measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention. Apart from the Office of Social Services (Projects Unit and Equal Opportunities Unit), the Coordination Group includes the Office for Foreign Affairs, the Migration and Passport Office, the National Police (Threat Management Services), and the Victims Assistance Office. The professional backgrounds of the Coordination Group members include especially law, psychology, education, and social work. The Coordination Group can consult other specialists as needed.

At least once a year, the Coordination Group must conduct its own NGO Dialogue. The members of the Coordination Group perform their tasks relating to implementation of the Istanbul Convention within their existing areas of responsibility and the budgets allocated

to their offices. The Coordination Group held working meetings in November 2021 and March 2022. In February 2022, the Coordination Group conducted a survey of both governmental and non-governmental institutions in order to obtain an overview of the thematic areas in which the institutions are active, what services, measures, projects, brochures, etc. are available, what challenges exist, and where action may be needed. The first NGO Dialogue on 29 June 2022 was structured as a specialist exchange to which both public authorities and NGOs were invited. In a next step, the Coordination Group will submit a report to the Government containing possible recommendations based on its work in 2022.

The chair of the Coordination Group also participated in a virtual meeting of the coordinating bodies of the German-speaking countries (Switzerland, Austria, Germany, and Luxembourg) in June 2021. The next virtual meeting is scheduled for autumn 2022 to agree on the thematic priorities of an in-person meeting in June 2023.

2.5 Data collection

In Liechtenstein, several institutions collect data on forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention. To meet the requirements of data protection, data is collected in pseudonymised form, reporting only on the gender of the victims and perpetrators and subdivided into adults, adolescents, and children, type of violent act or offence, relationship between victim and perpetrator, and place where the act was committed. The **Victims Assistance Office** collects information on the type of offence and the gender and age of victims. The **National Police** records the type of offence, the gender of the victim and the perpetrator, information on the background of the case (victim-offender relationship), subdividing the perpetrators into adults, adolescents (14-18 years), or children (<14 years). The **Office of the Public Prosecutor** maintains an electronic register which includes the type of offence (e.g. bodily harm or dangerous threat). Violent offences against women and domestic violence are not marked separately, however, so it is not possible to retrieve from the register how many violent offences were directed against women and whether the case involved domestic violence. Differentiated statistics are therefore not kept.³

The **Women's Shelter** also collects figures on incoming requests for admission and the further treatment of those requests. However, this data provides only an overview of the cases in which women turned to the Women's Shelter and accordingly does not constitute a representative statistical survey. Moreover, women from neighbouring Swiss cantons are also admitted to the Women's Shelter and are included in the statistics. The data is broken down by age and marital status of women and children affected by violence, as well as by the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim.

Other institutions such as the Liechtenstein Employees' Association (LANV), infra, the Association for Human Rights in Liechtenstein, and the Association for Men's Issues also collect data on counselling, sexual harassment, stalking, bullying, etc., only part of which falls within the scope of the Istanbul Convention.

³ An excerpt of the current data relating to the Office of the Public Prosecutor can be found in the annual accountability report of the Liechtenstein Parliament, the Government, and the courts [<https://www.llv.li/inhalt/12281/amtsstellen/rechenschaftsbericht>].

The Istanbul Convention provides that the data collected must be made available to GREVIO and the public. The above-mentioned data from the National Police, the Victims Assistance Office, and the Women's Shelter are made public in their **annual reports**.⁴ On the Statistics Portal,⁵ The Liechtenstein Office of Statistics also publishes data on health and violence as well as domestic violence.

With the aim of continuously improving the data situation, the Coordination Group met on 27 April 2022 with the Office of Statistics, which will support the Coordination Group in data collection and analysis. The planned crime statistics, which will be prepared by the Office of Statistics in cooperation with the National Police, will also categorise violence against women and domestic violence in accordance with the Istanbul Convention. The aim is to make it possible to draw on an improved data situation starting in 2024.

2.6 Research

The "Violence must not have a home" study from 2003, which was prepared as part of the Interreg project "Crossing boundaries – Setting boundaries", examined domestic violence in the Austrian state of Vorarlberg, the Swiss canton of Graubünden, and Liechtenstein. So far, this has been the only study on this topic in Liechtenstein. The representative data collection was carried out by way of telephone interviews. The summary of the study was published in a brochure ("Because walls cannot speak, they protect perpetrators").⁶ The products of this Interreg project included emergency cards in eight languages (see [Chapter 3.1](#)) and the guide for family members, which are still used in revised form today.

2.7 Population-based surveys

The annual human rights report⁷ of the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein provides information on youth violence, racially motivated offences, and domestic violence. Specific population studies analysing the prevalence and development of all forms of violence falling within the scope of the Convention have not yet been conducted.

3. Prevention

(Chapter III of the Convention, Articles 12 to 17)

3.1 Campaigns and programmes – awareness-raising

Government activities contribute to raising public awareness about the forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention.

In cooperation with various NGOs, the Government participates each year in the international campaign "**16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence**" (see

⁴ Annual reports of the National Police [<https://www.landespolizei.li/ueber-uns/jahresberichte>], annual reports of the Victims Assistance Office [<https://www.llv.li/inhalt/145/amtsstellen/publikationen>], annual reports of the Women's Shelter [<https://frauenhaus.li>].

⁵ Liechtenstein Statistics Portal [<https://www.statistikportal.li/de>].

⁶ Available at [https://www.llv.li/files/scg/pdf-llv-scg-studie_gewalt.pdf].

⁷ Facts and Figures on the Human Rights Situation in Liechtenstein 2021, April 2022 [<https://www.llv.li/files/aaa/statusbericht-menschenrechte-2021.pdf>].

discussion in [Chapter 2.1](#)). Over the course of these 16 days, the Women's Shelter also launches a nationwide street campaign, "**Speech Bubbles**",⁸ in which stickers are placed in public places such as post offices and on all public busses with statements such as "Stop violence against women", "With courage against violence", and "Violence leaves traces". Since 2018, the Government Building and Parliament Building have been lit up in orange at the opening of the "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" on 25 November of each year. This action was initiated by NGOs as a call against violence against women.

Each year, the Equal Opportunities Unit of the Office of Social Affairs prints **emergency cards in eight languages**⁹ providing information about domestic violence, with the telephone numbers of important institutions and contact points. The emergency cards are displayed in medical facilities such as doctors' offices and the National Hospital, as well as in public buildings with counter service (municipal administrations and the National Administration). The offices are also provided with guidance for relatives, acquaintances, neighbours, and work colleagues on how to act and help in an adequate way, along with information on professional help and support options.

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Victims Assistance Office in 2018, the Working Group on Domestic Violence conducted a **campaign** to raise awareness about the negative impact of domestic violence and violence in public spaces. The campaign included several articles in Liechtenstein's national newspapers, presenting the work of the Victims Assistance Office, the Probation Service, and the Women's Shelter, and providing general information about violence, violence in public spaces, domestic violence, violence against women, and sexual harassment in the workplace. Advertisements were also placed in the newspapers.

In May 2019, infra and the Women's Shelter organised a joint **event** on the Istanbul Convention. Following a presentation of the Convention by the Office for Foreign Affairs, representatives of the National Police, infra, and the Women's Shelter reported on their practical experience.

In 2022, the cross-border **campaign "Sexual harassment in public spaces"** was launched under the motto "No place for sexism" – "My body. My space. My right". Initiated by infra and aha – Tips & Info for Young People, the campaign is cosponsored by the Equal Opportunities Unit of the Office of Social Affairs and the gender equality offices of the Swiss cantons of St. Gallen and Appenzell Ausserrhoden. Posters are placed in public spaces, sending a signal against sexual harassment in daily life and calling on the public to reflect, observe, and become aware of the extent of sexual harassment in public spaces. The campaign is also intended to encourage people to question common gender roles and hierarchies. Several events will also be held, such as an **event** on "Sexism in the Workplace" planned for autumn 2022. In view of this event, the Equal Opportunities Unit of the ASD will revise and reissue the brochure "Sexual harassment in the workplace".

⁸ The street campaign has been held each year since 2014.

⁹ German, Albanian, English, Italian, Portuguese, Serbian, Spanish and Turkish.

Other organisations are active in the field of sensitisation and awareness-raising, such as the Probation Service and the Association for Men's Issues (see [Chapter 2.3](#)). "**GewaltFREI**" (No Violence) – a multisectoral child and youth campaign for the prevention of violence in child-rearing – has been raising public awareness since 2021. In 2022, the Office of Social Services also concluded a **service agreement** with Pro Juventute Switzerland, which includes round-the-clock parental counselling. Through this service, parents and caregivers of children and young people can receive free and anonymous help 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in minor or major crisis situations by phone, email, or chat.

The **Expert Group on Protection from Sexual Abuse** raises concerns relating to the sexual abuse of children and young people, providing a network for public authorities, institutions, and professionals working in the field of sexual abuse. It carries out awareness-raising and public relations work, reviews the legal provisions and official regulations, and arranges for implementation of the country-specific requirements of the Lanzarote Convention.¹⁰ For (initial) counselling in this sensitive area, the Principality of Liechtenstein concluded a service agreement with the Institute for Social Services Vorarlberg (ifs) in 2020. Since then, free and low-threshold (initial) counselling has been provided (anonymously, if desired) by ifs Child Protection Vorarlberg. The Expert Group published a new flyer in 2022 and operates a website.¹¹

In addition, the Office of Social Services has in recent years also addressed the danger of sexual abuse of children and young people and child pornography as part of its **projects on dealing with new media**. The brochures "Talk about digital media with children!"¹² and "Talk about digital media with young people!"¹³ published by the Office of Social Services provide parents with tips and information on responsible use of media by children and young people. Topics such as sexting, cybergrooming, and handling of personal data are covered in the brochures.

In order to better protect children against sexual violence, the interactive **prevention project "My body belongs to me!"** developed by the Swiss Foundation for the Protection of Children is made available on a permanent basis to the pupils in the third year of Liechtenstein primary schools. The Sophie von Liechtenstein Foundation is active in the areas of sex education and pregnancy counselling. The Foundation was established in 2006 by the Princely House of Liechtenstein. It is financed by funds from the Princely House and by donations. **love.li** is the foundation's sexual education office that offers advice and help to children and young people – and thus also girls and young women in Liechtenstein and the region – on questions of their sexuality. It also organises regular workshops on sexuality for schoolchildren. The foundation runs the **schwanger.li**¹⁴ counselling office, which advises and supports pregnant women in Liechtenstein and the region, if necessary also for the longer term.

¹⁰ Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention), LGBl. 2015 No. 255, LR 0.311.40.

¹¹ [<https://www.stoppkindsmissbrauch.li>].

¹² [<http://www.llv.li/files/asd/medien-primar-web-2016.pdf>].

¹³ [<http://www.llv.li/files/asd/medien-sekundaar-web-2016.pdf>].

¹⁴ [<https://www.schwanger.li>].

The **NetzWerk health promotion association** and the aha association likewise support schools in the field of prevention and sexual education. Also noteworthy is the **kinderschutz.li association**, which is dedicated to the prevention of violence, bullying, and abuse. In cooperation with specialists, it offers workshops for children, parents, and teachers. On the basis of the "Early childhood in Liechtenstein" study published in 2019, the Liechtenstein Family Network prevention project was created by the Sophie von Liechtenstein Foundation and the Liechtenstein Red Cross. The prevention project provides preventive support for families with children in distressed life situations. An Expert Group for Media Literacy was also established in 2014, serving as a contact point for new media and related phenomena (see [Chapters 3.2](#) and [3.6](#)).

3.2 Prevention of violence – teaching material

Issues such as equality between women and men, mutual respect, non-violent conflict resolution in interpersonal relationships, gender-based violence against women, and the right to personal integrity are included at multiple levels of education in Liechtenstein.

The Liechtenstein Curriculum (LiLe)¹⁵ entered into effect in 2019 on the basis of the Swiss Curriculum 21. The Liechtenstein Curriculum describes the basic understanding of education and the orientation of public schools. Based on the fundamental rights as formulated in the Liechtenstein Constitution and supported by the Education Act, public schools are guided by the following values:

- They are based on Christian, humanistic, and democratic values.
- They are neutral with regard to politics, religions, and denominations.
- They promote equal opportunities.
- They promote gender equality.
- They oppose all forms of discrimination.
- They awaken and promote an understanding of social justice, democracy, and the preservation of the natural environment.
- They promote mutual respect in living together with other people, especially with regard to cultures, religions, and ways of life.
- They assume that children and young people have different learning needs, and they take a constructive approach to diversity.
- They contribute to social cohesion in a pluralistic society.

Competencies in these areas are acquired and developed in the subject designated as "Nature, Humans, Society" and, at Secondary Level I, in "Ethics and Religions" and "Life Studies and Professional Orientation". The competence area "Identity, body, health – knowing and caring for oneself" also leads to a self-determined and responsible sexuality of the children and adolescents. In dealing with topics such as physical self-determination and development, friendship, love, and contraception, the children and young people learn to advocate for their feelings and needs with self-confidence, to be aware of boundaries of others, and to set their own boundaries.

¹⁵ [<https://www.lile.li/>].

School Social Work has been active at all Liechtenstein secondary schools since 2008. School Social Work is now being expanded at the level of the primary schools in the municipalities, with completion scheduled in 2023, providing low-threshold support at schools for students and teachers. In sex education, School Social Work also involves organisations such as Freelance and provides group- and class-specific support as needed. Violence prevention education makes use of methods such as the "kraftprotz"¹⁶ fighting games, where school social workers train fairness with the children using the "inner referee" as well as fighting with and not against each other. School social workers' involvement in sex education and violence prevention also involves the discussion of case studies, ongoing training, and specifically tailored projects.

An important support for schools, teachers, children, and young people is provided by the network consisting of School Social Work, the School Psychological Service, and the Centre for School Media. A current project of the Expert Group for Media Literacy is the live **media prevention performance "angedlickt"**,¹⁷ which focuses on dealing with media. The live performance is provided for three age groups: angedlickt KIDS (1st/2nd grade primary school), angedlickt Junior (4th/5th grade middle school), and angedlickt (7th-9th grade secondary school and adults). The Freelance prevention programme¹⁸ of the prevention agencies of nine Swiss cantons and Liechtenstein offers teaching materials for secondary schools. The digital media package includes teaching units on cybergrooming and sexting. The learning objectives are to provide information and raise awareness about these topics.

The interactive traveling exhibition "Love Limits" also serves to raise awareness on sexual violence among young people. Sexual harassment and similar abuses using electronic media are addressed, and options are presented for getting help. The exhibition was shown in Liechtenstein for the first time in September 2017 and can be visited by secondary school classes. The exhibition in Liechtenstein is organised by the Office of Education in cooperation with love.li, the Bureau for Sexual Matters and HIV Prevention, and the Sophie von Liechtenstein Foundation for Women and Children.

The "Role Models" travelling exhibition is organised by the Equal Opportunities Unit in cooperation with secondary schools at regular intervals (2019: Lower Country secondary schools, 2022: Triesen secondary schools). The exhibition includes an interactive parkour as well as workshops with the school classes. The young people question role models and their own role perceptions and become aware of the effects of role stereotypes on fairness, justice, and gender equality.

The Swiss framework curricula are used for the general education objectives of professional training, given that the scholastic component of professional training is provided entirely in Switzerland.

¹⁶ [<https://kraftprotz.net/>].

¹⁷ [<https://www.angedlickt.li/>].

¹⁸ [<https://be-freelance.net/de/>].

3.3 Training of professionals

Following the GREVIO questionnaire, the following section discusses the training and development of (selected) professional groups relevant to the Istanbul Convention. No detailed data is available for these comments, however.

Migration and Passport Office

The Asylum and Legal Sections at the Migration and Passport Office (APA) have staff with specialised training and the necessary knowledge for purposes of the Istanbul Convention. Their training after taking up their duties includes "Prevention and detection of violence", "Equality between women and men", and "Needs and rights of victims". Employees also receive training on multi-agency cooperation. Moreover, APA employees are free to participate in general and further training on the topics set out in Article 15 of the Convention. The costs are generally covered by the regular national budget. The APA is also represented in the Coordination Group on the Istanbul Convention, in the NGO Working Group on Domestic Violence, and in the Round Table on Human Trafficking, which also deal with violence against women and domestic violence and contribute to ongoing awareness-raising. In the area of asylum, participation in further training on the treatment of victims of human trafficking in connection with asylum is promoted.

National Police

Dealing with situations of domestic violence and violence against women, as well as the treatment of victims of crime, are an integral part of police training. All police officers have received training in the course of their professional lives that covers the essential categories of initial training.¹⁹ The police keeps track internally of which training courses are completed, but a specific evaluation on this topic is not possible. At the National Police, the police psychologist serves as the Domestic Violence Coordination Unit. She is responsible for raising awareness and coaching of police officers in connection with domestic violence. She monitors all police interventions relating to domestic violence and subsequently discusses the specific intervention measures with the police officers (e.g. issuing or waiving protective measures such as prohibition of entry or expulsion). In this way, ongoing reflection on police action in cases of domestic violence and continuous optimisation of police competence are ensured.

Office of Social Services

Staff in the Psychiatric-Psychological Service of the Office of Social Affairs have completed studies in psychology or medicine, specialising in psychiatry, and some have also received additional training in areas such as psychotherapy. Broad qualifications exist with experience in areas such as domestic violence and gender-based violence, trauma consequences, and stress management.

