

# The Istanbul Convention



An agreement to stop violence against women in Europe



**This information  
is Easy to Read**

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# Table of Contents

**Introduction..... 3**

**Countries need to explain and inform people how to stop violence against women. .... 17**

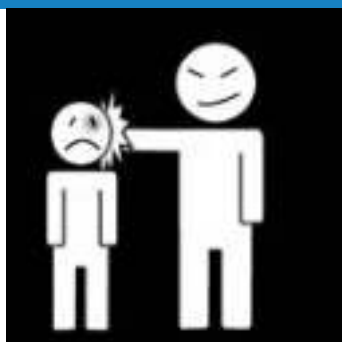
**Victims of violence need to be helped and protected ..... 20**

**The Istanbul convention says all countries must have laws to punish all kinds of violence..... 30**

# Introduction



Many women and girls face violence.



Violence is for example when someone hits, pushes and kicks you.

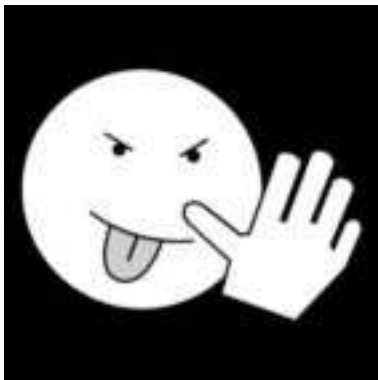


This is physical violence.



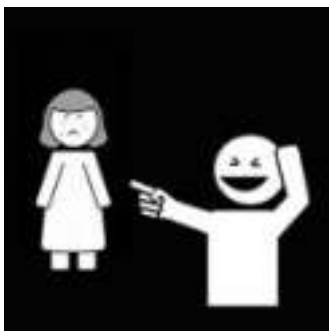
Violence is also for example when someone shouts at you or tells you to shut up.

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Violence is also when someone bullies or threatens you.

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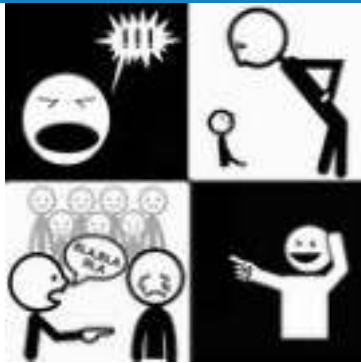
Bullying is when someone is rude or mean to another person.

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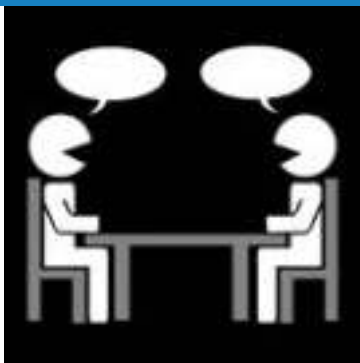


There are many different kinds of bullying.

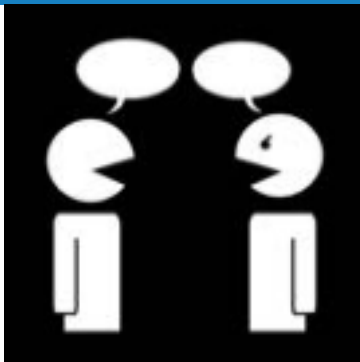
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Bullying does not always mean hitting people.



It can be mean things that people say.



This is called psychological violence.



Violence against women happens very often in Europe.



So the Council of Europe made an agreement to stop violence against women and girls.



The Council of Europe is a group of 47 countries in Europe.



In 2011 the countries signed the agreement in Istanbul.



Istanbul is a city in Turkey.



A convention is a agreement between countries.



This is why it is called the Istanbul Convention.



The Istanbul Convention wants a Europe without violence against women and girls.



The European Union also signed the convention.



The European Union is a group of 27 countries from Europe.



