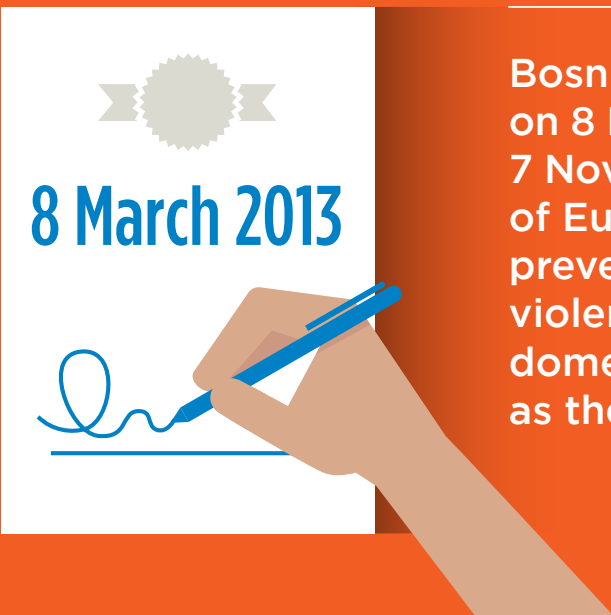


# Gaps in response to violence against women and girls



8 March 2013



Bosnia and Herzegovina signed on 8 March 2013, and ratified on 7 November 2013, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, also known as the Istanbul Convention.



## Who are the key players in providing services for survivors of violence against women and girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina?

- Service providers in Bosnia and Herzegovina are women's NGOs and state institutions, including Centres for Social Work, health centres, and police departments.
- Although service providers noted satisfactory cooperation with police and NGOs, more collaboration is needed to improve referral mechanisms.



## What are some gaps in services in Bosnia and Herzegovina?



- ← There are still no crisis centres for survivors of rape and other forms of sexual violence. Women and girls lack health and medical forensic services, trauma support and counselling.
- Shelters are scarce and inaccessible for marginalised groups of women.
- A very limited number of service providers offer perpetrator programmes. Work with perpetrators is rare because court order to attend these programmes are hardly utilised.
- ← Telephone helplines do not have systems in place that allow callers to remain anonymous. According to the Convention, it is important that helplines support confidentiality.
- Most service providers cannot offer support in Romani language or provide adapted information about their services for persons with intellectual disabilities.



## What more can Bosnia and Herzegovina do to better address violence against women and girls?

- ← Legislation to protect women and girls from all forms of violence, including stalking, forced marriage and female genital mutilation, must be strengthened and fully implemented.
- The national government must provide necessary funding to service providers, according to the standards of the Istanbul Convention.
- The Istanbul Convention needs to be fully implemented to end violence against women and girls, and achieve gender equality.

Information is drawn from a Multi-Country Study conducted in 2015 by UN Women in partnership with the Council of Europe to map support services for women and girls subjected to violence.

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