

International legislative framework on gender-based violence

The International Women's Year World Conference, held in Mexico City, in 1975, inaugurated the worldwide commitment to work for equality between women and men and recognised, for the first time, the seriousness of violence against women. Four years later, in 1979, the United Nations Assembly approved one of the most important legislative instruments, **the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**. In 2019, 187 countries joined to it.

In 1993, the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna, approved the **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women**, which constitutes a milestone, at the international level, in that it recognises gender-based violence within the sphere of human rights. This declaration not only highlights the violation of women's fundamental rights that this violence entails, but also the obligation of the states to prosecute and eradicate it.

At the IV World Conference on Women, in Beijing, in 1995, the term <<gender-based violence>> was adopted and the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** was approved. This definition identified violence against women as gender-based violence, occurring within the framework of social and cultural inequalities, in all spheres of life and in all societies. Since then, the international community has met, every five years in New York, to assess the implementation of the Platform for Action. These conferences have been called Beijing+5 (2000), Beijing+10 (2005), Beijing+15 (2010) and Beijing+20 (2015).

In the framework of the European Union, although the founding treaty already provides for equality between women and men, gender-based violence was first addressed in the framework of the **Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation**, in 1996.

Since then, different agreements, resolutions and treaties have been enacted, at the European level, with the aim of articulating common normative instruments to fight against this violence. Among them, the **European Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)**, adopted in 2011, which entered into force in 2014. The Istanbul Convention has been recognised, as the most powerful legal mechanism to combat violence against women, in Europe and globally. It is the first legally binding regional instrument, in Europe, that comprehensively addresses the different forms of violence against women: physical, psychological, sexual, harassment and sexual harassment.

CEDAW: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.asp>
<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cedaw.pdf>



International entities working on gender-based violence

● **CSW: Commission on the Status of Women**

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>

● **INSTRAW: International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women**

<http://www.cinu.org.mx/onu/estructura/otros/instraw.htm>

● **UN Women:**

[https://www.unwomen.org/en/partnerships?show=National Women%27s Machineries](https://www.unwomen.org/en/partnerships?show=National%20Women%27s%20Machineries)

● **CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