¹⁹ According to the GREVIO questionnaire, these are "Prevention and detection of violence", "Standards of intervention", "Equality between women and men", "Needs and rights of victims", "Prevention of secondary victimisation", "Multi-agency cooperation", "Knowledge required for qualification to practice the profession", and "Length of curriculum".

Office of Education

The Office of Education offers a continuing training programme specifically adapted to the needs of teachers, covering topics such as trauma pedagogy, fighting games, dealing with violence, violence prevention approaches, etc. The Crisis Compass manual,²⁰ which was introduced in 2012, is used in Liechtenstein as guidance for all schools and covers topics such as abuse, bullying, conflicts, etc. With the introduction of the manual in the schools and the implementation of a school-internal crisis team, the teachers are sensitised to these issues.

Office of the Public Prosecutor

The eight public prosecutors regularly attend basic and continuing training courses on the treatment of victims of crime. For example, a training event has been hosted by the Expert Group on Protection from Sexual Abuse on the topic of young people who commit sexual assaults. A female public prosecutor represents the Office of the Public Prosecutor in the regular meetings of the Expert Group on Protection from Sexual Abuse. She shares relevant information with the other prosecutors during team meetings. In 2020 and 2021, no prosecutor participated in explicit training as referred to in Article 15 of the Convention, however.

Health services

There is a general continuing training requirement for health care professionals in Liechtenstein (Article 13 of the Public Health Act; GesG)²¹, especially also for physicians (Article 12(1) of the Physicians Act)²². According to the training guidelines of the Medical Association, at least half of the required training points must be completed in the specialist area of the physician; beyond this, training courses outside the specialist area can also be completed, such as dealing with violence. In September 2020, for example, the Threat Management Services of the National Police held a specific training event for physicians and nurses on dealing with domestic violence. The event focused on the detection, interpretation, and documentation of injuries that may indicate domestic violence. The event also highlighted the new continuing training programme on forensic nursing. Forensic nurses acquire knowledge and techniques to detect and treat victims of violence and to document evidence.

Victims Assistance Office

The staff of the Victims Assistance Office (OHS) have received basic and continuing training throughout their careers that covers the essential categories of initial training.²³ Victims Assistance Office staff members regularly take part in information and training events. For one year, they attend the specialised course on victim support at the Bern University of Applied Sciences. The main topics are the social protection of victims, victims' rights in criminal proceedings, domestic violence (outpatient counselling; being a

²⁰ The Crisis Compass is made available to schools in the form of an A4 folder, containing case studies, sample texts, instructions for symbolic actions, crisis plans, important telephone numbers, links, etc. This manual provides school directors, teachers, and authorities with everything they need to interact with young people, parents, and staff in all crisis situations, enabling them to respond as quickly and autonomously as possible.

²¹ Public Health Act (*Gesundheitsgesetz*, GesG), LGBl. 2008 No. 30, LR 811.01.

²² Physicians Act (*Ärztegesetz*), LGBl. 2003 No. 239, LR 811.12.

²³ See footnote above on National Police.

man – being a victim; work of prosecution authorities, taking into account domestic violence), basic knowledge of trauma, children as victims (psychotraumatology of childhood; interaction of victim support and child protection under civil law), victims of domestic violence (issues under immigration law), and interdisciplinary cooperation. Together, the individual modules of the specialised course amount to approximately 17 working days.

Lawyers

For the first time in the winter of 2020, the Liechtenstein Chamber of Lawyers and the Chair of Company, Foundation and Trust Law at the University of Liechtenstein offered a training course for lawyers with a focus on Liechtenstein. The criminal law component included a discussion of how to deal with violent crimes and sex crimes.

3.4 Preventive intervention and treatment programmes for perpetrators

Perpetrators convicted in Liechtenstein serve their sentences in **Austrian prisons** on the basis of a treaty with Austria.²⁴ Liechtenstein prisoners therefore have access to the same services in Austrian prisons as Austrian prisoners. These include anti-violence training, care by the prison's psychological service, and individual therapy for sex offenders and violent offenders.

Anti-violence groups focus on acquiring self-confidence, offence work, victim empathy, coming to terms with one's own offence history, communication work, conversational behaviour, conflict management, self-perception and perception of others, giving and receiving feedback, stress management, perception of feelings, moral action and empathy, contact and communication training, gender stereotypes, and substance abuse prevention.

The anti-violence programmes encourage changes in the behaviour of the violent person with the aim of eliminating all physical and non-physical forms of violence from their behavioural repertoire and helping them to learn non-violent behaviours built on partnership in dealing with the persons they interact with.

Pre-release detention for perpetrators is also relevant with regard to intervention and treatment programmes. Since 1 January 2018, the pre-release programme in Austrian penitentiaries has been supplemented by the option of a regional pre-release programme as provided for in Articles 127 et seq. of the Execution of Sentences Act (StVG)²⁵ in the nearby **Swiss penal institution Saxerriet**. The goal is to achieve the most successful reintegration into society possible through targeted problem- and resource-oriented support in essential areas of life (including life plans, coming to terms with their criminal past, relationships, therapy). The establishment and structuring of a stable living environment are facilitated. The penal institution offers a wide range of therapies and its own health service, provides psychosocial care, including work with family members, and develops approaches with the inmates for making amends.

²⁴ Agreement between the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Republic of Austria on the Accommodation of Prisoners, LGBl. 1983 No. 39, LR 0.354.910.21.

²⁵ Execution of Sentences Act (*Strafvollzugsgesetz*, StVG), LGBl. 2007 No. 295, LR 340.

Several institutions in Liechtenstein also perform valuable work to prevent offences or to work through them with those affected. The **Liechtenstein Probation Service** association supports and accompanies suspects, convicts, prisoners, releasees, and victims. It is an important partner in the prevention of violence, in particular by working with perpetrators to come to terms with their offences and by working towards social reintegration and the prevention of recidivism. The services provided by the association are fully financed by the State under an agreement with the Government. One of the services offered by the Probation Service is violence counselling²⁶ addressed to men and women, adults and young people. In confidential individual discussions, specially trained counsellors accompany those affected on their way to a self-determined, violence-free life.

The **Association for Men's Issues** likewise advises, supports, and raises awareness among men who use or are willing to use violence, with the aim of implementing behavioural changes and non-violent conflict resolution strategies. The **Psychiatric-Psychological Service** of the Office of Social Services offers counselling as well as other support measures for both victims and perpetrators.

Liechtenstein health insurers cover the costs of therapy for perpetrators and victims.

3.5 Preventive intervention and treatment programmes for sex offenders

Please refer to [Chapter 3.4](#). On a supplementary basis, the **Psychiatric-Psychological Service** arranges referrals as needed to specialists or specialised offices both in Liechtenstein and in neighbouring countries.

3.6 Participation of the private sector and the media

The goal of the **Expert Group for Media Literacy**,²⁷ appointed by the Government on 13 May 2014 and subordinate to the Office of Social Services, is to make access to media literacy more low-threshold and barrier-free for society as a whole, helping the Liechtenstein population to navigate more competently and responsibly in the digital world. The Expert Group performs awareness-raising and prevention work, and it also organises workshops, events for parents, and so on, on request. The members of the Expert Group are the Office of Social Services (Child and Youth Protection (Chair)), the Data Protection Office, the Office of Education (School Social Work and Centre for School Media), the Office for Communications, and the Cybersecurity Unit. A purpose of this Expert Group is to coordinate existing resources, take advantage of synergy effects, and avoid duplication of effort. The Office of Social Services furthermore operates an **information platform**²⁸ that explains legal principles relevant to young people and provides information on current topics (e.g. social media). The Forum for the Protection of Young People, where questions can be asked anonymously, is very popular. Information materials on various topics, such as tips for parents on how to deal with their children's digital media use, can be found under downloads. Programmes are also available in Liechtenstein to sensitise parents and persons who are in regular contact with children to

²⁶ [<https://gewaltig.li/>].

²⁷ [<https://www.medienkompetenz.li/>].

²⁸ [<https://www.jugendschutz.li/>].

the risks to which children can be exposed when using information and communication technologies (see [Chapter 3.1](#) and [Chapter 3.2](#)). This helps to ensure that sensitisation is low-threshold.

As part of the Interreg project "Subject: women decide" (August 2015 to December 2017), the Amazone association in Bregenz was commissioned by the Department for Women and Equality in Vorarlberg, the Office for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in Graubünden, and the Office of Social Services in Liechtenstein to create a **media tutorial** on gender and media coverage. It contains tips, examples, and useful links for media workers on gender, sexism, and gender-sensitive language, with the aim of questioning role models and gender stereotypes in the media. The Equal Opportunities Unit presented the tutorial to all Liechtenstein media and made it available to advertising and graphics agencies in Liechtenstein.

In 1994 and 2004, the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein issued directives to the National Administration on the equal linguistic treatment of women and men. As a continuation and update of the previous directives, the Equal Opportunities Unit of the Office of Social Affairs drew up **guidance on gender-inclusive language**,²⁹ which the Government took note of in October 2021. All ministries and governmental offices and units were instructed by the Government to apply the guidance. The guidance is also handed out in printed form at public events and is available to the general public for download on the internet.

3.7 Participation of the private sector and the media – self-regulation of the media

The professional ethical standards of the Swiss Press Council apply to the Liechtenstein media, provided they are members of the Swiss Media Association. These standards oblige the Liechtenstein media to respect human dignity and the prohibition of discrimination in their journalistic work. In the summer of 2018, the Violence Protection Commission launched a comprehensive campaign to raise awareness among the Liechtenstein media on the topic of hate speech, which also includes derogatory public statements against women. The focus of the awareness-raising work was on the content of letters to the editor published in Liechtenstein's national newspapers.

3.8 Participation of the private sector – sexual harassment and violence against women in the workplace

Articles 2 et seq. of the Gender Equality Act (GLG)³⁰ prohibit discrimination, including sexual harassment, in all employment relationships under private and public law and in other areas of employment (Article 4 GLG). The GLG was revised in 2006 and 2011 pursuant to the adoption and transposition of EU directives. As part of the 2006 revision, the burden of proof for employers in cases of gender discrimination was extended to

²⁹ Guidance on gender-inclusive language [https://www.llv.li/files/asd/bro_geschlechtergerechtesprache_a5_2021_final_web.pdf].

³⁰ Gender Equality Act (*Gleichstellungsgesetz*, GLG), LGBl. 1999 No. 96, LR 105.1.

cases of sexual harassment and implemented.³¹ Special legal claims were also established in cases of work-related discrimination (Article 7b GLG).

With several projects, the Government has implemented measures to prevent and combat sexual harassment and bullying in the workplace. Information campaigns for employees have been carried out since 2006. Continuously updated online information is provided to employees about their rights and to employers about their obligations.³² As a further example, information brochures and flyers on the topics of gender equality, equal pay, and sexual harassment were sent to 400 workplaces.³³

Banks offer one practical example from the private sector: Most of the banks in the Liechtenstein Bankers Association have implemented a catalogue of measures against sexual harassment in the workplace. These include a code of conduct for employees prohibiting discrimination and harassment in the workplace, provisions to that effect in service regulations, and special internal directives and information sheets. Both internal (human resources departments with advisory competence) and external contact and advisory centres are available that can be used anonymously (see in particular [Chapters 4.4](#) and [4.5](#)). Several Liechtenstein companies have also signed the UN Global Compact, obligating companies to eliminate all forms of discrimination.³⁴

Several member companies of the Liechtenstein Chamber of Commerce and Industry also have internal directives or rules of conduct against sexual harassment in the workplace and offer presentations on the topic for employees and training for managers and HR officers. In some cases, the companies supplement their trained internal HR officers with external contact points who take up and deal with questions and concerns.

According to information provided by the Court of Justice, there were no civil lawsuits or proceedings before the ordinary courts for sexual harassment of women in the workplace as of 1 September 2022.

3.9 Other preventive measures

A new version of the brochure "Sexual harassment in the workplace" will be issued in 2022. The Equal Opportunities Unit of the Office of Social Services is also participating in the infra campaign on "Sexual harassment in public spaces" in 2022.

For State employment relationships, a Working Group for the Promotion of Gender Equality in the Liechtenstein National Administration developed regulations on sexual harassment and bullying in the workplace. In 2021, these were combined in one regulation which is available internally to employees. Internal and external contact points can be contacted directly by employees of the National Administration, for whom training on sexual harassment and bullying in the workplace has been provided. On grounds of

³¹ Law amending the Gender Equality Act, LGBl. 2006 No. 152, LR 105.1.

³² See especially the website of the Office of Economic Affairs: [<https://www.llv.li/inhalt/11691/amtstellen/mobbing>] and [<https://www.llv.li/inhalt/12625/amtstellen/sexuelle-belastigung-am-arbeitsplatz>].

³³ As part of the campaign "Gender equality is worth it" (2006-2009).

³⁴ Current status: [<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/engage-locally/europe/switzerland%20&%20liechtenstein>].

confidentiality, neither arrangement of the contact nor external counselling is recorded statistically. Any counselling costs are borne by the National Administration.

4. Protection and support

(Chapter IV of the Convention, Articles 18 to 28)

4.1 Access to information for victims of violence

A range of legislative and other measures are taken in Liechtenstein to provide victims with adequate and timely information on available support services and legal measures in a language they understand.

§§ 31a(1)(3) and 31b(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO)³⁵ provide a **general obligation** for law enforcement and prosecution authorities to **instruct** victims as defined in Article 1(1) of the Victim Support Act (OHG) on all their rights in criminal proceedings. Under § 31b, all authorities operating in criminal proceedings are under the obligation to inform victims of the requirements for aid by the Victims Assistance Office (OHS) no later than before their first examination. According to Article 8 OHG, it is the responsibility of the National Police, the Court of Justice, and the Office of the Public Prosecutor, in particular, to inform victims of the address and functions of the Victims Assistance Office, the options for availing themselves of victim support services, and the deadline for submitting claims for compensation. The National Police distributes the information sheets "Victim Support" and "Victim Rights" and the leaflet "Victims Assistance Office"³⁶ to affected persons.³⁷ The information is also provided verbally. In addition, perpetrators of violent crimes are actively made aware of the possibilities for violence counselling. To provide information and counselling to children and young people with whom no (adequate) communication is possible because they speak a foreign language, interpreters are generally involved.

Regular information is provided to the broad public by the Equal Opportunities Unit of the Office of Social Services, which sends out the emergency cards mentioned above each year in eight languages,³⁸ along with its guidance on "Violence in marriage and partnerships – How can I help?". The Equal Opportunities Unit also provides information on its website about domestic violence, sexual harassment (e.g. the brochure "NOT WITH ME – Sexual harassment in the workplace", which will be revised and reissued in 2022), and stalking, as well as where those affected can find support and counselling. The website of the Women's Shelter provides information about its own emergency number in nine languages.³⁹

³⁵ Code of Criminal Procedure (*Strafprozessordnung*, StPO), LGBl. 1988 No. 62, LR 312.0.

³⁶ [<https://www.llv.li/files/ohs/folder-opferhilfe.pdf>].

³⁷ See also the brochure "Adversity at home – why domestic violence is not a private matter" [https://www.landespolizei.li/application/files/3316/0438/8657/Zuhause_im_UnglAck_Version__Li.pdf].

³⁸ The emergency cards in eight languages are reissued annually and distributed in doctors' offices, hospitals, municipal administrations, and the National Administration. The guide for family members continues to be distributed together with the emergency cards. There has been consistently high demand for these brochures.

³⁹ As of 14 September 2022, the website of the Women's Shelter is being updated, so that the information is currently available only in German. This is a temporary state of affairs.

The services of the Liechtenstein Crisis Intervention Team, which is made up of specialists in psychology and psychiatry, medicine, social work, and education, are also readily accessible online.⁴⁰ The Liechtenstein Crisis Intervention Team is regularly called in by the National Police to provide access to information and direct support.

4.2 Access to general support services

The Liechtenstein **social welfare system** offers victims of violence comprehensive medical and therapeutic treatment through the health care system and health insurance.

The **Victims Assistance Office** supports persons whose physical, mental, or sexual integrity has been directly and adversely affected by a criminal offence, as well as their family members. In order for the Victims Assistance Office to become active, the requirements set out in Article 1 OHG must be fulfilled. The right exists regardless of whether the perpetrator has been identified, has acted culpably, wilfully, or negligently. The Victims Assistance Office provides or – where it is unable to do so itself – arranges the necessary medical, psychological, social, material, and legal assistance in individual cases. The Victims Assistance Office provides round-the-clock assistance for the most urgent needs arising as a result of the offence (urgent support) and provides additional assistance until the health of the person concerned has stabilised and until the other consequences of the offence have been eliminated or compensated as far as possible (longer-term support). Victims and their family members are given advice by the Victims Assistance Office or a specialist appointed by it, informed about the rights and obligations of victims in the proceedings as well as the progress of the proceedings, and supported in exercising their rights. Where necessary, the Victims Assistance Office arranges for victims to be accompanied or to be represented by authorised persons in court. As needed, the Victims Assistance Office provides emergency accommodation for the victim or family members. For issues relating to education, training, job search, and the like, the Victims Assistance Office refers victims to the competent specialised offices or places them as needed. The Victims Assistance Office can also accompany victims in this regard.