So far, the European Union has signed the Istanbul Convention but has not yet ratified it



To ratify means to confirm a Convention.



When a Convention is confirmed, we say it is ratified.





Then countries must do what is said in the Convention.



The Istanbul Convention points to other important agreements that countries made before.



One of these agreements is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



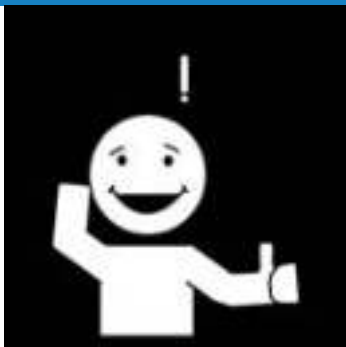
If you want to know more about it click [here](#).



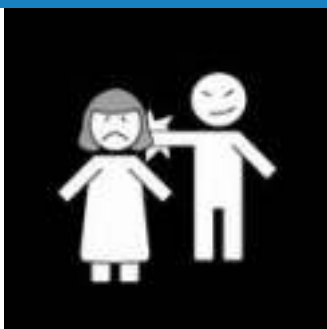
The Istanbul Convention says that violence against women and girls goes against their human rights.



Human rights are the rights of every person.



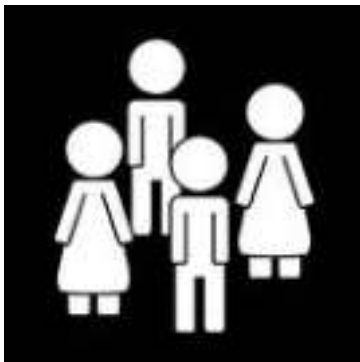
Rights are what people are allowed to do or have.



The Istanbul Convention tells us that women and girls often face violence only because they are women and girls.



This type of violence is called gender-based violence.



Gender is the difference that society makes between women and men and what we think they usually do and are usually like.



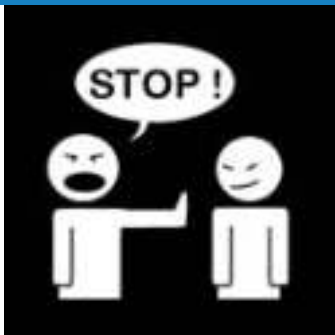
Women and girls face more gender-based violence than men at their homes and outside of their homes.



Children also face violence at home.



Children can also see their mothers and sisters face violence at home.



The Istanbul Convention wants to stop violence against women and girls.



The Convention wants women and men to be equal.



The countries of the Convention must make laws to help and protect women and girls against violence.

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Laws tell us what is allowed and what is not.



The countries of the convention must take action to help and protect women and girls against violence.



Everyone should be protected against violence.



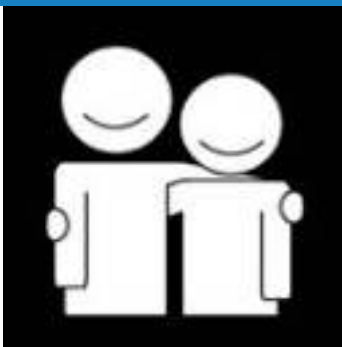
The convention protects everyone, there is no exception.



Governments need to know all about violence against women and girls to make the right laws on this.



Civil society is useful.



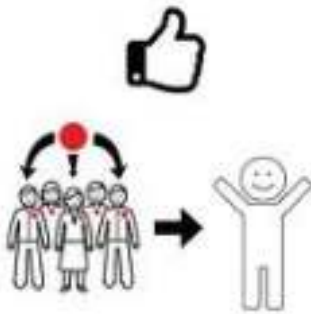
The civil society includes families and persons in their private life.



Civil society organisations are Organisations representing the civil society.



