

Table of Contents

- **EU: International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM**
- **EU: 28 Factsheets on the femicide framework in EU member states**
- **FRANCE: Trial of female circumcision: a mother sentenced**
- **RUSSIA: Patriarch Kirill proposes stripping private clinics of right to receive female patients for abortions**
- **UK: New law raises minimum marriage age to 18 in England & Wales**
- **UK: Femicide - 125 women killed by men March 2021 - 2022**

EU: International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM

EU Delegation to the UN in Geneva (04.02.2022) - <https://bit.ly/3sgkszY> - Ahead of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, 6 February 2022, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission Josep Borrell Fontelles, Vice-President for Values and Transparency, Věra Jourová, Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, Dubravka Šuica, Commissioner for Equality, Helena Dalli, and Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen, joined together to reaffirm the EU's strong commitment to eradicate female genital mutilation worldwide and made the following statement:

"Ahead of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, 6 February 2022, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission Josep **Borrell Fontelles**, Vice-President for Values and Transparency, Věra **Jourová**, Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, Dubravka **Šuica**, Commissioner for Equality, Helena **Dalli**, and Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta **Urpilainen**, joined together to reaffirm the EU's strong commitment to eradicate female genital mutilation worldwide and made the following statement:

"Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and a violation of women's human rights. We must stop it.

There is no justification for such a horrific practice. There are, however, very serious negative consequences that affect the physical and mental health of women and girls, including infections, infertility and chronic pain. This practice puts the lives and wellbeing of thousands of women and girls at risk and in some cases it can even lead to their death.

While many communities have abandoned FGM and cultural norms are changing, leading to a decrease in FGM, the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed progress towards its eradication. In times of confinement, maintaining access to prevention, protection and care services remain more important than ever.

Ending all forms of gender-based violence, including FGM, is at the heart of EU equality policies. Since the start of this Commission's mandate, we stepped up our actions in Europe and globally with the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024, the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and the EU Gender Action Plan III. We presented a comprehensive Strategy on the Rights of the Child, which also sought to put an end to violence against children, including FGM. This year, we will present a legislative

*proposal to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence, as well as a recommendation on the prevention of harmful practices.
We cannot tolerate violence against women and girls.”*

Background

Female genital mutilation comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons, as defined by the World Health Organization. FGM is a worldwide issue, which exists in Europe too. It is estimated that 180,000 girls in 13 European countries alone are at risk of being mutilated while [600,000 women are living with the consequences of FGM\(link is external\)](#) in Europe. FGM is carried out erroneously for a variety of cultural, religious or social reasons on young girls between infancy and 15 years of age. FGM constitutes a form of child abuse and violence against women; it has severe short- and long-term physical and psychological consequences.

Criminalisation of FGM is required under [the Council of Europe Convention\(link is external\)](#) on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. The Convention is signed by all EU Member States and has been ratified by 21 Member States so far. The Commission has been working together with the Council towards the EU's accession to the Convention. The Commission will put forward a proposal to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence, as well as a specific Recommendation on the prevention of harmful practices.

In addition, through the [Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme \(CERV\)](#), funding will continue to be provided to Member States' and civil society-led projects tackling gender-based violence, including FGM. Under the [2021 DAPHNE call for proposals](#), 40 projects were awarded to be funded with a budget of €17.7 million. The Commission published a new [call for proposals](#) with a budget of €30.5 million, open until 12 April 2022, which specifically includes a priority dedicated to combating and preventing violence linked to harmful practices. Currently, with EU funding the CHAIN project is strengthening the prevention, protection and support for victims of FGM and early and forced marriage through, through training, capacity building and awareness raising activities in Germany, Spain, France, Italy and Belgium.

The [1989 UN Convention on the rights of the child\(link is external\)](#), to which all EU Member States are party, also condemns FGM as a form of violence against girls. In 2021, the Commission presented a comprehensive EU [Strategy on the Rights of the Child](#), which contains concrete actions and recommendations on how to effectively prevent and put an end to violence against children, including FGM.

In the context of external action and development cooperation, ending FGM continues to be a key action under the [EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024](#) and the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025. This is reflected in political dialogues as well as concrete actions, for example, through the support to the [UNFPA/UNICEF Global Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation\(link is external\)](#) through the [Spotlight Africa Regional Programme\(link is external\)](#), which dedicated €7.5 million to tackling the practice in 17 partner countries. Despite the restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, around 650,000 women and girls were provided with gender-based violence services, including support to the prevention of harmful practices. The EU also supports projects addressing FGM at country level through its European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). For example, in Somalia, the EU supports the empowerment of CSOs to lobby and advocate for FGM policy adoption; in Sudan, the EU supports the legislative reform for the abandonment of FGM in rural communities.