The **Psychiatric-Psychological Service** of the Office of Social Services also offers support for people with social-psychiatric problems that may be relevant to the care of victims of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention. Victims and family members can contact the service themselves or are referred to the service; in the context of violence, the referral is often made by the National Police. A psychiatric and/or psychological assessment of the specific problem is a first step, forming the basis for further action. Depending on the overall assessment of the situation, counselling is provided and recommendations are made regarding outpatient, partial inpatient, or inpatient assistance, organised and accompanied where necessary by the Psychiatric-Psychological Service. In some cases, the Psychiatric-Psychological Service may provide care or accompany the victim for the longer term. If minor children are involved, they are referred to the Children and Youth Service of the Office of Social Services in consultation with the affected persons.

⁴⁰ [<https://kit.li/>].

The **Social Service** of the Office of Social Services supports people in emergency situations by providing financial assistance to cover subsistence needs and by paying rent contributions for families and contributions to health insurance. The Social Service also helps in finding housing and in financing out-of-home care.

The **Association for Men's Issues** likewise provides counselling. The **Psychiatric-Psychological Service** of the Office of Social Services intervenes in cases such as those involving domestic violence and can offer counselling and support to both victims and perpetrators of crimes.

Victims of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention also have access to legal aid in criminal and civil proceedings, which may include exemption from legal costs (see [Chapter 6.7](#)). For information on further specialised support services, see [Chapter 4.4](#).

4.3 Assistance in individual/collective complaints

As set out in Article 14 OHG, the services of the **Victims Assistance Office** (OHS) also include legal assistance in Liechtenstein and, as needed, in neighbouring countries. The OHS advises victims and their family members and supports them in exercising their rights. It provides information on the rights and obligations of victims in criminal, civil, and administrative proceedings and on the basic procedures before courts and administrative authorities, and it provides assistance in preparing or completing simple applications and submissions. Pursuant to § 31a(2) StPO, victims are entitled, subject to Articles 12 to 14 of the Victim Support Act, to be accompanied by the Victims Assistance Office to examinations in the investigative proceedings and in the trial, and to be represented in the exercise of their rights under § 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The **Association for Human Rights in Liechtenstein** may also support victims of human rights violations pursuant to Article 4(2)(b) of the Law on the Association for Human Rights in Liechtenstein (VMRG)⁴¹ and, pursuant to Article 5, participate in judicial and administrative proceedings with the consent of a victim of a human rights violation, either on behalf of the victim or in support of the victim.

The NGO **infra**, which receives financial support from the State, offers legal counselling for women. The **Women's Shelter** likewise advises women who use its services on how to deal with authorities and courts and accompanies them in civil and criminal proceedings as a person of trust.

Legal protection for girls and women against discrimination is also guaranteed by the Gender Equality Act (GLG). The GLG governs the legal claims and remedies of girls and women who are affected by work-related discrimination or in regard to access to or supply of goods and services. Article 6 GLG reduces the burden of proof in favour of those affected, so that merely a *prima facie* claim of discrimination has to be made. Pursuant to Article 6 GLG, associations domiciled in Liechtenstein are also entitled to institute legal action in their own name or on behalf of the complainant, provided that their articles of

⁴¹ Law on the Association for Human Rights in Liechtenstein (*Gesetz über den Verein für Menschenrechte in Liechtenstein*, VMRG), LGBl. 2016 No. 504, LR 105.3.

association aim to promote equality between women and men or to represent the interests of employees.

4.4 Specialist support services

Under the Convention, Parties must take the necessary legislative or other measures to provide for, in an adequate geographical distribution, immediate, short- and long-term specialist support services. Parties must also provide for the setting-up of appropriate, easily accessible shelters in sufficient numbers to provide safe accommodation for victims, especially women and children. Additionally, Parties must provide for the setting-up of appropriate, easily accessible rape crisis or sexual violence referral centres for victims in sufficient numbers to provide for medical and forensic examination, trauma support, and counselling for victims.

In Liechtenstein, there are no specific centres that combine these services under a *single* roof. Instead, these responsibilities are performed by the **interaction of several institutions**, especially the counselling centres, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the National Police, and the National Hospital. See, in particular, the discussion above of the services provided by these institutions ([Chapters 4.1](#), [4.2](#) and [4.3](#) as well as [Chapter 2.3](#) on the service agreements). These institutions are fully available also to victims of rape and sexual violence.

The **Expert Group on Protection from Sexual Abuse** established by the Government has a specific mandate relating to sexual violence. The Expert Group raises concerns relating to the sexual abuse of children and young people, providing a network for public authorities, institutions, and professionals working in the field of sexual abuse. By way of a service contract with the Institute for Social Services Vorarlberg (ifs) concluded in 2020, low-threshold counselling for children and young people affected by sexual abuse and/or their caregivers is ensured. ifs Child Protection Vorarlberg conducts initial counselling and reports to the Expert Group on Protection from Sexual Abuse on a cross-case basis.

For victims of offences covered by the Istanbul Convention, the extensive services of the **Victims Assistance Office** already described are available in both the short and long term (see [Chapter 4.2](#)). Pursuant to Article 9(2) OHG, the Victims Assistance Office involves other assistance institutions in the fulfilment of its tasks and coordinates support services.

The **Liechtenstein Women's Shelter** also offers women and children who are affected by domestic violence free telephone or personal counselling and free accommodation in an emergency. It offers protection and crisis intervention, accompanies victims on their further path, and provides prevention and training. For counselling women and children who do not speak German, translators work with the Women's Shelter on a confidential basis. The Government supports the organisation under a service agreement that covers a large part of its expenses.

In 2021, ten women and six children were admitted to and cared for at the Women's Shelter. Of these, eight women and three children resided in Liechtenstein, and two women and three children resided in Switzerland. In addition to the care provided on-site

at the shelter, 25 women received counselling and assistance in person. Another 32 persons received intensive telephone counselling.⁴² In 2020, ten women and ten children were admitted to the Women's Shelter (2019: 13 women and 16 children), of which nine women and seven children resided in Liechtenstein and one woman and three children resided in Switzerland (2019: eight women and seven children residing in Liechtenstein, five women and nine children residing in Switzerland). In the overwhelming majority of cases, the perpetrator was the husband of the women involved (2020: 90%; 2019: 69%). In second place among the perpetrators were usually the women's life partners (2020: 10%; 2019: 15%) or ex-husbands or ex-life partners (2020: 0%; 2019: 0%).

Women affected by violence likewise receive counselling and support from **infra**. **infra** provides free, very broad advice and support to women on gender equality issues and on topics such as sexual harassment, bullying, stalking, and domestic violence. Women are also advised on reconciling family and work, custody law, family labour, inheritance law, old-age provision, sharing in assets, gender equality in the workplace and upon re-entering the working life, cohabitation, etc. Accompanying women in these key areas of life can counteract their structural discrimination and, as a result, their particular vulnerability to offences under the Istanbul Convention.

For situations immediately following extreme and stressful events, the **Liechtenstein Crisis Intervention Team (KIT)**, co-funded by the state, is available around the clock.⁴³ The KIT supports and counsels affected persons and family members who have experienced extreme stressful situations in the first few hours after the incident and – where necessary and desired – in organising further support. The KIT draws on a strong network with public authorities such as the National Police and the Office of Social Services, and its support and counselling services are free of charge for people in crisis situations.

There are 18 **psychotherapists** and 11 psychiatrists with health insurance contracts in Liechtenstein.⁴⁴ The costs of treatment and therapy are accordingly covered by health insurance. This ensures relatively low-threshold access to psychotherapeutic and psychiatric care in Liechtenstein in cases of need. In some cases, the costs may also be covered by accident insurance.

The **Family and Fathers' Shelter** was founded in 2013 by the **Association for Men's Issues in Liechtenstein** and is based on the Swiss pilot house "Zwüschehalt". It offers temporary accommodation and support to people in emergency situations, mainly men who have to move out of their homes in the context of divorce, domestic violence, etc. The Family and Fathers' Shelter is not a dedicated building, but rather makes use of flats and rooms with families in Liechtenstein. Living space is arranged for the men and fathers as well as their families, along with financial contributions to the extent possible. The Government supports the organisation by means of a service agreement, which covers a large part of its expenses.

⁴² For further statistical data, please refer to the annual reports of the Women's Shelter [<https://frauenhaus.li/?page=10003>].

⁴³ In 2021, the KIT performed 107 interventions for a total of 303.5 hours (2020: 118 interventions for a total of 374.5 hours). Further information can be found in the KIT annual reports [<https://kit.li/informationen/#jahresbericht>].

⁴⁴ As of 8 July 2022.

So far, there have been no known cases in which adequate emergency accommodation could not be offered.

4.5 Telephone helplines

In Liechtenstein, various institutions and facilities provide telephone helplines that are anonymous, free of charge, and available at all times.

The website of the **Women's Shelter** provides information in nine languages about its emergency number, which provides round-the-clock advice.⁴⁵ The **Crisis Intervention Team** also offers a telephone helpline for immediate care following extreme stress situations. The **Psychiatric-Psychological Service of the Office of Social Services** also offers its counselling for clients by telephone and anonymously where desired.

The **Dargebotene Hand (Helping Hand) Eastern Switzerland/Principality of Liechtenstein** offers anonymous and free round-the-clock advice via the number 143. The Helpchat website⁴⁶ can be used to ask questions at any time that are answered by psychological specialists. The **Liechtenstein Red Cross** also offers a free counselling service for mothers and fathers over the phone, during home visits, and in person at the counselling centres in the municipalities. Each municipality has its own counselling centre.

The **Expert Group on Protection from Sexual Abuse** operates a telephone number in Liechtenstein managed by the Child Protection Unit of the Institute for Social Services Vorarlberg under a service agreement. The target groups of the service are affected children and young people, parents, and other private individuals who are in a close or professional relationship with a child or young person who may be affected by sexual abuse.

On behalf of the Principality of Liechtenstein, **Pro Juventute Switzerland** also offers a free phone number 147 and website⁴⁷ providing round-the-clock, professionally qualified counselling for children and young people by telephone, chat, text message, and email 365 days a year. Additionally, the Office of Social Services concluded a service agreement with Pro Juventute Switzerland in 2022 to provide parent counselling services.

4.6 Protection and support for minor witnesses

A comprehensive revision of criminal law entered into force on 1 October 2019 in Liechtenstein, largely corresponding to the substantive requirements of the Istanbul Convention. Victim and witness protection in civil proceedings was also improved. The core of Liechtenstein's victim protection provisions is the considerate examination of witnesses, which takes into account the vulnerability of child victims. Considerate examination is not limited to the preliminary proceedings, but has also been extended to the trial by § 197(3) StPO.

⁴⁵ For the year 2021, the Women's Shelter registered 32 people who received intensive telephone consultations (2020: 28).

⁴⁶ Helpchat is a service of the NetzWerk health promotion association [<https://helpchat.li/>].

⁴⁷ [<https://147.li/>].

According to § 105 StPO, all persons are obliged to give evidence as witnesses. This also applies to children/underage persons. General restrictions on the duty to testify are set out in §§ 106-108 StPO. According to Article 5 of the Juvenile Court Act (JGG),⁴⁸ the age of criminal responsibility is reached when a child turns 14. Before that age, a child cannot be questioned as a suspect or as an accused. The JGG applies to adolescents (14-18 years old), with special provisions governing the punishment of juvenile offences.

§§ 31a(1)(3) and 31b(1) StPO provide a general obligation for law enforcement and prosecution authorities to **instruct** victims as defined in Article 1(1) of the Victim Support Act (OHG) on all their rights in criminal proceedings. Under § 107(1)(2) StPO, persons who may have been injured by the offence which the accused is charged with and who at the time of their examination have not yet reached the age of 18 years are exempt from the obligation to testify in criminal proceedings. Witnesses must be informed of their right to refuse testimony before their examination or as soon as the reason for the privilege from testifying becomes known. The age of witnesses must be taken into account in the instruction (§ 107(4) StPO). Pursuant to § 115(3) StPO, where a person who is not yet 18 years old is to be examined, a person of confidence must be brought in at any rate if it is in the best interests of the person to be examined.

Children and adolescents have the right to testify only once on the matter and for this adversarial examination to be conducted subject to considerate examination rules (§ 115a StPO). As a rule, the examination is carried out by a person of the same sex. With respect to the young age of a witness, the investigating judge may limit the participation of parties and their representatives in the examination of witnesses to the extent that the examination takes place only by means of technical equipment for the transmission of words and images, and thus without physical encounter. Technical equipment for the transmission of words and images are available at both the National Police and the Court of Justice and are regularly used. The investigating judge may instruct an expert to carry out this kind of examination, in particular where the witness has not yet reached the age of 18 years (§ 115a(2) StPO). By virtue of their training and professional experience, such experts are able to communicate in a child-friendly manner and to carry out the examination in such a way as to minimise the emotional distress of the child victim. In any case, care shall be taken to ensure that any encounter between the witness and the accused is avoided if possible (§ 115a(2) StPO). According to Article 14(1) OHG, the Victims Assistance Office can also provide or arrange for psychological or other support. On a supplementary basis and as needed, the general provisions on witness protection set out in Articles 30d et seq. of the Police Act (PolG)⁴⁹ may be applied if necessary.

If the National Police – via private individuals, public authorities, or others – becomes aware of a suspicion of sexual abuse, specially trained investigators immediately take the necessary steps and secure evidence. This has proven to be a useful approach, resulting in the successful conclusion of criminal proceedings.

⁴⁸ Juvenile Court Act (*Jugendgerichtsgesetz*, JGG), LGBl. 1988 No. 39, LR 314.1.

⁴⁹ Police Act (*Polizeigesetz*, PolG), LGBl. 1989 No. 48, LR 143.0.

4.7 Other measures to support victims of violence against women

According to § 55 StPO, anyone who learns of a punishable act is entitled to report it. In addition to the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the investigating judge and the National Police are required to accept criminal complaints. They must then forward the complaint to the Office of the Public Prosecutor.

The Victims Assistance Office advises witnesses of violent crimes on filing criminal complaints and accompanies them to the National Police for this purpose as needed. The Victims Assistance Office can also have legal clarifications carried out in advance by a lawyer and submit an application for legal aid. The Psychiatric-Psychological Service of the Office of Social Services also discusses the possibility of filing a criminal complaint with victims and witnesses if they have not already done so.

The National Police uses the Liechtenstein media and nationwide poster campaigns (e.g. signs with "In case of suspicion – call! 117") to continuously lower the inhibition threshold for reporting suspicions to the National Police.⁵⁰

According to Article 20 of the Children and Youth Act (KJG),⁵¹ any person who has a well-founded suspicion of the existence of, or knowledge of, a serious violation or endangerment of the welfare of children and young people is required to report it to the Office of Social Services. Serious violations and endangerment include, but are not limited to, abuse and other serious uses of violence, sexual abuse, gross neglect, the threat of forced marriage, and squalor. Anyone who has a well-founded suspicion of the existence of, or knowledge of, a less serious violation or endangerment of the welfare of children and young people is entitled to report this to the Office of Social Services. Persons who are subject to official or professional secrecy are released from that obligation in regard to the duty and right to report under Article 20 KJG (Article 22 KJG).

In Liechtenstein, there is also a duty to report for public authorities that learn of the suspicion of an *ex officio* offence that concerns their sphere of activity (§ 53(1) and (3) StPO). An exception to the violation of a professional secret and accordingly from a right to report exists if the disclosure or exploitation of a secret is justified by public or legitimate private interests due to its content and form (§ 121 (5) of the Criminal Code (StGB)⁵²). Physicians and persons in the health care professions have a duty to report if they make findings that give rise to the suspicion that the death or serious bodily harm of a person has been brought about by an act that is punishable by a court, or that inflicting agony on or neglecting a person has caused bodily harm or damage to health (Article 20(1) of the Physicians Act and Article 14 of the Public Health Act).

⁵⁰ See current National Police campaigns at [<https://www.landespolizei.li/praevention>].

⁵¹ Children and Youth Act (Kinder- und Jugendgesetz, KJG), LGBl. 2009 No. 29, LR 852.0.

⁵² Criminal Code (*Strafgesetzbuch*, StGB), LGBl. 1988 No. 37, LR 311.0.

5. Substantive law

(Chapter V of the Convention, Articles 29 to 48)

5.1 Legal framework

Liechtenstein criminal law contains a large number of offences that criminalise all forms of violence. Due to the abstract nature of the criminal provisions, no distinction is made in principle as to whether the norm's addressee is male or female. As a general matter, the Criminal Code applies.

With the last major revision of criminal law, which entered into force on 1 October 2019, new criminal offences were introduced and existing offences were expanded. Many of these improvements are also relevant to the recommendations regarding the punishment of gender-based violence.

A key element in connection with violence against women is the new offence of continuous use of force (§ 107b StGB). This criminalises violence perpetrated over a longer period of time, which is especially relevant in relationships. Acts of violence include physical abuse or acts against life and limb or against liberty. The protected legal interest is the freedom of the individual to lead a life without violence.

The extension of the aggravating causes set out in § 33(3) StGB made it possible to increase the punishment for committing an offence against family members, including current or former spouses and partners. Under certain circumstances, the punishment of violent criminal acts is accordingly more severe.

The introduction of the new offence of violation of sexual self-determination (§ 204a StGB) is also relevant to gender-based violence against women. This new criminal provision sends a clear signal for the prevention and avoidance of sexual violence by expanding the range of punishable non-consensual sexual contacts.

These offences are complemented by the new offence of forced marriage (§ 106a StGB). The 2019 revision separated out this offence from the existing offence of aggravated coercion (§ 106 StGB) and expanded it to include the element of the threat of termination or deprivation of family contacts.