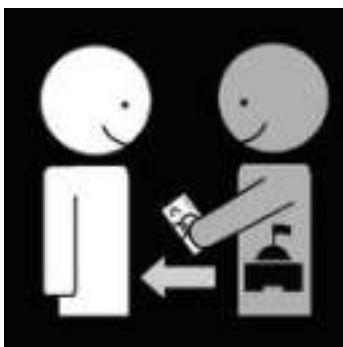
This means that they are not part of businesses or the government.



These Organisations are part of the community and help to make the life of the person they represent better.



Those making laws must ask these organisations to help them make laws against violence against women and girls.



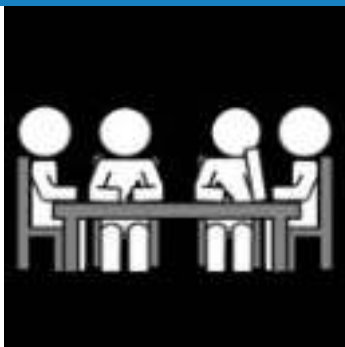
Governments must give money to these Organisations so that they can help the government to stop violence against women and girls.



Governments must give money to support actions that stop violence against women and girls



Government, civil society and all parts of society must agree on how to stop violence



And they must all work together to stop violence.

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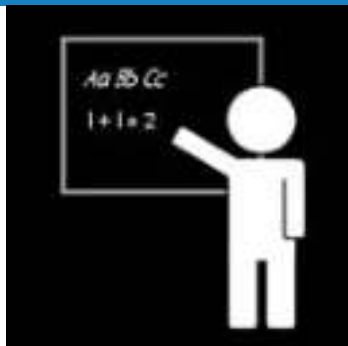
# Countries need to explain and inform people how to stop violence against women.



The Convention wants governments to inform everyone about violence against women and girls



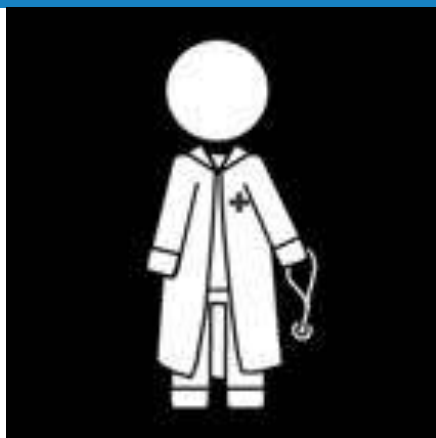
The Convention wants men and boys to help stop violence against women and girls.



Teachers must explain why violence against women and girls is bad.



And what everyone can do instead of being violent.



Doctors and counsellors need training to help women and girls who face violence.



Those who hurt women and girls need training.

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Those who want to hurt women or girls need help to stop hurting them again.

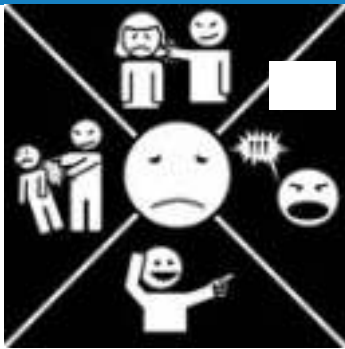


TV, radio, newspaper and internet must explain why violence against women and girls is bad for everyone.

# Victims of violence need to be helped and protected



The Convention wants the government to make laws to help woman and girls who are victims of violence



A victim is someone who faces violence in their family or outside of their home.



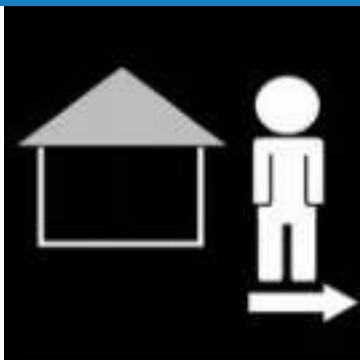
Sometimes a family member hurts women and girls.



Women and girls need help to cope with the violence they face.



The police must protect women and girls from those who hurt them.



Sometimes it means to take away the violent person from the home of women and girls.

