

The Israel Observatory on Femicide supports the Istanbul Convention

On the 18th of May, 2022, the Israel Observatory on Femicide (<https://en.israelfemicide.org/>) attended a meeting of the Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality in Israel's Knesset to discuss an initiative to sign the Istanbul Convention.

The Istanbul Convention, formulated in 2011, recognizes in its Preamble "... with grave concern, that women and girls are often exposed to serious forms of violence such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, forced marriage, crimes committed in the name of so-called "honor" and genital mutilation, which constitute a serious violation of the human rights of women and girls and a major obstacle to the achievement of equality between women and men".

Further, in Chapter III – Prevention Article 12 – General obligations, clause 5, it states that: "Parties shall ensure that culture, custom, religion, tradition or so-called 'honor' shall not be considered as justification for any acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention."

Most European countries (34 states in the Council of Europe) have signed the convention. To date, Israel has not.

The ratification by Israel of this convention will be a step towards reducing all violence against women, and femicide, in particular. At today's Knesset meeting, the support of government ministries (including the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs), MKs, and women's organizations supported the initiative. The Israel Observatory on Femicide stands with these organizations in favor of Israel joining the convention.

In the Explanatory report accompanying the Istanbul Convention, it states in clause 259 that:

"Effective measures should be taken to prevent the most blatant forms of violence which are murder or attempted murder. Each such case should be carefully analysed in order to identify any possible failure of protection in view of improving and developing further preventive measures."

The Israel Observatory on Femicide was founded for exactly this purpose. Recording and measuring each case of femicide is vital for any country which desires to combat this terrible phenomenon.

The Israel Observatory on Femicide calls upon the Government of Israel, policy makers, and NGOs to support the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

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