Also relevant is the extraterritorial jurisdiction set out in § 64(1)(4a) StGB with respect to certain offences: genital mutilation as defined in § 90(3), extortionate kidnapping (§ 102), delivery to a foreign power (§ 103), slave trade (§ 104), trafficking in humans (§ 104a), aggravated coercion as defined in § 106(1)(3), forced marriage (§ 106a), illegal adoption placements (§ 193a), rape (§ 200), sexual assault (§ 201), sexual harassment of underage persons as defined in § 203(3), sexual abuse of a defenceless or mentally impaired person (§ 204), aggravated sexual abuse of underage persons (§ 205), sexual abuse of underage persons (§ 206), endangerment of the morals of underage persons or adolescents (§ 207), sexual abuse of minors (§ 208), initiation of sexual contacts with underage persons (§ 209), immoral influence on underage persons (§ 209a), abuse of a relationship of

authority as defined in § 212(1), arrangement of sexual contacts with minors in return for a valuable consideration (§ 214), promotion of prostitution and pornographic performances of minors (§ 215a), cross-border trafficking in prostitution (§ 217), and pornographic depictions of minors (§ 219). Here, extraterritorial jurisdiction applies irrespective of the criminal laws of the place where the act is committed if the perpetrator is a Liechtenstein citizen or has their place of residence or habitual abode in Liechtenstein, other Liechtenstein interests have been violated by the offence, or the perpetrator was, at the time of the act, a foreign national who is in Liechtenstein and cannot be extradited.

For a selection of excerpts from the Liechtenstein legal bases, see [Appendix 8](#).

5.2 Ensuring implementation

Various measures contribute to ensuring implementation of the requirements established in connection with the Convention.

In 2019, the National Police created a **Threat Management Services** unit with one full-time equivalent position. The unit took over the function of a coordination office for domestic violence at the National Police and is now responsible for the coordination of case work, internal sensitisation, and quality assurance. It also acts as a contact point for external network partners in the field of domestic violence and violence against women. The existing concepts of the National Police in the field of domestic violence (definition, legal bases, case management, and instructions for action) were reviewed and adjusted as of 1 January 2020. The aim is to obtain a clearer and internationally comparable picture of domestic violence and to ensure a consistent police response.

In addition to sensitisation of its own employees, the National Police's internal coordination office is also responsible for organising training events on specific topics and for specific target groups.

For general prevention measures, see [Chapter 3](#).

5.3 Civil claims and remedies

In Liechtenstein, civil claims can be asserted by anyone before the ordinary courts, including by means of injunctive relief. These claims are also available to victims of violence.

Judicial decisions are also included which relate more specifically to acts of violence falling within the scope of the Convention, e.g. restraining and protection orders as set out in Article 53 of the Istanbul Convention. For implementation in Liechtenstein, the corresponding provisions in the Execution Act (EO)⁵³ and the Police Act are relevant here. Articles 277a et seq. of the Execution Act provide for preliminary injunctions for protection against violence in the family as well as for protection against interference in

⁵³ Law on Execution Proceedings and Proceedings to Secure Rights (Execution Act; *Exekutionsordnung*, EO), LGBl. 1972 No. 32/2, LR 281.0.

the private sphere. Article 24g of the Police Act contains corresponding provisions on expulsion and prohibition of entry in cases of domestic violence.

Article 29(2) of the Convention requires national law to provide for remedies against State authorities if they have failed to take the necessary preventive and protective measures. In Liechtenstein, public liability claims are available under the Official Liability Act,⁵⁴ which establishes the liability of public entities vis-à-vis third parties and corresponding compensation claims. Under Article 3(1) of the Official Liability Act, public entities are liable for damage unlawfully caused to third parties by persons acting as their bodies in the course of their official duties. Unless otherwise provided for in that Act, Article 3(4) stipulates that the provisions of the General Civil Code (ABGB)⁵⁵ governing liability apply *mutatis mutandis*. According to Article 3(6), only monetary compensation is permitted.

General compensation law applies in the private sector. In principle, claims for damages and compensation for pain and suffering are inheritable (§§ 531 et seq. ABGB) if the victim dies, and they can be asserted by survivors. A distinction must be made between two different claims: the inherited claims of the person killed and the survivors' own claims for compensation for pain and suffering, which must be asserted separately (see [Chapter 5.4](#) immediately below).

5.4 Compensation

In Liechtenstein, §§ 1323 and 1324 ABGB govern claims for compensation and satisfaction in general. In particular, § 1325 ABGB provides that the person responsible for bodily harm shall reimburse the injured person for medical expenses and, in the case of loss of earnings, for lost and future earnings and, upon request, for damages for pain and suffering appropriate to the circumstances. Disfigurements resulting from abuse must be taken into account when assessing damages and compensation for pain and suffering. If bodily harm leads to death, not only must all costs be compensated, but also anyone who has lost their provider as a result of the killing must be compensated for what they have lost as a result of the death (§ 1327 ABGB). Anyone who abuses someone for sexual intercourse or other sexual acts by means of a criminal offence or otherwise by means of deceit, threat, or exploitation of a relationship of dependency or authority must provide compensation according to § 1328 ABGB for the damage suffered and to make full satisfaction. Violations of privacy are also subject to compensation pursuant to § 1328a ABGB, and deprivation of liberty is subject to compensation pursuant to § 1329 ABGB.

Compensation for pain and suffering under the General Civil Code covers both physical and emotional pain. The amount of compensation for pain and suffering is assessed by a court in each individual case. Compensation for pain and suffering is mostly determined in the form of daily rates.

If a victim does not receive compensation for damages from either the perpetrator or third parties (e.g. insurers), the OHG provides that the victim may receive compensation from the State for the material and non-material damages suffered (Articles 18 to 24

⁵⁴ Official Liability Act (*Gesetz über die Amtshaftung*), LGBl. 1966 No. 24, LR 170.32.

⁵⁵ General Civil Code (*Allgemeines bürgerliches Gesetzbuch*, ABGB), LGBl. 1003 No. 1, LR 210.0.

OHG). In the interest of comprehensive victim protection, compensation for non-material damages expresses the community's recognition of the victim's difficult situation. In particular, this also does justice to the situation that victims of offences covered by the Istanbul Convention usually suffer serious non-material damages. In the case of pecuniary damages, compensation amounts to a maximum of CHF 120 000, taking into account the current income of the victim. In the case of non-material damages, compensation amounts to a maximum of CHF 70 000 for the victim and CHF 35 000 for family members. Non-material damages are assessed according to the intensity and duration of the consequences of the offence and, unlike compensation for pecuniary damage, do not depend on the victim's income. Payment of compensation falls within the responsibility of the Government.

No compensation was paid by the State in 2021, 2020, or 2019.

5.5 Visitation rights and custody

With the latest reform of the law on parents and children,⁵⁶ which entered into force on 1 January 2015, joint custody became the rule in Liechtenstein. Within the framework of joint custody, parents are called upon to find a mutually agreeable arrangement. The court can also order mediation for this purpose. In all cases where the parents agree on a new custody arrangement, the child has a right of objection, provided the child is at least 14 years old.⁵⁷ If an agreement between the parents cannot be reached, the court decides in accordance with the best interests of the child. With the reform of the law on parents and children mentioned above, § 137b(1) ABGB stipulates that in all matters concerning the minor child, in particular custody and personal contacts, the best interests of the child must be taken into account as the guiding consideration. § 137b(2)(2) ABGB provides that, in assessing the best interests of the child, care, a feeling of security, and protection of the child's physical and emotional integrity must be ensured, and the risk of the child suffering violence or witnessing violence against important caregivers, or of being unlawfully removed or retained, must be avoided.

§ 176(1) ABGB further stipulates that if the welfare of the child is endangered by the parents, the court – invoked by whomever – shall make the orders necessary to safeguard the welfare of the child. In particular, the court may withdraw custody of the child in whole or in part, including rights of consent and approval provided by law. Finally, § 177a(2) ABGB provides that the court – to the extent required by the best interests of the child – shall restrict or prohibit personal contacts, in particular insofar as this appears necessary due to the use of violence against the child or an important caregiver of the child.

Liechtenstein provides for supervised meetings in which, by order of the Court of Justice or as an official measure to safeguard the best interests of the child, contacts between children and separated parents are accompanied by specialists. The target groups are

⁵⁶ Law amending the General Civil Code, LGBl. 2014 No. 199, LR 210.0.

⁵⁷ Moreover, minors who have reached the age of 14 have party status in proceedings on care and upbringing or on the right to personal contact and may appear independently before the court in accordance with Article 104(1) of the Law on Court Proceedings in Non-Contentious Matters (Non-Contentious Proceedings Act; *Ausserstreitgesetz*, *AussStrG*; LGBl. 2010 No. 454, LR 274.0).

children and parents from distressed family situations, in contentious separation or divorce situations, in the case of addiction, violence, or abuse problems, in the case of a mental illness of one parent, or in the case of suspected negative influence on the children. The focus is always on the well-being, interests, and safety of the children. The aim is to guide and support parents in the exercise of their right of contact and to enable children to establish or resume contact with the parent who is living separately.

In 2021, 36 applications for joint custody were submitted (2020: 36; 2019: 41); 109 of the total of 113 applications (2019-2021) were granted, two were withdrawn, and two were still pending (as of 31 December 2021).

5.6 Criminalisation of offences

The individual criminal offences referred to in the Istanbul Convention and their implementation in Liechtenstein are discussed below.

Article 33 of the Convention – Psychological violence

Article 33 of the Convention requires the Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the intentional conduct of seriously impairing a person's psychological integrity through coercion or threats is criminalised.

In Liechtenstein criminal law, freedom of will is protected first and foremost by the offences of coercion in §§ 105-106 StGB and aggravated coercion in § 107 StGB. According to § 105 StGB, any person who coerces another person to carry out, acquiesce in or omit to carry out an act by force or a dangerous threat shall be punished. A dangerous threat is committed by anyone who threatens another person in a dangerous manner in order to scare and agitate such other person. The offence set out in § 107 StGB thus requires the intention of the perpetrator to scare and agitate another person. Case law and doctrine interpret scaring and agitating another person to mean a state of mind that is sustained, agonising, and grips the whole mind, triggered by massive anticipatory fear of approaching evil because of the uncertainty of the person's fate.

Psychological integrity is also protected by § 83(1) StGB, which criminalises intentional damage to health. Damage to health is primarily a functional disorder. The generally accepted definition is the description set out in the explanatory notes to the government proposal on the Austrian Criminal Code (EBRV 1971, 212): Damage to health is the bringing about or aggravation of a disease. Apart from physical suffering, this may also involve mental and emotional suffering. In both cases, however, a prerequisite is that the conditions amount to a disease in the medical sense.

If the psychological integrity of a person is impaired by the acts of coercion or dangerous threat, case law holds that § 83 StGB may be realised alongside §§ 105, 107 StGB.

Since, according to the Explanatory Report, Article 33 of the Convention expressly does not refer to single events, but rather to a course of conduct, § 107b StGB (Continuous use of force) is relevant in this context. According to the legal definition in paragraph 2 of that article, the offences of coercion and dangerous threat are also included in the use of force.

The basic penalty here is imprisonment for up to three years, but if the perpetrator, through the act, establishes comprehensive control in respect of the conduct of the injured person or considerable restrictions with regard to the autonomous lifestyle of the injured person, imprisonment is from six months to five years. Anyone who commits this form of (controlling or considerably restricting) violence for more than one year is punishable by imprisonment of five to fifteen years.

Article 34 of the Convention – Stalking

Article 34 requires the Parties to criminalise intentional conduct of repeatedly engaging in threatening conduct directed at another person, causing that person to fear for their safety. The threatening conduct may consist of repeated pursuit, unwanted communication, or letting a person know that they are being watched. To protect victims from stalkers, the criminal offence of persistent stalking was created in § 107a StGB. The aim in particular was to criminalise persistent unlawful conduct that was not covered by other provisions, such as in connection with dangerous threat, unlawful entry, bodily harm, and so on, but which is nevertheless likely to interfere considerably with the victim's lifestyle and is therefore deemed unreasonable by society. LGBl. 2019 No. 124 added a new paragraph 3 to § 107a StGB, providing for a sentence of imprisonment of up to three years if the perpetrator's act of stalking results in the suicide or an attempted suicide of the person stalked.

Pursuant to § 107a(1) StGB, any person who unlawfully and persistently stalks another person shall be punished with imprisonment of up to two years. Paragraph 2 states that a person persistently stalks another person if such person, in a manner capable of causing unreasonable interference with the lifestyle of such other person, for an extended period of time continuously: 1. establishes physical proximity with such other person, 2. establishes contact with such other person by means of electronic communication or by use of other means of communication or through third parties, 3. orders merchandise or services for such other person and, for this purpose, uses such other person's personal data, or 4. causes third parties to contact the other person and, for this purpose, uses such other person's personal data.

Article 35 of the Convention – Physical violence

Article 35 of the Convention requires the Parties to criminalise intentional conduct of committing acts of violence against another person. For the purposes of the Convention, physical violence means injuries to the body caused by the direct and unlawful application of physical force, including violence resulting in the death of the victim.

For the implementation of this Article, please refer to Section 1 of the Special Part of the Criminal Code, which comprehensively criminalises acts against life and limb.⁵⁸ This includes all violent offences such as murder, manslaughter, bodily harm, etc.

⁵⁸ See §§ 75 et seq. StGB.

Article 36 of the Convention – Sexual violence, including rape

This Article covers the criminal offence of sexual violence, including rape. The aim is to criminalise all forms of sexual acts that are intentionally forced upon a person without that person's voluntary consent.

According to this Article, consent must be given voluntarily as a result of the person's free will assessed in the context of the surrounding circumstances. It must be ensured that the offences of sexual violence and rape established pursuant to the Convention apply to all non-consensual sexual acts, regardless of the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim.

The conduct described is punishable under Section 10 of the Criminal Code (Offences against sexual self-determination and other sexual offences, §§ 200-221).

Under Liechtenstein law, the interpretation of the term "without consent" largely refers to § 90 StGB, which governs the impunity of bodily harm in the case of "consent of the harmed party". Under this provision, legally valid consent exists only if it is free from error, deception, and coercion by force or threat and the person giving consent has the appropriate capacity for insight and judgement; such capacity may be lacking, for instance, due to a lack of maturity, in light of a mental illness, but also due to intoxication or a state of shock of the victim at the time of the act. According to § 90 StGB, no consent may be given to any mutilation or any other injury to genitalia. § 204 StGB criminalises cases in which consent is lacking due to the victim's defencelessness or mental impairment. Age-related lack of consent is covered by §§ 205 and 206 StGB as aggravated sexual abuse and sexual abuse of underage persons, i.e. of persons who have not yet reached the age of 14.⁵⁹ § 212 StGB protects persons subject to a relationship of authority in the broadest sense (e.g., educational relationship, client-therapist relationship) from the perpetrator's exploitation of their resulting impairment of sexual self-determination. Obtaining the victim's consent by deception is covered by the general offence of deception under § 108 StGB (which, while worded in general terms and therefore protecting not only the right to sexual self-determination, was created not least with a view to such cases).

LGBI. 2019 No. 124 introduced § 204a StGB (Violation of sexual self-determination). According to this new criminal offence, any person who performs sexual intercourse or a sexual act equivalent to sexual intercourse with another person against the other person's will by taking advantage of a plight or after prior intimidation is punishable. Any person is likewise punishable who causes another person, against that person's will and by taking advantage of a plight or after prior intimidation, to perform or acquiesce in sexual intercourse or a sexual act equivalent to sexual intercourse with another person or, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying the perpetrator or a third party, causes such

⁵⁹ The age for legal sexual acts in Liechtenstein is in principle 14 years of age (§§ 205 and 206 StGB in conjunction with § 74(1)(1) StGB). Sexual acts with younger persons by mutual consent are not punishable if the age of the perpetrator does not exceed the age of the underage person by more than three years, the underage person has attained the age of 12, and the act does not result in death or serious bodily harm (paragraphs 3 and 4 of §§ 205 and 206 StGB). Conversely, a person who has reached the age of 18 is punishable if that person engages in sexual activity with a person who has not reached the age of 16 and who, for certain reasons, is not mature enough to consent to the act (§ 208(1)(1) StGB). See Liechtenstein's Replies to the General Overview Questionnaire on the Implementation of the Lanzarote Convention, RA 2016-1148, p. 5).

other person to perform a sexual act equivalent to sexual intercourse on themselves involuntarily.

Article 37 of the Convention – Forced marriage

Article 37 requires Parties to criminalise the intentional conduct of forcing an adult or a child to enter into a marriage. Luring a person to a foreign country under false pretences with the purpose of forcing this person to enter into marriage must also be criminalised.

In Liechtenstein the offence of forced marriage set out in § 106a StGB provides for sanctions of six months to five years imprisonment. Under this provision, any person is punishable who by force or the threat of force or by the threat of termination or deprivation of the family contacts, coerces another person into entering a marriage or a registered partnership. Any person shall be punished likewise who, with the intent to force another person to enter into a marriage or a registered partnership in a State other than the person's State of citizenship or habitual abode, induces such other person through deception regarding this plan, or coerces such other person by force or a dangerous threat or by the threat of termination or deprivation of the family contacts, to go to another State, or, by force or by taking advantage of such other person's mistake in regard to this plan, transports such other person to another State.