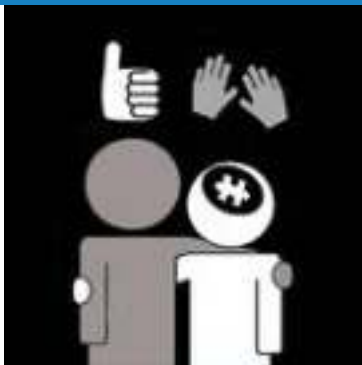


Children victims need help too.

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All victims of violence must be helped.



Victims with disabilities must be helped.



All the services to help victims must be accessible to women with disabilities.



If the victims need a new place to live away from the violence, they must get help to get a new place easily.



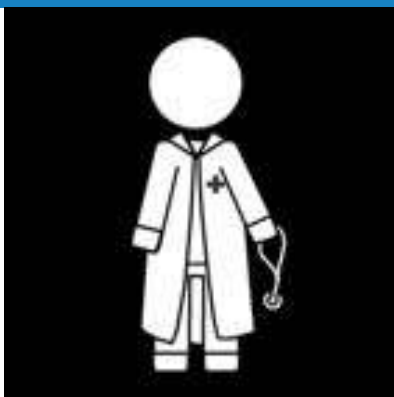
Victims must get help through a phone call at any time for free.



Children who saw violence need to be helped.



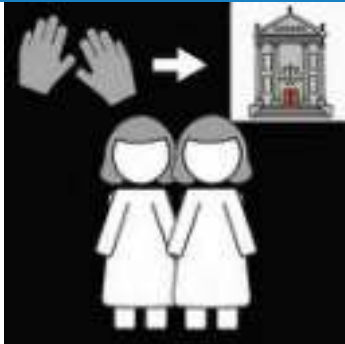
Other people who saw violence against women and girls must tell the police about what they saw.



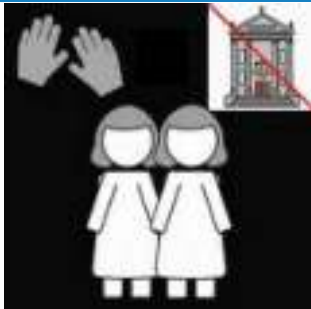
Usually doctors or counsellors must keep secret what patients and clients told them.



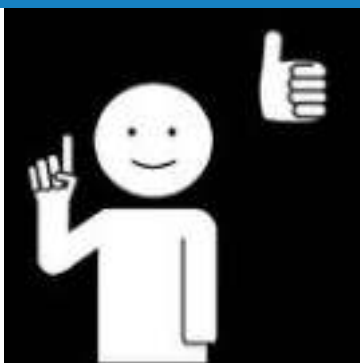
But if doctors or counsellors know a girl or woman who is a victim of violence they must tell the police.



Victims of violence against women and girls who sue those who hurt them must get help.



The Convention says that victims of violence who do not sue those who hurt them, can also get help.



These victims must know about all the help they can get in a way they can understand.

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This help can come from a lawyer.



It can come from a doctor.



This help can come from a counsellor.



It can be money.

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This help can be a place to live.



It can be a training.



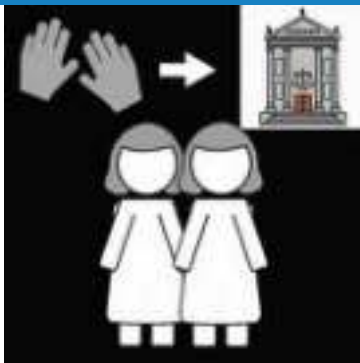
This help can be to find a job.



If these victims and their children need a specialist doctor, they must get one where they live.



