

### FACTSHEET

### GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

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#### BACKGROUND

Violence against women is a reality in Switzerland. Every month two women are killed as a result of gender based violence. The roots of gender-based violence must be sought in the gender based inequality, which continues to reproduce generally accepted norms and stereotypes. The image of traditional gender roles is still influential in Swiss society. It is reproduced in the media and thus present in everyday life, contributing in a subtle but effective way to a perpetuation of power relations between men and women. Vulnerable groups such as LGBTI or migrant minorities, or victims of human trafficking are in particular subjected to inequalities, discrimination, and violence.

#### THE PROBLEM

There is a need to adopt a global approach to preventing and combatting violence and sexism. In particular minority groups need the protection from additional discrimination through laws that are effectively implemented, such as the right of residence for victims of domestic violence. Yet, there is neither a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, nor a national action plan to fight gender based violence.

#### UPR CONCERN

In the past, Switzerland has been called upon to take measures to eliminate discrimination, gender based violence, and strengthen women's rights. Some of which were accepted but lead to no real change. In order to make real progress, the Swiss Human Rights NGO Platform considers it of utmost importance to link gender inequality, stereotypical behavior, and sexism, with gender based violence and discrimination.

The *Istanbul Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence* is the instrument that allows for exactly that. Switzerland has recently ratified the Convention, however it has kept certain reservations targeted at the most vulnerable groups. Switzerland needs to be recalled to implement the Istanbul Convention without reservations and without discrimination.

#### PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

Switzerland is invited to ratify the European Social Charter (revised) and implement the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence without reservations and discriminations.