Article 38 of the Convention – Female genital mutilation

This Article requires the Parties to criminalise female genital mutilation. Forms of female genital mutilation such as infibulation (removal of the clitoris and the labia majora and minora with subsequent suturing of the vulva), circumcision of the clitoral hood, pricking of the clitoris and/or labia, or cauterisation of the clitoris and surrounding tissues, constitute bodily harm under Liechtenstein law as set out in §§ 83 et seq. StGB and generally constitute serious bodily harm as set out in § 84 StGB or are subsumed under the offence of bodily harm with serious lasting consequences as set out in § 85 StGB. As a rule, the elements of the offence of loss of reproductive capacity (§ 85(1)(1) StGB) and/or substantial mutilation or conspicuous disfigurement (§ 85(1)(2) StGB) will be fulfilled. Not infrequently, even § 87 StGB (Purposeful serious bodily harm) with the – in the present context – aggravating threat of punishment set out in paragraph 2 (one to fifteen years imprisonment) will apply, given that the perpetrator will in fact be interested in achieving the outcome of lasting consequences. Under § 90(3) StGB, consent by the victim to genital mutilation is not legally permissible (see also the comments above on Article 36 of the Convention).

Additionally, the Convention requires the criminalisation of coercing or procuring a woman to undergo genital mutilation. With regard to girls, the Convention also provides that inciting a girl to undergo genital mutilation shall be criminalised. Insofar as the victim is coerced, these cases can be covered under Liechtenstein law as aggravated coercion under § 106(1)(3) StGB.

Article 39 of the Convention – Forced abortion and forced sterilisation

This Article requires criminalisation of performing an abortion on a woman without her prior and informed consent and performing surgery which has the purpose or effect of

terminating a woman's capacity to naturally reproduce without her prior and informed consent or understanding of the procedure.

Under Liechtenstein law, termination of pregnancy is punishable even with the consent of the pregnant woman (§ 96 StGB), provided there is no danger to the life or serious damage to the pregnant woman and she has already reached the age of 14. Under § 97 StGB, forced abortion is criminalised in principle. Forced abortion is not punishable only if the abortion is performed to save the pregnant woman from an immediate danger to her life that cannot be averted otherwise, under circumstances not permitting the consent of the pregnant woman to be obtained in time.

The forced sterilisation to be criminalised by the Parties under paragraph 2 is prosecuted under Liechtenstein law as bodily harm within the meaning of §§ 83 et seq. StGB (see comment above on Article 38 of the Convention). According to § 90(2) StGB, any sterilisation of a person performed by a physician with such person's consent is not unlawful only if either the person has already reached the age of 25 or if, for any other reason, the intervention does not violate common decency.

5.7 Sexual harassment – Article 40 of the Convention

This Article requires criminalisation of all forms of unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person, in particular when creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.

Under § 203(1) StGB, any person is punishable who directly or indirectly by means of information or communications technologies performs a sexual act in front of another person who does not expect such act, thereby causing a legitimate nuisance, or any person who physically or directly or indirectly by means of information or communications technologies sexually harasses another person in a gross manner by using language. § 203(2) StGB provides for a higher penalty if the sexual harassment occurs under abuse of a relationship of authority. According to § 203(3) StGB, the perpetrator is punished with imprisonment of up to three years if the victim is underage (under 14 years of age), irrespective of abuse of a position of authority.

5.8 Aiding or abetting

The obligation under Article 41(1) of the Convention to criminalise aiding or abetting the commission of the offences established in accordance with Articles 33-37, 38(a) and 39 of the Convention is implemented in Liechtenstein through § 12 StGB (Treatment of all participants as perpetrators, see also [Chapter 5.10](#)).

5.9 Attempt

The obligation under Article 41(2) of the Convention to criminalise attempts to commit the offences established in accordance with Articles 35-37, 38(a) and 39 of the Convention is implemented in Liechtenstein through § 15 StGB (Criminal liability of attempt).

5.10 Unacceptable justifications for crimes, including crimes committed in the name of so-called "honour"

Liechtenstein criminal law and law of criminal procedure do not provide for any grounds of justification according to which culture, religion, tradition or so-called "honour" could be considered for the acts of violence covered by the scope of the Convention.

Because certain offences under the Convention can be committed by children under the age of criminal responsibility at the instigation of an adult family member or an adult member of the community, the Convention also expressly requires criminal liability of the inciting person in Article 42 so that no gaps in criminal liability arise. In Liechtenstein, this is covered by § 12 StGB (Treatment of all participants as perpetrators), which clarifies that not only the immediate perpetrator commits the offence, but also every person who directs another to carry out the offence or who otherwise contributes to its being carried out. This accordingly covers all forms of commission that present themselves as "indirect perpetration" by an instrument acting without intention, bias, wilfulness or other blameful conduct. A fully criminal act of the (main) perpetrator as a prerequisite for the criminal liability of the participant is not required in principle, but rather only conduct that fulfils the elements of the crime and is unlawful and wilful. Lack of culpability of the (main) perpetrator, for example due to age, is therefore not an obstacle to the punishment of the participant, so that the scenario mentioned in Article 42(2) is punishable under § 12 StGB.

5.11 Relationship with the perpetrator of violence

Under Article 43 of the Convention, the offences established in accordance with the Convention must apply irrespective of the nature of the relationship between victim and perpetrator. Many of the offences described in the Convention are typically committed by family members, relationship partners or other persons belonging to the victim's immediate social environment. Nevertheless, the Convention establishes the principle that the nature of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator must not prevent the application of any of the offences introduced in the Convention.

In Liechtenstein, no privilege in prosecution exists with respect to the offences covered by the Convention that would depend on the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. Instead, these offences are subject to *ex officio* prosecution. Under § 21 StPO, the Office of the Public Prosecutor must investigate, *ex officio* and with the assistance of the National Police, all punishable acts of which it gains knowledge. Depending on the stage of the investigative proceedings, the investigating judge or the Office of the Public Prosecutor decides whether to discontinue the proceedings or to file an indictment (§§ 64, 22 StPO).

5.12 Sanctions and measures

Article 45 of the Convention provides that the offences established in accordance with the Convention shall be punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions; these sanctions shall include, where appropriate, sentences involving the deprivation of liberty which can give rise to extradition. Especially serious offences, such as rape (§ 200 StGB),

sexual abuse of a defenceless or mentally impaired person (§ 204 StGB), aggravated sexual abuse of underage persons (§ 205 StGB), bodily harm with serious lasting consequences (§ 85 StGB), and purposeful serious bodily harm (§ 87 StGB) are punishable by imprisonment for a maximum term of more than one year. Given the penalties involved, these offences can also give rise to extradition pursuant to Article 2 of the European Convention on Extradition,⁶⁰ which provides that extradition shall be granted in respect of offences punishable under the laws of the requesting Party and of the requested Party by deprivation of liberty or under a detention order for a maximum period of at least one year or by a more severe penalty.

The latest reform of the Criminal Code⁶¹ further increased the range of penalties for most sexual offences. The basic penalty for the offence of rape (§ 200 StGB) is imprisonment from one to ten years (instead of six months up to ten years). The range of penalties for sexual assault (§ 201 StGB) was increased in the basic penalty under paragraph 1 to imprisonment from six months to five years (instead of imprisonment of up to three years). Under paragraph 2, aggravated commission of the offence is punished with imprisonment of five to fifteen years (instead of six months to five years) or, if the act results in death, of ten to twenty years or life imprisonment (instead of imprisonment of one to ten years). In the case of sexual abuse of a defenceless or mentally impaired person (§ 204 StGB), the basic penalty under paragraph 1 was increased to imprisonment of one to ten years (instead of imprisonment of six months to five years). Aggravated commission of the offence under paragraph 3 was increased to imprisonment of five to fifteen years (instead of six months to five years) or, if the act results in death, of ten to twenty years or life imprisonment. For sexual abuse of underage persons (§ 206 StGB), the penalty for aggravated commission of the offence was increased to five to fifteen years (instead of one to ten years) or, if the act results in death, ten to twenty years or life imprisonment (instead of five to fifteen years).

Less serious offences such as simple bodily harm (§ 83 StGB) or coercion (§ 105 StGB) are punishable only by imprisonment of up to one year or a fine of up to 720 daily rates. However, in the case of continuous use of force as set out in § 107b StGB in the sense of an intentional punishable act against life and limb or against liberty, the sentence may be increased to up to three years. In the case of offences committed by an adult against an underage person involving the use of force or a dangerous threat, § 39a StGB provides for a penalty of imprisonment of at least two months where the maximum penalty is up to one year, and a penalty of imprisonment of at least three months where the maximum penalty exceeds one year. Where the minimum sentence is six months, the sentence for commission of this offence increases to one year, and where the minimum sentence is one year, the sentence increases to two years. The penalty can be increased by various aggravating causes set out in § 33 StGB.

With regard to other measures in relation to perpetrators and in addition to the already existing instruments of judicial instructions and probation assistance for conditional release, the enforcing court may help to prevent recidivism by drawing on a bundle of measures relating to the court supervision of sex offenders. These measures were

⁶⁰ European Convention on Extradition, LGBl. 1970 No. 29, LR 0.353.1.

⁶¹ Law of 28 February 2019 amending the Criminal Code, LGBl. 2019 No. 124, LR 311.0.

introduced in 2011 and are set out in § 52a StGB. In particular, they involve more intensive supervision and closer monitoring of the offender during the mandatory probation period and the issuing of appropriate instructions, as well as monitoring of the measures by the court. In individual cases, the enforcing court may entrust the National Police, child and youth welfare services or other appropriate institutions with the task of monitoring compliance with the orders; the choice of institution depends on the content of the instructions. To allow for a longer observation period, the probationary period is extended to five years in all cases where the conviction was for an offence against sexual integrity and self-determination.

Moreover, § 176(1) ABGB allows the court to withdraw custody of the child in whole or in part if the parents' behaviour endangers the welfare of the minor child.

5.13 Aggravating circumstances

In Liechtenstein, various aggravating circumstances may be taken into account, as required under Article 46 of the Convention. Point a of Article 46 of the Convention is implemented generally by § 33(3)(1) StGB and specifically by § 212 StGB, point b by § 33(1)(1) StGB and § 107b StGB, point c by § 33(3)(2) StGB, point d by § 39a StGB, if it is an intentional offence committed with the use of force or a dangerous threat, point e by § 33(1)(9) StGB, point f by § 33(3)(3) StGB, point g by § 33(3)(4) StGB, and point i by § 39 StGB. Point h is covered in part by the aggravating circumstances set out in individual elements of offences (see, e.g., §§ 200(2), 201(2), 204(3), 205(3), 206(3) StGB). Also relevant is the non-exhaustive list of special aggravating causes in § 33 StGB, which does not exclude the assumption of further circumstances, as well as § 39a StGB.

5.14 Prohibition of mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes

In Liechtenstein, §§ 22a et seq. StPO provide for the possibility of diversionary measures if the facts are sufficiently clarified, the offence has not caused the death of a human being, the perpetrator's level of culpability is not grave, punishment does not seem advisable as a means to prevent the suspect from committing punishable acts, and no sexual assault (§ 201 StGB) or defilement (§ 204 StGB) has occurred. If these conditions are not met, the Office of the Public Prosecutor cannot offer diversion, which is the case for most offences under the Istanbul Convention.

Moreover, the imposition of monetary penalties should always take due account of the perpetrator's financial obligations to the victim. Many perpetrators of the offences covered by the Convention are family members of the victims. Sentencing the offender to a monetary penalty may accordingly have an impact on the family income or on the ability of the person concerned to pay maintenance. This in turn may result in financial difficulties for the victim. Liechtenstein law may take special circumstances into account, such as existing maintenance obligations to the victim, with reference to § 19 StGB. This provision stipulates that monetary penalties shall be assessed in accordance with the personal circumstances and economic ability of the offender, and if the monetary penalty cannot be collected, an alternative term of imprisonment may be imposed.

Divorces in Liechtenstein must always take place in divorce proceedings and never in mediation proceedings.

5.15 Data on offences

As mentioned in the introduction, Liechtenstein strives to further develop its future data situation. In particular, crime statistics are planned that take into account the categorisation of violence against women and domestic violence according to the Istanbul Convention (see [Chapter 2.5](#)). Moreover, the Coordination Group strives to develop standardised data collection forms together with the relevant actors according to the Istanbul Convention and the relevant NGOs. The current data is limited in particular to the statistics kept by the National Police and the Court of Justice. Nevertheless, the currently available figures do not suggest that women in Liechtenstein are victims of domestic violence more frequently than in other States internationally.

Cases resulting in the death of women

In 2021, no cases were registered that resulted in the death of a woman (2020: 0; 2019: 0). Accordingly, the authorities were not in a position to have prior knowledge of any cases that resulted in the killing of women. There were accordingly also no convictions in 2021 related to the killing of women (2020: 0; 2019: 0). Likewise, there were no sanctions or other measures imposed as a result of criminal proceedings (including deprivation of liberty) in 2021 (2020: 0; 2019: 0).

Cases resulting in the attempted killing of women

In 2021, one violent offence was registered in Liechtenstein involving the attempted killing of a woman (2020: 0; 2019: 0). In this case, the authorities had no prior knowledge that the woman had been previously affected by domestic violence (2020: 0; 2019: 0). In 2021, there were no convictions relating to an attempted killing of a woman (2020: 0; 2019: 1). There are no other known penalties or measures in this context for this reporting period.

Other cases involving acts of violence against women

Because there is no explicit criminal offence of domestic violence in the Liechtenstein Criminal Code, cases of domestic violence are based on offences including dangerous threat (§ 107 StGB), coercion (§ 105 StGB), rape (§ 200 StGB) and bodily harm (§ 83 StGB).

In 2021, 79 cases (offences against life and limb) were registered with the National Police (of a total of 83 victims, 32 were female). In 2021, a distinction was made between physical (14 cases), psychological (86 cases, for example verbal disputes without criminal offences), sexual (one case) and economic violence (no case). In 41 cases each, current or former relationship partners were involved. 17 reports concerned intergenerational violence in the domestic sphere, and in two cases it was not possible to clearly identify the relationship involved.

In 2020, 128 cases (offences against life and limb) were registered with the National Police (of a total of 143 victims, 45 were female). With regard to domestic violence against children or adolescents, a total of 13 victims/participants were registered with the National Police in 2020 (including two minors who were not directly affected by violence).

In 2019, 95 cases (offences against life and limb) were registered with the National Police (of a total of 112 victims, 29 were female).

Because victims are not recorded in the Court of Justice's database as "victims", but rather as "witnesses", there is a lack of statistical data on the number of convictions and other measures related to violence against women. Information on the type of measures taken (e.g. deprivation of parental rights, etc.) is also not systematically recorded.

The following table summarises the persons involved in domestic violence registered by the National Police:

	2021	2020
Male perpetrators	21	33
Female perpetrators	8	13
Male victims	7	47
Female victims	17	59
Juvenile perpetrators	2	5
Young victims (of which 2 not directly involved)	12	13
Children (< 14 years old) (of which 13 not directly involved)	35	24
Male involved (in incidents without clear perpetrator/victim role, e.g. disputes)	85	
Female involved (in incidents without clear perpetrator/victim role, e.g. disputes)	77	

In 2021, a total of 51 (2020: 71) triage measures were taken in connection with domestic violence (i.e., referral for further assistance), and in seven cases (2020: 14) the National Police had to call in immediate third-party assistance on site (emergency physician or Crisis Intervention Team).⁶²

More detailed possibilities for evaluation or data concerning gender, type of violence, and relationship between perpetrator and victim are not possible on the basis of the current data collection.

Number of violent offences against women resulting in the death of a child

In 2021, no violent offence against a woman resulted in the death of a child in Liechtenstein (2020: 0; 2019: 0).

⁶² Annual Report 2021 – National Police of the Principality of Liechtenstein
[https://www.landespolizei.li/application/files/2616/4994/5529/Jahresbericht2021_en_fvr_END.pdf].

5.16 Other measures

By way of a motion, the Liechtenstein Parliament instructed the Government in June 2021 to amend the Criminal Code and to submit a legislative proposal to Parliament that would punish abuse offences against children and young people as well as child pornography more severely in future. To implement this motion, the Government adopted a report and motion providing for correspondingly higher sentences for the offences of sexual abuse of underage persons (§ 206 StGB), aggravated sexual abuse of underage persons (§ 205 StGB), and pornographic depictions of minors (§ 219 StGB).

In addition, conditional suspension of sentences in full is excluded in the case of a conviction for rape (§ 200 StGB) or aggravated sexual abuse of underage persons (§ 205 StGB). This entails that offenders convicted of rape or aggravated sexual abuse would usually serve a minimum sentence of imprisonment of two years, if the proposal is passed by Parliament. A clarification in § 43(3) StGB ensures that conditional suspension of sentences, as well as conditional suspension of parts of such sentences, will continue to be possible in these cases.

Parliamentary consideration of the proposal is scheduled for its first reading in the November 2022 session of Parliament.