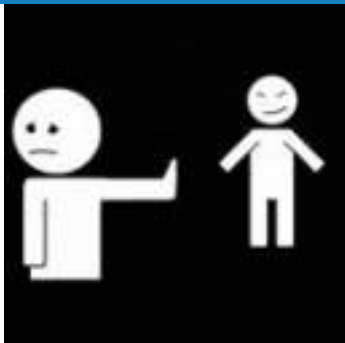
These victims must know how to sue those who hurt them.



These victims must get the help they need to sue those who hurt them.



These victims can ask for money from those who hurt them.



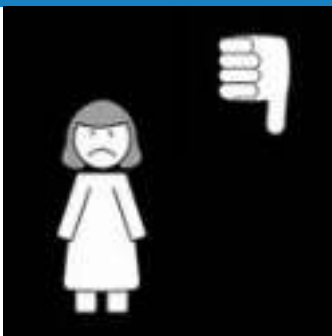
Victims who are women can ask those who hurt them to stay away from them and their children.



When women and girls who faced violence tell the police how they were hurt, the police can sometimes make them feel bad again.



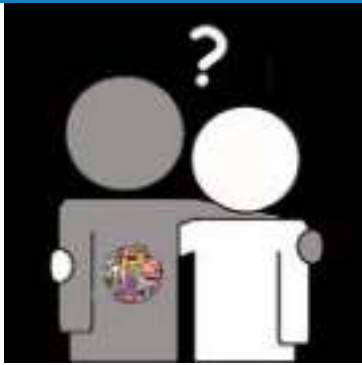
So women and girls can become victims a second time.



This is very bad for the victim of violence.



So the convention wants governments to make laws against women and girls to become victims a second time.



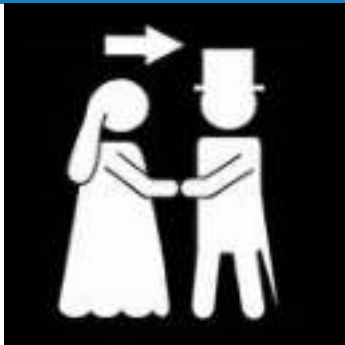
The convention wants countries to help victims who come from another country that did not help them.

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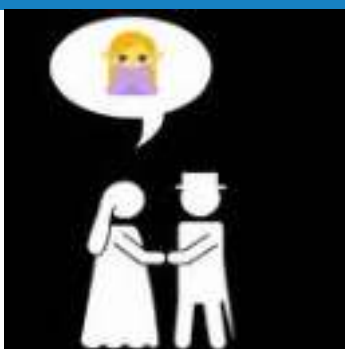
# The Istanbul convention says all countries must have laws to punish all kinds of violence



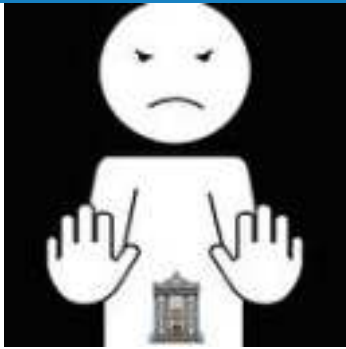
Countries must make new law to punish all kinds of violence if they do not already have these laws.



Forced marriage is violence against women and girls.



Forced marriage means that women and girls must marry even if they do not want it.



Forced marriages of woman and girls are forbidden and any court must end them.



A court must punish anyone who forces women and girls into marriage.



A court must punish anyone who brings women and girls from a country of the convention to another country to force them into marriage.



There is psychological violence against women and girls like stalking.



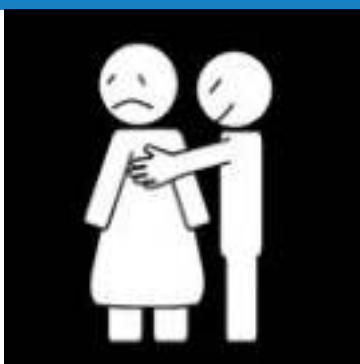
Stalking means when someone follows or watches someone else secretly.



When someone stalks a woman or a girl it makes her feel bad.