[The New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#) put forward by the Commission in September 2020 aims to reinforce the protection safeguards available to persons with specific needs, in particular, female applicants who have experienced gender-based harm. This includes ensuring access to medical care, legal support, appropriate trauma counselling and psycho-social care at different stages of the asylum procedure.

For More Information

To find out more about female genital mutilation and what the European Union is doing to eliminate this practice, [see website](#).

[Myth-Busting Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\)](#)

Research from the [European Institute for Gender Equality](#) estimating the number of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in Denmark, Spain, Luxembourg and Austria: [FGM study: More girls at risk but community opposition growing](#) (2021)

Watch this [video\(link is external\)](#) from Commissioner Dalli and MEPs Evelyn Regner and Assita Kanko on Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilations.”

EU: 28 Factsheets on the femicide framework in EU member states

EIGE (04.01.2022) - <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/femicide> - Femicide is the most severe manifestation of gender-based violence.

It is deeply rooted in and a manifestation of power imbalances in society, which promotes an unequal status for men and women. Femicide is broadly defined as the killing of a woman or girl because of her gender, and can take different forms, such as the murder of women as a result of intimate partner violence; the torture and misogynist slaying of women; killing of women and girls in the name of “honour”; etc.

EIGE has carried out [four studies](#) on administrative data collection and developed 13 indicators on intimate partner violence, rape and femicide for the police and justice sectors. The necessity to better understand and measure the phenomenon of femicide has led EIGE to develop a definition of femicide:

EIGE has developed 28 factsheets on the femicide framework in Member States.

Data collection systems vary widely across EU Member States, as they draw on various sources.

EIGE has collected information from a wide variety of stakeholders through a questionnaire sent to official data providers and an online survey filled in by national experts. Based on these EIGE is presenting country-factsheets with detailed information on the data gathering at national level.

[Belgium](#)
[Bulgaria](#)
[Czechia](#)
[Denmark](#)
[Germany](#)
[Estonia](#)
[Ireland](#)

[Greece](#)
[Spain](#)
[France](#)
[Croatia](#)
[Italy](#)
[Cyprus](#)
[Latvia](#)
[Lithuania](#)
[Luxembourg](#)
[Hungary](#)
[Malta](#)
[Netherlands](#)
[Austria](#)
[Poland](#)
[Portugal](#)
[Romania](#)
[Slovenia](#)
[Slovakia](#)
[Finland](#)
[Sweden](#)
[United Kingdom](#)

EIGE is currently working in a project entitled "Improving legal responses to counter Femicide" (2021).

The overall aim of the study is to improve the institutional responses by identifying the gaps within and between law and in practice when providing justice to victims of femicide.

The report will be published in 2022.

FRANCE: Trial of female circumcision: a mother sentenced

The court has decided: the law takes precedence over tradition.

TV5 Monde (05.04.2022) - <https://bit.ly/3xjxiFH> - Jurors and magistrates have decided: the law takes precedence over tradition. In Le Mans, a mother was given a five-year suspended sentence for circumcising her three eldest daughters during trips to Djibouti. Sociologist Isabelle Gillette-Faye, a specialist in excision, sheds light on the issues of this trial.

On March 30 and 31, 2022, a mother of seven children appeared before the Assize Court of Sarthe, in west-central France, for "complicity in violence against minors under the age of 15 followed by mutilation or permanent infirmity". In concrete terms, she is accused of having her three eldest daughters undergo excision. However, this female mutilation is strictly prohibited and punishable, in France, by fifteen years of imprisonment - in Djibouti too, excision has been prohibited since 1995. This trial is the first in ten years in France after [that of Nevers in 2012](#).

Excised in Djibouti

If [Nevers' trial](#) tried parents who had excised their girls in precarious conditions, at their home in France, the 39-year-old woman tried in Le Mans had her three eldest daughters

excised in 2007 and 2013, during stays with their grandmother in Djibouti, her country of origin. The little ones were then 4, 5 and 7 years old.

In France, the eldest girl, who has a mental disability, is followed in a socio-educational center. Upon her return from the trip to Djibouti undertaken by the family in 2013, she explained to her educators that she has "*no darling, no zizizi*" by showing the genital area. His drawings depict children crying tears of blood.

Alerted, the socio-educational team issued a "notice of concern", in accordance with the reporting procedure. This resulted in a medical examination that confirmed the girl and her two sisters had undergone genital mutilation. "*This time, and this is not always the case, the magistrate in charge of the case went to the end, to the trial in assizes,*" noted Isabelle Gillette-Faye.