6. Investigation, prosecution and procedural law and protective measures

(Chapter VI of the Convention, Articles 49 to 58)

6.1 Immediate response, prevention and protection

In Liechtenstein, Article 24g PolG authorises the National Police to pronounce an **expulsion** from the shared dwelling and a **prohibition of entry** against a dangerous person for a duration of ten days, if it is to be assumed that a dangerous attack against a person at risk is imminent.⁶³ The National Police must also inform the victim about the possibility of applying for a **preliminary injunction** pursuant to Article 277a EO. If such an injunction is applied for in a timely manner at the Court of Justice, the prohibition of entry ordered by the National Police is extended up to a maximum of 20 days.⁶⁴ In addition to these protective measures, the investigating judge may, in the case of an attempted or threatened offence, impose **(pre-trial) detention** if it is to be assumed that the person could execute the attempted or threatened offence (§ 127(1)(4) StPO). In the context of threat response, the National Police is authorised to enter premises if it must be assumed that there is an immediate danger to a person and this danger must be averted (Article 2(1)(a) PolG). Articles 24 et seq. PolG also enable the National Police to take **coercive measures** for the protection of victims; in particular, Article 25b(2)(a)(1) authorises forced entry into dwellings. Under §§ 9 et seq. StPO, the National Police is tasked *ex officio* with the collection of all necessary evidence if there is suspicion that an offence has been committed.

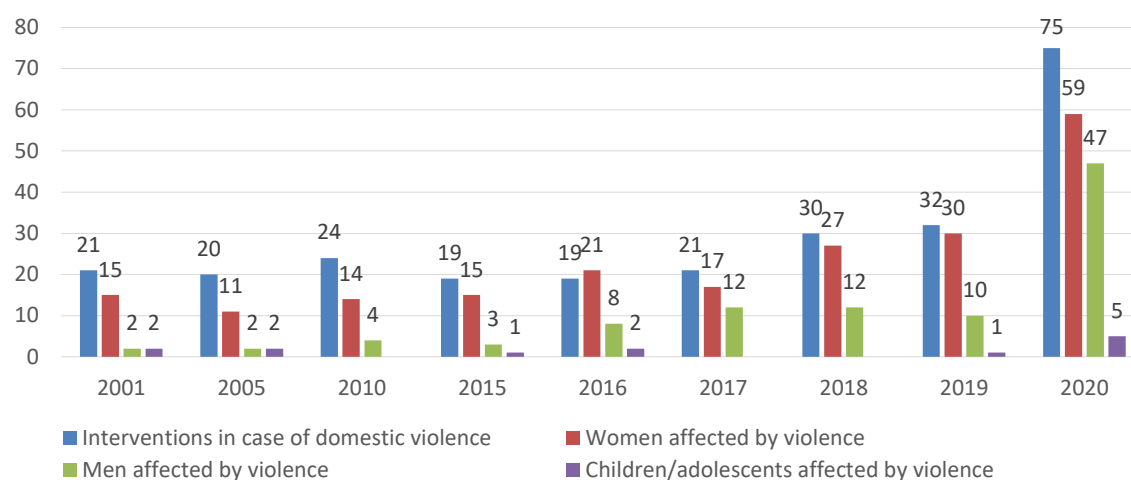
The National Police currently has nearly 13% female police officers and civilian employees with police functions. The permanent on-call duty of all police officers guarantees that a female employee can always be called up. This always applies in the case of victims of sexual offences, but not necessarily in cases of domestic violence.

In 2021, 101 interventions were carried out due to domestic violence. In 27 cases, charges were filed. In 2020, there were 75 police interventions due to domestic violence (2019: 32), and 24 cases resulted in charges being filed. In 2020, 33 male perpetrators and 13 female perpetrators were identified. In five cases, the person acting unlawfully was an adolescent.

⁶³ Pursuant to Article 24g(7) PolG The order of a prohibition of entry must be reviewed by the Commissioner within 72 hours. For this purpose, the Commissioner may consult all institutions and bodies that can contribute to establishing the relevant facts. The Commissioner may also consult the public health officer or the physician on duty. If the Commissioner determines that the conditions for ordering a prohibition of entry are not met, the Commissioner must immediately lift the order with respect to the person concerned; the person at risk must be informed immediately that the prohibition of entry is being lifted. The lifting of the prohibition of entry and the provision of information to the person at risk must, if possible, be carried out verbally or by telephone by the National Police or in writing by personal delivery.

⁶⁴ Pursuant to Article 24g(8) PolG, Compliance with a prohibition of entry must be verified at least once during the first three days of its validity by the National Police. The prohibition of entry shall end upon expiry of the tenth day following the order thereof; where an application for a preliminary injunction under Article 277a of the Execution Act is filed within this period, the prohibition of entry shall end with the service of the court's decision to the respondent, but at the latest upon expiry of the twentieth day following the order of the prohibition of entry. The court must inform the National Police immediately of the filing of an application for a preliminary injunction under Article 277a of the Execution Act and of the decision thereon.

Interventions by the National Police in cases of domestic violence and persons affected by violence since 2001



Note: In 2017 and 2018, no children/adolescents affected by violence were registered by the National Police.

Interventions by the National Police in cases of domestic violence since 2009

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total interventions	32	24	27	20	16	30	19	19	21	30	32	75
of which mediations/police counselling	20	17	17	12	14	26	19	18	21	30	32	39
of which arrangement of further assistance												71
of which on-site involvement of third-party support												14
of which expulsions	9	6	9	7	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	5
of which prohibitions of entry	3	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	5

Note: Detailed data on police measures relating to domestic violence has been collected since 2020.

Over the last few years, the definition of the terms has changed: For some time before 2020, domestic violence was recorded only if the disputing parties resided in the same household. This was also why the case numbers were significantly lower and then rose rapidly in 2020.

6.2 Risk assessment and risk management

As mentioned above, a new **Threat Management Services** unit was created at the National Police in 2019. The concept of threat management is based on the assumption

that serious violence against third parties is usually the result of a recognisable pattern of thought and behaviour. Indications to that effect can in many cases be identified through systematic and interdisciplinary threat management. Risks that indicate serious targeted violence are to be identified as early as possible, defused and, in the best case, prevented. The new Threat Management Services unit is the central coordination point for this purpose. The internal police psychologist who heads the unit and two police officers form the core team, which evaluates individual reports in regard to an increased propensity to violence and subsequently carries out well-founded risk assessment and planning of measures. The unit also draws on an external network of contact persons in various offices, authorities and institutions in Liechtenstein. The contact persons are specifically sensitised to the topic and are available to the Threat Management Services in an advisory capacity and as primary contacts in their institutions in situations of violence and threats.

The Threat Management Services unit has also been assigned the function of an internal police coordination unit for domestic violence. This function covers internal monitoring of cases of domestic violence, including an assessment of police officers' actions in cases of domestic violence. In some cases, their actions are analysed retrospectively together with the police officers involved. This is especially the case when expulsions or prohibitions of entry are imposed or omitted under Article 24g PolG. An internal **directive on domestic violence** is also in effect at the National Police, serving as a binding guideline for action to ensure uniform understanding of and intervention in cases of domestic violence.

Article 47(1) of the Law on Weapons, Weapon Accessories and Munitions (Weapons Act; WaffG)⁶⁵ provides that National Police may temporarily seize weapons in the event of danger to self or others.

6.3 Emergency barring orders

The violence protection law that entered into force in 2001, which provides for a preventive expulsion of the potential perpetrator by the National Police and a prohibition on entering the shared dwelling, forms the basis for combating domestic violence. As already discussed above (see [Chapter 6.1](#)), Liechtenstein provides for the possibility of expulsion and prohibition of entry in cases of domestic violence in accordance with Article 24g PolG.

6.4 Restraining or protection orders

Article 53 of the Convention requires Parties to ensure that appropriate restraining or protection orders are available to victims of all forms of violence covered by the scope of the Convention. These orders must meet certain requirements (immediate protection without undue financial or administrative burdens placed on the victim, issued for a certain period of time, possibilities of enactment without hearing the other party) and must be subject to effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions. This possibility is available in Liechtenstein with the application for a **preliminary injunction** pursuant to Article 277a EO.

⁶⁵ Law on Weapons, Weapons Accessories and Munitions (Weapons Act; *Waffengesetz*, WaffG), LGBl. 2008 No. 275, LR 514.1.

In 2021, one expulsion and two prohibitions of entry were issued. In 2020, five police expulsions and five prohibitions of entry were issued. In two cases, the unlawfully acting person had to be taken into police custody.

For further data, please refer to the remarks in [Chapter 6.1](#).

In the years 2019 to 2021, a total of five applications for preliminary injunctions under Article 277a EO were filed with the court; in two cases the parties settled, in one case the application was granted, one application was withdrawn, and one application was dismissed (as of 31 December 2021).

6.5 *Ex parte* and *ex officio* proceedings

Article 55 of the Convention requires the Parties to ensure that an offence subject to the Convention under Articles 35 to 39 is prosecuted irrespective of whether the victim has filed a complaint and irrespective of any withdrawal of a complaint. In order to empower victims and encourage them to participate in criminal proceedings, the Parties are also required to ensure that governmental and non-governmental organisations and domestic violence counsellors can assist victims and support them during investigations and judicial proceedings.

6.5.1 Prosecution against the will of the victim

In 2011, the law governing sexual offences was adjusted with the goal of expanding the substantive legal protection of victims and the practical measures taken by the Government to combat violence against children and women as well as domestic violence at a legal level. In particular, the range of criminal offences was expanded that must be prosecuted *ex officio*. These offences now include cases of dangerous threats against close family members, stalking, rape or sexual assault in marriages and domestic partnerships, and coerced marriages. *Ex officio* prosecution ensures that prosecution is no longer tied to any limiting preconditions for the different forms of domestic violence.

Pursuant to § 21 StPO, the Office of the Public Prosecutor must, *ex officio* and with the assistance of the National Police, investigate all punishable acts of which it gains knowledge and which are not subject to investigation and punishment merely at the request of an involved party, and it must prosecute the suspects in order to enable the court to do what is necessary for investigation and punishment. For all of the aforementioned offences, prosecution is not dependent upon a report or complaint filed by the victim, and the proceedings may continue even against the victim's will.

6.5.2 Proceedings with participation of NGOs and civil society actors

Under § 31a(2) StPO, victims have the right to have themselves be advised, taken care of, accompanied to examinations and represented in the exercise of their rights by the Victims Assistance Office.

The Victims Assistance Office, established under the Victim Support Act in 2008, provides counselling to victims of offences and their family members and provides the necessary

medical, psychological, social, material and legal assistance in individual cases (see, in particular, [Chapters 4.1](#) and [4.2](#)). Under Article 9(2) of the Victim Support Act, the Victims Assistance Office can call in other assistance institutions to fulfil its tasks and coordinate services. In cases where it cannot provide the necessary assistance itself, the Victims Assistance Office provides information about appropriate contact points. Urgent assistance that cannot be postponed is available around the clock, and long-term assistance is also ensured.

6.6 Measures of protection during the proceedings

Protection against intimidation, retaliation and repeat victimisation is provided, for example, by the possibility of anonymous testimony for witnesses pursuant to § 119a StGB and the considerate adversarial examination pursuant to § 115a(2) and (3) StPO using technical equipment such as video interviews. In addition, victims are entitled to assistance during the proceedings pursuant to § 31a(2) and Articles 12 to 14 OHG. Finally, there is also the possibility of admitting particularly endangered witnesses in a witness protection programme (see Articles 30d et seq. PolG).

§ 141(7) StPO stipulates that the victim must, upon application, be informed of the perpetrator's release. Victims of domestic violence and victims whose sexual integrity may have been violated must be informed *ex officio*. Victims have extensive procedural rights under § 31a StPO. These include the right to have themselves represented in criminal proceedings, to inspect the files, to be informed of the outcome of the proceedings, to receive translation assistance, to take part in the adversarial examinations and reconstructions of the offence, etc. Victims have the right to be heard (§ 31a(1)(7) StPO) and to apply that certain evidence be taken (§ 32(2)(1) StPO). § 31a(2) StPO sets out the right to be accompanied in proceedings. Moreover, victims have the right under Articles 12 to 14 OHG to have themselves be advised, taken care of, accompanied to examinations and represented in the exercise of their rights by the Victims Assistance Office (see [Chapter 4.6](#)).

With regard to measures to protect the privacy and image of the victim, § 31c StPO also serves to protect the victim's most personal sphere and identity, as does the possibility of anonymous testimony pursuant to § 119a StPO. On a supplementary basis, Article 34(1) of the Media Act⁶⁶ provides for the protection of the identity of victims of a judicially punishable act by prohibiting the disclosure of their name, image and other information.

Regarding the requirement to provide victims with independent and competent interpreters, § 23a StGB sets out the right to translation assistance.

In 2021, amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure and the Non-Contentious Proceedings Act (AussStrG) further expanded victim and witness protection.⁶⁷ The right of victims to be accompanied in criminal proceedings is also granted to the victim in civil proceedings under certain conditions (§ 73a of the Code of Civil Procedure (ZPO)⁶⁸).

⁶⁶ Media Act (*Mediengesetz*, MedienG), LGBl. 2005 No. 250, LR 449.1.

⁶⁷ Law amending the Code of Civil Procedure, LGBl. 2021 No. 227, LR 271.0.

⁶⁸ Law on Judicial Proceedings in Civil Disputes (Code of Civil Procedure; *Zivilprozessordnung*, ZPO), LGBl. 1912 No. 9/1, LR 271.0.

Victims and witnesses have a right to confidentiality of their residential address (§§ 75a, 76(2), 177(1), 340(1), 417(1)(2) ZPO). § 289a ZPO introduces the possibility of separate hearings for the victim and the witness, as in criminal proceedings. For minors (<18 years of age), the possibility has been established to refrain from questioning the minor at all if this endangers their well-being, or to have the questioning conducted by a suitable expert if the special circumstances on the part of the victim or witness (mental maturity, close relationship to the opposing party, subject of the questioning) so require (§ 289b ZPO). With regard to minor victims and witnesses, please also refer to the explanations in [Chapter 4.6](#). The provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure on legal aid and procedural assistance, on confidentiality of the residential address of victims and witnesses, and on the separate questioning of minors are declared applicable to non-contentious proceedings as well, pursuant to amendments to the Non-Contentious Proceedings Act (Articles 7(1), 10a and 35 AussStrG).

6.7 Free legal assistance and free legal aid

Under § 22i(1) StPO, victims shall be informed of their rights and of suitable institutions providing advice. Victims may have themselves represented by an institution for the protection of victims, a lawyer or any other suitable person (§ 34 StPO). § 31a(2) StPO also provides for the possibility of victims to be advised, taken care of, accompanied and represented by the Victims Assistance Office. The Victims Assistance Office advises victims and their family members and supports them in exercising their rights (Article 12(1) OHG). It informs the victim and their relatives about victim support services and any cost consequences, if necessary about the rights and obligations of victims in proceedings and on basic procedures before courts and administrative authorities, and it provides assistance in preparing or completing simple applications and submissions (Article 12(2) OHG). According to Article 25 OHG, proceedings for victims and family members are free of fees and costs,⁶⁹ and victims and family members are also entitled to a procedural assistant.

⁶⁹ On legal aid, see also, in particular, § 63(1) ZPO: If, due to a victim's financial situation (reasonableness), legal aid for legal representation is refused, it is possible to apply to the Victims Assistance Office for award of costs. This may nevertheless have cost consequences for the victim, since claims to cost contributions for longer-term assistance from third parties and to compensation for financial losses are available only if the allowable income of the victim or the victim's dependents does not exceed four times the income limit set out in Article 1(1)(a) of the Law on Supplementary Benefits to Old-Age, Survivors' and Disability Insurance (ELG) (Article 6(1) and (2) OHG – *Consideration of income for other benefits*). If the State has provided victim support pursuant to the law, claims to benefits of the same kind to which the victim or the victim's family members are entitled in light of the offence are transferred from the beneficiary to the State to the extent of the benefits provided by the State (Article 7(1) OHG – *Transfer of claims to the State*). Costs for expert opinions brought into the proceedings as a basis for evidence must be borne by the victim if legal aid was refused in the civil proceedings. Costs for expert opinions are not covered or advanced.

7. Migration and asylum

(Chapter VII of the Convention, Articles 59 to 61)

7.1 Residence status for victims

As a preliminary remark, it should be noted that in the event of dissolution of a marriage or partnership, an examination of the further right of residence takes place only if the permit was issued within the preceding five years. If the marriage has lasted longer and successful integration has taken place, the residence permit can be extended. Article 39(2) of the Foreigners Act (AuG)⁷⁰ also provides the possibility of granting an independent right of residence to spouses and registered partners of third-country nationals after the dissolution of the conjugal community that existed for less than five years (right to remain), namely if the person concerned is economically independent (stable and livelihood-securing employment relationship or sufficient financial means so that no recourse to social assistance will be necessary in Liechtenstein) and important reasons apply which make continued residence in Liechtenstein necessary. Such reasons may apply in particular if the spouse was the victim of marital violence. No legal right to residence exists, however. A further possibility is set out in Article 21 AuG, under which a residence permit may be granted to take account of serious cases of personal hardship.

The situation is similar under the Free Movement of Persons Act (PFZG).⁷¹ For family members of EEA or Swiss nationals, different rules apply depending on the nationality of the reunited spouse or registered partner (see Articles 46 and 47 PFZG). What they all share, however, is that remaining in Liechtenstein is contingent upon either gainful employment in Liechtenstein (with 80% of a full-time equivalent position and at least a one-year employment contract) or proof of sufficient financial means for residence without employment. In the case of spouses with Swiss nationality or third-country nationality, the law does provide that an independent right of residence can be granted if doing so is necessary to avoid particular hardship, but this requirement is also linked to gainful employment or proof of sufficient financial means for costs of living to take up residence without gainful employment. Moreover, only the PFZG, but not the Foreigners Act, provides for family reunification of *de facto* domestic partners. If the partnership is dissolved before the expiry of five years since the permit was issued, the residence permit is generally revoked.