So courts must punish anyone who is stalking women and girls.



There is sexual violence against women and girls.





Another form of psychological violence is sexual harassment.



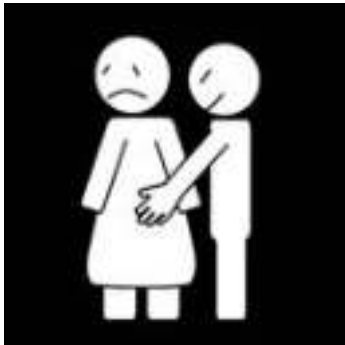
Sexual harassment means when someone forces another person to talk about sex or ask for sexual things.



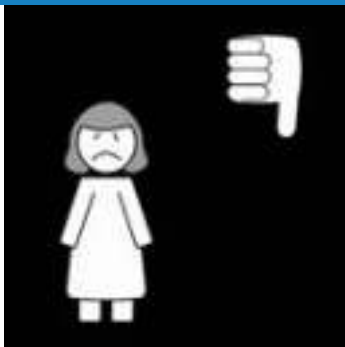
Sexual harassment can happen in many different ways



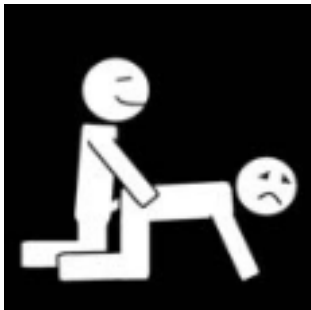
It can be in real life, or on the internet.



Physical sexual violence means that someone touches women and girls in their private parts even if they do not want this.



Rape is sexual violence against women and girls.

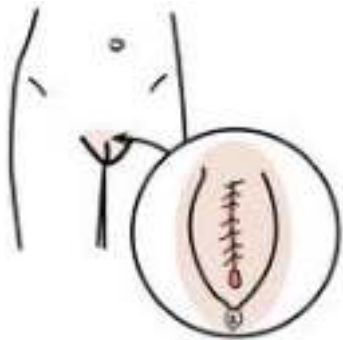


Rape means when someone forces others to have sex and enters any part of their body even if they do not want it.



Courts must punish anyone who rapes women and girls.

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It is physical violence against women and girls when someone cuts and sews the vulva of women and girls against their will.



The vulva belongs to the private parts of women and girls.



Courts must punish anyone who harms private parts of women and girls by cutting and sewing the vulva of women and girls.



Courts must punish anyone who forces women to have an abortion if they do not want it.



Abortion means doing an operation to end a pregnancy.



An abortion means that the baby will not be born.



Courts must punish forced sterilisation.



Forced sterilisation is when people are forced to have an operation that stops them from having babies. Even if they do not agree with that.



Courts must punish anyone who helps someone else hurt women and girls.



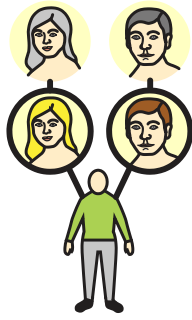
There is violence against women and girls because of religion, culture, tradition and honour.



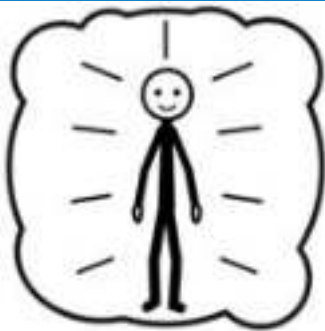
Religion is what someone believes in.



Culture is how to do things in a way because of tradition.



Tradition are things we do in a way because our parents and grandparents already did them this way.



Honour is what we think we have because of tradition and culture.



Religion, culture, tradition and honour are no reasons to hurt women and girls.



