



WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

WAVE Network & European Info Centre Against Violence
Bacherplatz 10 / 6 • 1050 Vienna, Austria
phone: +43-(0)1-5482720 • fax: +43-(0)1-5482720-27
e-mail: office@wave-network.org • www.wave-network.org
ZVR:601608559

WAVE Fact sheet

Cost of violence against women and children is high – Investment in prevention pays

January 2016

The “Four new Tools”, which are the FRA survey on Violence against women 2014, the Istanbul Convention (2011), the Victim’s Directive and the European Protection Orders (2015), provide an excellent base and a political “window of opportunity” to considerably strengthen efforts to eliminate violence against women and their children in the next decade. This goal will not be reached without adequate investment of resources including money. Just as terror cannot be prevented without financial and other means, combating gender-based violence in the public and private sphere needs sufficient remedies to “cure” this widespread problem. Investment pays, since gender-based violence costs society a large amount:

Costs of Violence against Women

According to the European Added Value Assessment, “the annual cost to the EU of gender-based violence against women is estimated at EUR 228 billion in 2011 (1.8% of EU GDP), of which EUR 45 billion a year in public and state services and EUR 24 billion of lost economic output.”ⁱ

Given the enormous financial consequences caused by gender based violence, it seems more than sensible to invest in the protection and support of victims, as well as prevention efforts. Of course the argument is not mainly financial; first and foremost, violence against women and domestic violence need to be prevented and eliminated because of the “right of everyone, particularly women, to live free from violence in both the public and the private sphere” (Istanbul Convention, Article 4.1). However, it is important to bring the financial dimension to mind in order to counter the often-heard argument that there is no funding available when it comes to protective measures and empowering victims / survivors.

Contact: WAVE office, e-mail: office@wave-network.org

ⁱ European Parliament. (2014). European Parliament resolution of 25 February 2014 with recommendations to the Commission on combating Violence against Women (2013/2004(INL)). Para R.