When assessing postmarital hardship cases according to Article 39(2) AuG or Articles 46 and 47 PFZG, the personal situation is taken into account, but the condition of economic independence (gainful employment or sufficient financial means) must always be fulfilled.

According to Article 21 AuG in conjunction with Article 16 of the Ordinance on the Admission and Residence of Foreigners (ZAV; LGBl. 2008 No. 350), victims and witnesses of crimes may be granted a short-term permit or residence permit for the purpose of

⁷⁰ Foreigners Act (*Ausländergesetz*, AuG), LGBl. 2008 No. 311, LR 152.20.

⁷¹ Law on the Free Movement of EEA and Swiss Nationals (Freedom of Movement Act; *Personenfreizügigkeitsgesetz*, PFZG), LGBl. 2009 No. 348, LR 152.21.

carrying out the criminal prosecution. An already existing residence permit could accordingly also be extended under this condition.

If a foreigner leaves Liechtenstein without giving notice of departure, the residence permit expires after four or six months, the settlement permit after six months, and the long-term residence permit after two years (see Article 47 AuG and Article 51 PFZG). On personal notice of departure, a permit expires immediately. Foreigners can be readmitted if they have previously held a settlement or permanent residence permit for ten years, they have not been abroad for more than five or three years, respectively, and they meet other requirements (such as sufficient financial resources).

In 2020 and 2021, no women were identified as victims within the meaning of the Istanbul Convention with regard to their residence status. Accordingly, this did not have to be checked when assessing any continued right of residence after a divorce or in the context of an expulsion or return of the spouse, nor was a short-term or residence permit issued or extended in accordance with Article 21 of the Foreigners Act.

7.2 Gender-based asylum

Gender-specific grounds for asylum are explicitly provided for as a basis for granting refugee status in Article 2(1)(a) and 2(2) of the Asylum Act (AsylG).⁷²

If there are concrete indications of gender-specific persecution or if the situation in the country of origin indicates gender-specific persecution, the asylum seeker is interviewed by persons of the same sex if there are no special reasons to the contrary (see Article 8 of the Asylum Ordinance (AsylV); LGBl. 2012 No. 153). The Migration and Passport Office has trained and sensitised female employees who examine such cases in women-only teams at the first indications of gender-based violence against women. This includes using only female interpreters. Female asylum seekers are already given the opportunity during the entry interview to indicate any such reasons for fleeing.

Between 2018 and now, two women have been granted asylum in Liechtenstein on the basis of gender-specific persecution. One asylum-seeking woman with grounds under the Istanbul Convention did not qualify as a refugee, however, which is why she could not be granted asylum. The woman concerned was granted a residence permit on humanitarian grounds due to the special circumstances of the individual case (see also [Chapter 7.3](#)).

7.3 Gender-sensitive asylum procedures and protection of asylum-seekers

Complementing the explanations above (see [Chapter 7.2](#)), care is taken to avoid gender-specific threat situations when accommodating female asylum seekers and refugees. Liechtenstein Refugee Assistance accommodates families with children and women travelling alone separately from men travelling alone. A separate women's wing is provided in the refugee accommodation.

⁷² Asylum Act (*Asylgesetz*, AsylG), LGBl. 2012 No. 29, LR 152.31.

7.4 Non-refoulement

In Liechtenstein, both the validity and implementation of the principle of non-refoulement in the Refugee Convention⁷³ (specifically Article 33) and the ECHR (specifically Article 3) are guaranteed. The principle of non-refoulement is also established in national law under Article 3 AsylG. This includes the examination of the situation in the home country or country of origin, which is ultimately also assessed in every asylum decision.

The non-refoulement principle applies to all persons, accordingly also in all situations under foreigners or asylum law, and must be observed in any repatriation. Liechtenstein has taken all legislative and other measures to apply the non-refoulement principle to victims of violence against women. If a person has to leave Liechtenstein, a return decision is issued (see, e.g., Article 50 AuG, Article 53 PFZG, and Article 25 AsylG). In this context, it is examined whether any obstacles to return exist, i.e. whether enforcement of return is possible, permissible, and reasonable. No one is taken to a country where the life, limb, or freedom of a person is at risk or if there is a risk that the person will be subjected to inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment. Clarifications are made for this purpose (if necessary also with the help of the Swiss authorities, who have more country-specific information).

7.5 Other measures

The Migration and Passport Office is represented in both the Working Group on Domestic Violence and the Round Table on Human Trafficking. If the Migration and Passport Office determines that a woman has become a victim within the meaning of the Istanbul Convention, it refers her to the competent authorities and, if necessary, initiates the appropriate procedures under immigration law, taking into account the situation of the victim.

Furthermore, the Migration and Passport Office promotes and demands the integration of all foreigners residing in Liechtenstein. One of the goals is for foreigners to communicate in German, the national language, which puts them in a better position to understand and assert their rights.

⁷³ Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Refugee Convention).

8. Appendix – Legal bases for [Chapter 5.1](#)⁷⁴

Selection of excerpts of relevant legal texts, including provisions on violence against women

The Criminal Code and all other laws are available at www.gesetze.li.

Criminal Code⁷⁵

§ 12

Treatment of all participants as perpetrators

Not only the immediate perpetrator shall be deemed to commit the offence, but also every person who directs another person to carry out the offence or who otherwise contributes to its being carried out.

§ 15

Criminal liability of attempt

1) The penalties provided for intentional acts shall not only apply to a completed act, but also to an attempt and to any participation in an attempt.

2) The act shall be deemed attempted as soon as the perpetrator puts his decision to carry out or direct another person (§ 12) to carry out the act into execution by way of an action immediately preceding the carrying out of the act.

3) An attempt and any participation in an attempt shall not be punishable if completion of the act was not possible under any circumstances, for lack of personal qualities or circumstances that the law requires the person acting to fulfil or given the type of the action or the type of the object against which the act was perpetrated.

§ 33 Abs. 3

Special aggravating causes

3) It shall also be an aggravating cause if the perpetrator has intentionally committed an offence set out in sections 1 to 3 or 10 of the special part,

1. against a relative (§ 72), including a former wife, a former husband, a former registered partner or a former life partner, as person living with the victim or as a person abusing his/her position of authority;
2. against a person who, due to special circumstances, is in need of protection, and if the perpetrator exploits his/her special need of protection;
3. if such perpetrator has committed the offence with the use of an exceptionally high degree of force or if any such use of force has preceded the act;
4. using a weapon or by threat with a weapon.

§ 64 Abs. 1 Ziff. 4a

Offences abroad that are punished irrespective of the laws of the place of their commission

1) The Liechtenstein criminal laws shall apply to the following acts committed abroad, irrespective of the criminal laws of the place where the act is committed:

- 4a. genital mutilation as defined by § 90 paragraph 3, extortionate kidnapping (§ 102), delivery to a foreign power (§ 103), slave trade (§ 104), trafficking in humans (§ 104a), aggravated coercion as defined by § 106 paragraph 1 sub-paragraph 3, forced marriage (§ 106a), illegal adoption placements (§ 193a), rape (§ 200), sexual assault (§ 201), sexual harassment of underage persons as defined by § 203 paragraph 3, sexual abuse of a defenceless or mentally impaired person (§ 204), aggravated sexual abuse of under-age persons

⁷⁴ As of 1 October 2022.

⁷⁵ The unofficial translation in English is available at [<https://www.regierung.li/law>].

- (§ 205), sexual abuse of under-age persons (§ 206), endangerment of the morals of under-age persons or adolescents (§ 207), sexual abuse of minors (§ 208), initiation of sexual contacts with under-age persons (§ 209), immoral influence on under-age persons (§ 209a), abuse of a relationship of authority as defined by § 212 paragraph 1, arrangement of sexual contacts with minors in return for a valuable consideration (§ 214), promotion of prostitution and pornographic performances of minors (§ 215a), cross-border trafficking in prostitution (§ 217) and pornographic depictions of minors (§ 219), if a) the perpetrator or the victim is a Liechtenstein citizen or has his place of residence or his habitual abode in Liechtenstein,
- b) the act has violated other Liechtenstein interests, or
- c) the perpetrator was, at the time of the act, a foreign national who is in Liechtenstein and cannot be extradited;

§ 83

Bodily harm

1) Any person who causes harm to the body of another person or damage to the health of such other person shall be punished with imprisonment of up to one year or with a monetary penalty of up to 720 daily rates.

2) Any person shall be punished likewise who causes bodily abuse to another person and thus negligently causes harm to such other person or damage to such other person's health.

§ 84

Serious bodily harm

1) Any person who causes bodily abuse to another person, thus negligently causing damage to health lasting longer than 24 days or an incapacity to work, or serious harm in itself or damage to health shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three years.

2) Any person shall be punished likewise who commits an act of bodily harm (§ 83 paragraphs 1 or 2) against an official, a witness or an expert during or because of the performance of his tasks or execution of his duties.

3) Any perpetrator shall be punished likewise who has committed at least three independent acts (§ 83 paragraphs 1 or 2) without any comprehensible cause and with use of substantial force.

4) Any person who causes bodily harm to, or damage to the health of, another person, thus, even if only negligently, causing serious bodily harm to, or damage to the health (paragraph 1), of the other person shall be punished with imprisonment of six months up to five years.

5) Any person shall be punished likewise who commits an act of bodily harm (§ 83 paragraphs 1 or 2)

1. in a manner that generally involves the risk of death,
2. by at least two persons acting in concert with each other,
3. by causing extraordinary pain.

§ 85

Bodily harm with serious lasting consequences

1) Any person who causes bodily abuse to another person, thus negligently causing permanently or for a long period of time

1. the loss of or serious damage to speech, vision, hearing, or fertility,
2. a substantial mutilation or conspicuous disfigurement, or
3. serious suffering, lingering illness, or inability to work of the harmed party,

shall be punished with imprisonment of six months to five years.

2) Any person who causes harm to the body of another person or damage to the health of such other person, thus, even if only negligently, causing a serious lasting consequence to the other person (paragraph 1) shall be punished with imprisonment of one up to ten years.

§ 86

Bodily harm leading to death

- 1) Any person who causes bodily abuse to another person, thus negligently causing such person's death, shall be punished with imprisonment of one to ten years.
- 2) Any person who causes harm to the body of another person or damage to the health of such other person, thus negligently causing such person's death, shall be punished with imprisonment of one to fifteen years.

§ 87

Purposeful serious bodily harm

- 1) Any person who purposefully inflicts serious bodily harm (§ 84 paragraph 1) on another person shall be punished with imprisonment of one to ten years.
- 2) If the act results in serious lasting consequences (§ 85), then the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of one to fifteen years; if the act results in the death of the harmed party, then the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of five to fifteen years.

§ 90

Consent of the harmed party

- 1) Bodily harm or danger to physical safety shall not be unlawful, if the harmed party or the person in danger consents to it and the harm or danger as such does not violate common decency.
- 2) Any sterilization of a person performed by a physician with such person's consent shall not be unlawful if either the person has already reached the age of twenty-five or if, for any other reason, the intervention does not violate common decency.
- 3) No consent may be given to any mutilation of or any other injury to genitalia that is capable of resulting in a permanent impairment of sexual sensations.

§ 96

Termination of pregnancy

- 1) Any person who, with the consent of the pregnant woman, terminates the pregnancy of the woman shall be punished with imprisonment of up to one year or with a monetary penalty of up to 720 daily rates; if such person commits the act on a commercial basis, such person shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three years.
- 2) If the immediate perpetrator is not a physician, then such perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three years; if he commits the act on a commercial basis or if the act results in the death of the pregnant woman, he shall be punished with imprisonment of six months to five years.
- 3) A woman who terminates her pregnancy herself or allows another person, who is not a physician, to terminate her pregnancy shall be punished with imprisonment of up to one year or with a monetary penalty of up to 720 daily rates.
- 4) The act shall not be punishable pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 3 if the termination of pregnancy
 1. is necessary to avert serious danger to the life or serious damage to the health of the pregnant woman that cannot be averted otherwise, or the pregnant woman was under-age at the time of conception or if in respect of the pregnant woman a rape (§ 200), sexual assault (§ 201) or sexual abuse of a defenceless or mentally impaired person (§ 204) was committed and the pregnancy is the result of such an act, and if, additionally, in all these cases, the pregnancy is terminated by a physician, or
 2. is undertaken to save the pregnant woman from an immediate danger to life that cannot be averted otherwise, under circumstances not permitting medical assistance to be obtained in time.

§ 97

Termination of pregnancy without the consent of the pregnant woman

- 1) Any person who, without the consent of the pregnant woman, terminates her pregnancy, shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three years; if the act results in the death of the pregnant woman, the punishment shall be imprisonment of six months to five years.

- 2) The perpetrator shall not be punished in accordance with paragraph 1 if the termination of pregnancy is undertaken to save the pregnant woman from an immediate danger to life that cannot be averted otherwise, under circumstances not permitting the consent of the pregnant woman to be obtained in time.

§ 105
Coercion

1) Any person who coerces another person to carry out, acquiesce in or omit to carry out an act by force or a dangerous threat shall be punished with imprisonment of up to one year or with a monetary penalty of up to 720 daily rates.

2) The act shall not be unlawful if the use of force or threat, as a means for the intended purpose, does not contradict common decency.

§ 106
Aggravated coercion

1) Any person who commits coercion by

1. threatening death, substantial mutilation or conspicuous disfigurement, kidnapping, arson, endangerment through nuclear energy, ionizing radiation, or explosives, or destruction of livelihood or social status,
2. inflicting a state of agony on the coerced person or another person against whom the force or dangerous threat is directed, by these means and for an extended period of time, or
3. inducing the coerced person into prostitution, or participation in a pornographic performance (§ 215a paragraph 3), termination of pregnancy (§ 96) or otherwise into an act, acquiescence, or omission that violates particularly important interests of the coerced person or a third party

shall be punished with imprisonment of six months to five years.

2) The perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of one to ten years if the act results in the suicide or attempted suicide of the coerced person or of another person against whom the force or dangerous threat is directed.

3) Any person shall be punished likewise who commits an act of coercion into prostitution or into a participation into a pornographic performance against an under-age person, as part of a criminal group, with use of severe force or in such a manner that the act intentionally or grossly negligently (§ 6 paragraph 3) jeopardises the life of the person or in such a manner that the act represents a particularly severe detriment to the person.

§ 106a
Forced marriage

1) Any person who, by force or the threat of force or by the threat of termination or deprivation of the family contacts, coerces another person into entering a marriage or a registered partnership shall be punished with imprisonment of six months to five years.

2) Any person shall be punished likewise who, with the intent to force another person to enter into a marriage or a registered partnership (paragraph 1) in a state other than the person's state of citizenship or habitual abode, induces such other person through deception regarding this plan, or coerces such other person by force or a dangerous threat or by the threat of termination or deprivation of the family contacts, to go to another state, or, by force or by taking advantage of such other person's mistake in regard to this plan, transports such other person to another state.

3) § 106 paragraph 2 shall apply mutatis mutandis.

§ 107
Dangerous threat

1) Any person who threatens another person in a dangerous manner in order to scare and agitate such other person shall be punished with imprisonment of up to one year or with a monetary penalty of up to 720 daily rates.

2) Any person who makes a dangerous threat by threatening death, substantial mutilation or conspicuous disfigurement, kidnapping, arson, endangerment through nuclear energy, ionizing radiation, or explosives, or destruction of livelihood or social status or who, by these means and for an extended period

of time, inflicts a state of agony on the coerced person or another person against whom the force or dangerous threat is directed shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three years.

3) In the cases referred to in § 106 paragraph 2, the penalty set out therein shall be imposed.

4) Repealed

§ 107a

Persistent stalking

1) Any person who unlawfully and persistently stalks another person (paragraph 2) shall be punished with imprisonment of up to two years.

2) A person persistently stalks another person if such person, in a manner capable of causing unreasonable interference with the lifestyle of such other person, for an extended period of time continuously

1. establishes physical proximity with such other person,
2. establishes contact with such other person by means of electronic communication or by use of other means of communication or through third parties,
3. orders merchandise or services for such other person and, for this purpose, uses such other person's personal data, or
4. causes third parties to contact the other person and, for this purpose, uses such other person's personal data.

3) If the act results in the suicide or an attempted suicide of the person stalked pursuant to paragraph 2, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three years.

§ 107b

Continuous use of force

1) Any person who continuously and over a longer period of time uses force against another person shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three years.

2) A person uses force within the meaning of paragraph 1, if such person causes bodily abuse to another person or commits intentional punishable acts against life and limb or against liberty with the exception of the punishable acts mentioned in §§ 107a, 108 and 110.

3) Any person shall be punished with imprisonment of six months to five years who

1. commits the act against an under-age person or a person who is defenceless due to frailty, illness, or mental disability, or
2. through the act establishes comprehensive control in respect of the conduct of the injured person or considerable restrictions with regard to the autonomous lifestyle of the injured person.

4) Any person who commits an act referred to in paragraph 3 in a manner inflicting agony, or as part of a continuous use of force pursuant to paragraph 3 commits repeated offences against sexual self-determination and other sexual offences shall be punished with imprisonment of one to ten years. If an act referred to in paragraph 3 results in bodily harm with serious lasting consequences (§ 85) or if the force mentioned in paragraph 3 is used for more than one year, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of five to fifteen years, but if the act results in the death of the injured person, such perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of ten to twenty years.

5) The perpetrator shall not be punished in accordance with the preceding provisions, if the act carries a more severe penalty under a different provision.