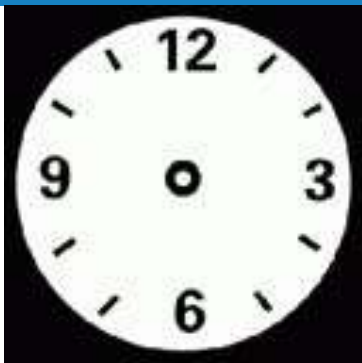
Courts must punish anyone who hurts women and girls just because of religion, culture, tradition and honour.



The Convention wants countries to help women and girls from other countries who faced violence because of religion, culture, tradition and honour.



Courts must punish anyone who hurts women and girls even if they are a family member.



The Convention wants courts to punish anyone for as long as they need when they hurt women and girls.

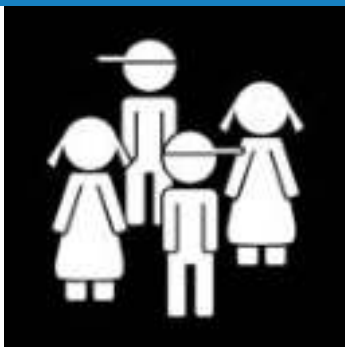
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When courts punish anyone who hurt women and girls the courts must look at all the violence that happened.



The courts must also look at how that person hurt women and girls.



The courts must also look at whether that person who hurt women and girls also hurt children.



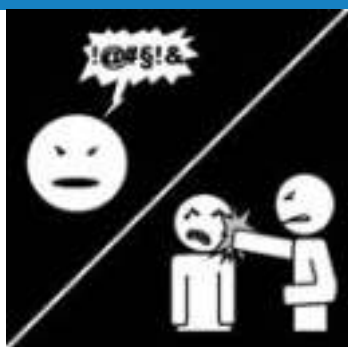
The courts must also look at whether that person used a weapon to hurt women and girls.

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The courts must also look at whether that person hurt the body of women and girls or bullied them.



The courts must also look at whether that person hurt women and girls before.



The courts must also look at whether they already punished that person who hurt woman and girls.



Only courts can punish anyone who hurts women and girls.



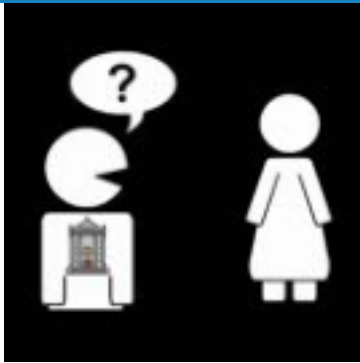
When police know about anyone who hurt women and girls they have to catch this person as soon as possible.



When police want to catch a person who hurt women and girls they must know whether the person will hurt the police as well.



The courts must as soon as possible, tell those who hurt women and girls that they cannot come close to their children or bothers anymore.



The courts are to only ask things from the victim that help the courts understand how the victim was hurt.



The courts are to punish those who hurt women and girls in the place they asked to punish them and in the place the violence happened.



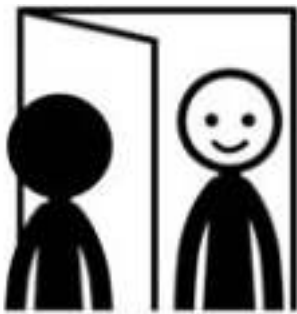
Organisations representing people in their private life must help the female victims of violence when they ask courts to punish those who hurt them.



Police and courts must help victims of violence against women and girls at any time they ask for it.



The Convention wants governments to allow victims of violence to stay where they live even if they could only stay there because of a marriage to someone who hurt them.



Governments are to welcome foreigners who fled from other countries because they were victims of violence against women and girls.



Countries of the Convention need to help each other to stop violence against women and girls in any way.

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The Convention wants the Council of Europe to set up a group of people that check whether all the countries that ratified the convention do everything in the agreement.

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This group of people that check if all countries do everything in the Convention is called GREVIO.

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The Istanbul convention wants no country to make any exceptions to the convention.



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