§ 107c

Continuous harassment by way of electronic communication or a computer system

1) Any person who, by way of electronic communication or by using a computer system, in a manner capable of causing unreasonable interference with the lifestyle of the other person, continuously and over a longer period of time,

1. damages the honour of the other person in a manner perceivable for a larger number of persons, or
 2. makes facts or video recordings of the highly personal area of life without such other person's consent perceivable for a larger number of persons,
- shall be punished with imprisonment of up to one year or with a monetary penalty of up to 720 daily rates.

2) If the act results in the suicide or an attempted suicide of the person injured pursuant to paragraph 1, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three years.

§ 200

Rape

1) Any person who coerces another person with force, deprivation of personal liberty, or a threat of present danger to life or limb (§ 89) to perform or acquiesce in sexual intercourse or a sexual act equivalent to sexual intercourse shall be punished with imprisonment of one to ten years.

2) If the act results in serious bodily harm (§ 84 paragraph 1) or pregnancy of the raped person or if, due to the act, a state of agony is inflicted on the raped person for an extended period of time or if the raped person is especially degraded, then the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of five to fifteen years, but if the act results in the death of the raped person, the punishment shall be imprisonment of ten to twenty years or for life.

§ 201

Sexual assault

1) Any person who, other than in the cases set out in § 200, coerces another person by force or a dangerous threat to perform or acquiesce in a sexual act shall be punished with imprisonment of six months to five years.

2) If the act results in serious bodily harm (§ 84 paragraph 1) or pregnancy of the coerced person, or if, due to the act, a state of agony is inflicted on the coerced person for an extended period of time or if the coerced person is especially degraded, then the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of five to fifteen years, but if the act results in the death of the coerced person, the punishment shall be imprisonment of ten to twenty years or for life.

§ 203

Sexual harassment

1) Any person who directly or indirectly by means of information or communications technologies performs a sexual act in front of another person who does not expect such act, thereby causing a legitimate nuisance, or any person who physically or directly or indirectly by means of information or communications technologies sexually harasses another person in a gross manner by using language shall, upon application, be punished with imprisonment of up to six months or with a monetary penalty of up to 360 daily rates.

2) Any person who commits sexual harassment as defined by paragraph 1 in the circumstances set out in § 212 paragraphs 1 or 2 shall be punished with imprisonment of up to one year or with a monetary penalty of up to 720 daily rates.

3) Any person who sexually harasses an under-age person in the manner set out in paragraph 1 shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three years.

§ 204

Sexual abuse of a defenceless or mentally impaired person

1) Any person who, with respect to a defenceless person or another person who, because of mental illness, a mental disability, profound consciousness disorder, or other serious psychological disorder equivalent to any of those conditions is unable to comprehend the significance of the act or to exercise his judgement in this regard, takes advantage of such condition and abuses such defenceless or other person by performing sexual intercourse or a sexual act equivalent to sexual intercourse with such defenceless or other person, or by inducing such defenceless or other person to perform or acquiesce in sexual intercourse or a sexual act equivalent to sexual intercourse with another person or, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying the perpetrator or a third party, by inducing such defenceless or other person to perform a sexual act equivalent to sexual intercourse on himself, shall be punished with imprisonment of one to ten years.

2) Any person who sexually abuses a defenceless person or a mentally impaired person (paragraph 1) by taking advantage of this condition with the exception of the case referred to in paragraph 1, or induces such defenceless person or mentally impaired person to engage in a sexual act with another person or, for the

purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying the perpetrator or another person, induces such defenceless or other person to perform a sexual act on himself shall be punished with imprisonment of six months to five years. 3) If the act results in serious bodily harm (§ 84 paragraph 1) or pregnancy of the abused person, or if, due to the act, a state of agony is inflicted on the abused person for an extended period of time or if the abused person is especially degraded, then the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of five to fifteen years, but if the act results in the death of the abused person, the punishment shall be imprisonment of ten to twenty years or for life.

§ 204a

Violation of sexual self-determination

1) Any person who performs sexual intercourse or a sexual act equivalent to sexual intercourse with another person against the other person's will, by taking advantage of a plight or after prior intimidation shall be punished with imprisonment of up to two years, unless the act carries a more severe penalty under a different provision.

2) Any person shall be punished likewise who, in the manner described in paragraph 1, causes another person to perform or acquiesce in sexual intercourse or a sexual act equivalent to sexual intercourse with another person or, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying the perpetrator or a third party, causes such other person to perform a sexual act equivalent to sexual intercourse on himself involuntarily.

§ 205

Aggravated sexual abuse of under-age persons

1) Any person who engages in sexual intercourse or a sexual act equivalent to sexual intercourse with an under-age person shall be punished with imprisonment of one to ten years.

2) Any person shall be punished likewise who induces an underage person to perform or acquiesce in sexual intercourse or a sexual act equivalent to sexual intercourse with another person or, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying the perpetrator or a third party, induces such under-age person to perform a sexual act equivalent to sexual intercourse on himself.

3) If the act results in serious bodily harm (§ 84 paragraph 1) or pregnancy of the under-age person, or if, due to the act, a state of agony is inflicted on the under-age person for an extended period of time or if the under-age person is especially degraded, then the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of five to fifteen years, but if the act results in the death of the under-age person, the punishment shall be imprisonment of ten to twenty years or for life.

4) If the age of the perpetrator exceeds the age of the under-age person by not more than three years and if, due to the act, a state of agony is not inflicted on the under-age person for an extended period of time and if the under-age person is not especially degraded and if the act results neither in serious bodily harm (§ 84 paragraph 1) nor in the death of the under-age person, then the perpetrator shall not be punished pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2, except in the event that the under-age person has not yet attained the age of twelve.

§ 206

Sexual abuse of under-age persons

1) Any person who, other than in the case set out in § 205, performs a sexual act on an under-age person or has an under-age person perform a sexual act on himself shall be punished with imprisonment of six months to five years.

2) Any person shall be punished likewise who induces an underage person to engage in a sexual act (paragraph 1) with another person or, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying the perpetrator or a third party, induces such under-age person to perform a sexual act on himself.

3) If the act results in serious bodily harm (§ 84 paragraph 1), or if, due to the act, a state of agony is inflicted on the under-age person for an extended period of time or if the under-age person is especially degraded, then the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of five to fifteen years, but if the act results in the death of the under-age person, the punishment shall be imprisonment of ten to twenty years or for life.

4) If the age of the perpetrator exceeds the age of the under-age person by not more than three years and if, due to the act, a state of agony is not inflicted on the under-age person for an extended period of time and if the under-age person is not especially degraded and if the act results neither in serious bodily harm (§ 84 paragraph 1) nor in the death of the under-age person, then the perpetrator shall not be punished pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2, except in the event that the under-age person has not yet attained the age of twelve.

§ 207

Endangerment of the morals of under-age persons or adolescents

1) Any person who commits an act capable of jeopardizing the moral, psychological or health development of under-age persons or adolescents and does so in a direct or indirect manner by means of information or communications technologies in front of an under-age person or an adolescent that such person is raising, educating or supervising, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying the perpetrator or a third party, shall be punished with imprisonment of up to one year or with a monetary penalty of up to 720 daily rates, unless any endangerment of the under-age person or adolescent is ruled out in the circumstances of the case.

2) If the act results in serious bodily harm (§ 84 paragraph 1), the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three years.

3) If the age of the perpetrator in case no. 1 of paragraph 1 exceeds the age of the under-age person by not more than three years, the perpetrator shall not be punished pursuant to case no. 1 of paragraph 1, except in the event that the under-age person has not yet attained the age of twelve.

§ 208

Sexual abuse of minors

1) Any person who, after reaching the age of eighteen, sexually abuses another person who has not yet reached the age of sixteen, or induces such other person to engage in a sexual act with a third person or, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying the perpetrator or a third party, induces such other person to perform a sexual act on himself

1. by taking advantage of such other person's lack of capacity for sexual self-determination, or

2. by taking advantage of a predicament

shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three years.

2) Any person shall be punished likewise who, in return for a valuable consideration, sexually abuses another person who has not yet reached the age of eighteen or induces such other person to engage in a sexual act with a third person or, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying the perpetrator or a third party, induces such other person to perform a sexual act on himself.

3) If the sexual abuse in the cases set out in paragraphs 1 or 2 consists in sexual intercourse or in a sexual act equivalent to sexual intercourse, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of six months to five years.

4) If the act referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 or 3 results in serious bodily harm (§ 84 paragraph 1), then the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of one to ten years.

Police Act⁷⁶

Art. 24g

Expulsion and prohibition of entry in cases of domestic violence

1) If, on the basis of specific facts, in particular on the basis of a previous dangerous attack, it is to be assumed that a dangerous attack against life, health, or freedom is imminent, the National Police is authorised to expel a person from whom the danger emanates from a dwelling in which a person at risk lives and from the dwelling's immediate surroundings. The National Police shall inform the dangerous person and the person at risk of the area covered by the expulsion; this area shall be determined in accordance with the requirements of effective preventive protection.

⁷⁶ The unofficial translation in English is available at [<https://www.regierung.li/law>].

2) Under the conditions set out in paragraph 1, the National Police is authorised to prohibit a person from entering an area determined in accordance with paragraph 1. If it appears absolutely necessary, the prohibition of entry may also be used to prohibit the person from being present at other places to be specified, in particular the workplace of the person at risk.

3) In the case of a prohibition on entering one's own dwelling, particular care must be taken to ensure that this intervention in the private life of the person concerned respects the principle of proportionality (Article 23). The National Police is authorised to take away all keys to the dwelling and any weapons; the National Police is obliged to give the person the opportunity to take urgently needed personal effects and to inform the person of accommodation options. If it becomes necessary for the person concerned to visit the dwelling that the person is prohibited from entering, the person may do so only in the presence of the National Police.

4) Where a person is prohibited from entering the dwelling, the National Police is obliged to demand that the person concerned specify a delivery point for the purpose of serving the lifting of the prohibition of entry or a preliminary injunction under Article 277a of the Execution Act. If the person concerned fails to specify a delivery point, the provisions applicable to the service of legal actions shall apply.

5) The National Police is also obliged to inform the person at risk about the possibility of a preliminary injunction under Article 277a of the Execution Act and about suitable support facilities. This also applies in the case of expulsion under paragraph 1 or when no prohibition of entry or expulsion ends up being ordered.

6) When documenting the order of a prohibition of entry, consideration must be given not only to the circumstances relevant to the intervention, but also to those which may be relevant to proceedings under Article 277a of the Execution Act.

7) The order of a prohibition of entry must be reviewed by the Commissioner within 72 hours. For this purpose, the Commissioner may consult all institutions and bodies that can contribute to establishing the relevant facts. The Commissioner may also consult the public health officer or the physician on duty. If the Commissioner determines that the conditions for ordering a prohibition of entry are not met, the Commissioner must immediately lift the order with respect to the person concerned; the person at risk must be informed immediately that the prohibition of entry is being lifted. The lifting of the prohibition of entry and the provision of information to the person at risk must, if possible, be carried out verbally or by telephone by the National Police or in writing by personal delivery. The keys and weapons removed in accordance with paragraph 3 must be handed over to the person concerned when the prohibition of entry is lifted; in the case of an application for a preliminary injunction under Article 277a of the Execution Act, they must be deposited with the court.

8) Compliance with a prohibition of entry must be verified at least once during the first three days of its validity by the National Police. The prohibition of entry shall end upon expiry of the tenth day following the order thereof; where an application for a preliminary injunction under Article 277a of the Execution Act is filed within this period, the prohibition of entry shall end with the service of the court's decision to the respondent, but at the latest upon expiry of the twentieth day following the order of the prohibition of entry. The court must inform the National Police immediately of the filing of an application for a preliminary injunction under Article 277a of the Execution Act and of the decision thereon.

Execution Act

Article 277a

In general

1) The court shall, on the application of a close family member, or on the application of that family member's legal representative, order a person who, by physically assaulting that close family member, threatening to physically assault that close family member, violating sexual self-determination, threatening to violate sexual self-determination, or otherwise acting in a manner that substantially impairs psychological health, makes it unreasonable for that close family member to continue to live with the person, to

1. leave the dwelling and its immediate surroundings and/or
2. prohibit entering the dwelling and its immediate surroundings, if the dwelling serves to satisfy the applicant's housing needs.

2) The court shall, on the application of a close family member, with respect to a person who, by physically assaulting that close family member, threatening to physically assault that close family member, violating sexual self-determination, threatening to violate sexual self-determination, or otherwise acting in a manner that substantially impairs psychological health, makes it unreasonable for that close family member to continue to encounter the person,

1. prohibit the person from being present in places to be specifically designated and/or
2. order the person to avoid meeting and contacting the applicant, insofar as this is not contrary to the serious interests of the defendant.

3) Close family members within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 2 are:

1.
 - a) spouses, registered partners and *de facto* domestic partners,
 - b) siblings and relatives in a direct line, including adoptive and foster children as well as adoptive and foster parents,
 - c) the spouses, registered partners and *de facto* domestic partners of the persons referred to in subparagraph (b),
2.
 - a) relatives in a direct line, including the adoptive and foster children and the adoptive and foster parents, the spouse, registered partner or *de facto* domestic partner, and
 - b) siblings of the spouse, registered partner or *de facto* domestic partner, if they live or have lived with the respondent in a common household within the last three months before the application is submitted.

4) A preliminary injunction under paragraph 1 or 2 may be issued irrespective of the continuation of the common household of the parties and also without connection with proceedings for separation, divorce or annulment of marriage, proceedings for dissolution or annulment of registered partnership, or proceedings for clarification of the right to use the dwelling, but, as long as such proceedings are not pending, the period for which such an injunction is issued shall not exceed three months in total.

Abbreviations

AAA	Office for Foreign Affairs (<i>Amt für Auswärtige Angelegenheiten</i>)
ABGB	General Civil Code (<i>Allgemeines bürgerliches Gesetzbuch</i>)
aha	aha – Tips & Info for Young People
AJU	Office of Justice (<i>Amt für Justiz</i>)
APA	Migration and Passport Office (<i>Ausländer- und Passamt</i>)
ASD	Office of Social Services (<i>Amt für Soziale Dienste</i>)
AsylG	Asylum Act (<i>Asylgesetz</i>)
AsylV	Asylum Ordinance (<i>Asylverordnung</i>)
AuG	Foreigners Act (<i>Ausländergesetz</i>)
AussStrG	Non-Contentious Proceedings Act (<i>Gesetz über das gerichtliche Verfahren in Rechtsangelegenheiten ausser Streitsachen</i>)
AVW	Office of Economic Affairs (<i>Amt für Volkswirtschaft</i>)
CHF	Swiss francs
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ELG	Law on Supplementary Benefits to Old-Age, Survivors' and Disability Insurance (<i>Gesetz über Ergänzungsleistungen zur Alters-, Hinterlassenen- und Invalidenversicherung</i>)
EO	Law on Execution Proceedings and Proceedings to Secure Rights (<i>Gesetz über das Exekutions- und Rechtssicherungsverfahren</i>)
EEA	European Economic Area
EU	European Union
GesG	Public Health Act (<i>Gesundheitsgesetz</i>)
GLG	Gender Equality Act (<i>Gleichstellungsgesetz</i>)
GREVIO	Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
GSK	Violence Protection Commission (<i>Gewaltschutzkommission</i>)
ifs	Institute for Social Services Vorarlberg (<i>Institut für Sozialdienste Vorarlberg</i>)
infra	infra – Information and Counselling Centre for Women
JGG	Juvenile Court Act (<i>Jugendgerichtsgesetz</i>)
KIT	Liechtenstein Crisis Intervention Team (<i>Kriseninterventionsteam Liechtenstein</i>)
KJG	Children and Youth Act (<i>Kinder- und Jugendgesetz</i>)
LANV	Liechtenstein Employees' Association (<i>Liechtensteiner ArbeitnehmerInnenverband</i>)
LGBI	Liechtenstein Law Gazette (<i>Landesgesetzblatt</i>)
LI	Liechtenstein
LiLe	Liechtenstein Curriculum (<i>Liechtensteiner Lehrplan</i>)
MedienG	Media Act (<i>Mediengesetz</i>)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OHG	Victim Support Act (<i>Opferhilfegesetz</i>)
OHS	Victims Assistance Office (<i>Opferhilfestelle</i>)
PFZG	Law on the Free Movement of EEA and Swiss Nationals (Freedom of Movement Act; <i>Personenfreizügigkeitsgesetz</i>)
PolG	Police Act (<i>Polizeigesetz</i>)

RA	Government Motion (<i>Regierungsantrag</i>)
StGB	Criminal Code (<i>Strafgesetzbuch</i>)
StPO	Code of Criminal Procedure (<i>Strafprozessordnung</i>)
StVG	Execution of Sentences Act (<i>Strafvollzugsgesetz</i>)
UN	United Nations
VMR	Association for Human Rights in Liechtenstein (<i>Verein für Menschenrechte in Liechtenstein</i>)
VMRG	Law on the Association for Human Rights in Liechtenstein (<i>Gesetz über den Verein für Menschenrechte in Liechtenstein</i>)
WaffG	Weapons Act (<i>Waffengesetz</i>)
ZAV	Ordinance on the Admission and Residence of Foreigners (<i>Verordnung über die Zulassung und den Aufenthalt von Ausländern</i>)
ZPO	Code of Civil Procedure (<i>Zivilprozessordnung</i>)