An exemplary trial

The sociologist, who is the Director of the [National Federation GAMS](#) (Group for the Abolition of Sexual Mutilation, Forced Marriage and other traditional practices harmful to the health of women and children), attended part of the trial as an expert witness, at the request of the court. She explained the ins and outs of an excision and contextualized the facts committed by the mother. "*I was there to shed light on people, jurors or assessors, who are not used to being confronted with this kind of case,*" she explained, stressing the attitude of stakeholders: "*very attentive and eager to do well, to understand without judging. How can a mother do this to her daughters? Why do girls themselves continue to trivialize an act that could, and can still have had dramatic consequences?*"

The accused humiliated in her good faith

Isabelle Gillette-Faye, found the mother "*very worthy, who says she understood that excision is prohibited by law.*" The sociologist has another deciphering of the accused's thought: "*I believe that she remains convinced that it is a religious necessity* (Editor's note: the mother is Muslim) *and that she does not understand why she is prevented from doing so.*" However, since 2015, the mother has had four other children. "*She didn't touch any of them, girls and boys. So she seems to have understood the ban, but not the why,*" analyzes Isabelle Gillette-Faye.

"Throughout the trial," said Isabelle Gillette-Faye, "the mother of the three young excised women wanted to convince that the infibulation she herself suffered in her childhood (total or almost total excision, female genital mutilation type 3) did not have any harmful consequences on her life as a woman": "*She assures that her sexuality remained perfect, that her deliveries went very well,*" reported the sociologist.

In addition, the accused argued that she brought a nurse home so that her daughters' excisions take place in the best hygienic conditions and that their excisions were relatively minimally invasive - female genital mutilation type 1. "*She thinks she behaved like a good Djiboutian mother and does not understand why the sky falls on her head.*"

In fact, when the verdict was read, the accused collapsed into tears. Surprised by this reaction, Isabelle Gillette-Faye said: "*It is extremely rare that this kind of woman expresses her emotions in public so intimately. This says a lot about the humiliation she felt for being convicted for an act she considers normal.*" Disgrace is all the more cuncky for the mother as she will now be under surveillance to dissuade her from touching her youngest children and that socio-educational follow-up will probably be imposed on her older children.

Victims in denial

The girls, the victims, did not attend the trial. The older one, disabled, must remain under protection. As for the two younger ones, *"they are in total denial of what happened to them,"* explained Isabelle Gillette-Faye. They consider that this trial of their mother was wrong and spoke of their excisions as something normal. They did everything to exonerate their mother, so that she was not convicted. *"Denial is a fairly classic reaction for children who are victims of violence and abuse,"* said the sociologist.

What about the fathers?

The late father of the victims was, according to the accused, not aware of the intervention suffered by his three daughters during their stay in Djibouti. He was certainly not present, according to Isabelle Gillette-Faye, but he must have been aware of it: *"We had to pay for these interventions. Especially since in Djibouti, dowries are very high, and the only way for a father to monetize his daughters to a Djiboutian for an amount as high as he himself had to pay for his wife was that they be excised before marriage."*

A Djiboutian family condemned

In the eyes of Isabelle Gillette-Faye, the origin of the accused is an important point in this Le Mans trial, because it is the first time that a Djiboutian family has been convicted.

However, France is facing the arrival of populations in East Africa who have not been made aware of the ban of female genital mutilation unlike West African migrants. *"This verdict is an excellent reminder,"* said the sociologist, *"especially since the Djiboutian community is relatively large in the Le Mans region, and the shock wave of the trial will remind everyone that France, like Djibouti, prohibits female circumcision."*

RUSSIA: Patriarch Kirill proposes stripping private clinics of right to receive female patients for abortions

Interfax Religion (17.05.2022) - Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia has come up with an initiative to prohibit private clinics from performing the artificial termination of pregnancies.

"Proposals being articulated by lawmakers right now, specifically on stopping the facilitation of abortions in private clinics, which would make statistical data more accurate and eradicate the encouragement to chase profits by terminating children's lives, seem to be important," Patriarch said when speaking during Parliamentary Meetings in Russia's Federation Council on Tuesday.

He went on to call on lawmakers to show a braver approach to the protection of life, without paying attention to any opinions meant to frighten people with the potential growth in illegal operations. "Any illegal actions must prompt an adequate response," Patriarch Kirill said.

He expressed hope that law enforcement authorities would ensure that healthcare issues remain "solely within the scope of competence of the professional medical community, and not merchants."

Patriarch Kirill also told parliamentarians that the Russian Civil Code protects the right of

any unborn heir. This rule could be modified in such a way so as to make the law protect the life of a child, a future member of society, from the moment of inception. "Surprisingly, the right to inherit is protected, and the right of a child is not! How did we get this? From what culture? From what tradition?" the Russian patriarch asked.

HRWF Comment

During the 2000s, Russia's steadily falling population (due to both negative birthrates and low life expectancy) became a major source of concern. On 21 October 2011, the Russian Parliament passed a law restricting abortion to the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, with an exception up to 22 weeks if the pregnancy was the result of [rape](#), and for medical necessity it can be performed at any point during pregnancy. The new law also made mandatory a waiting period of two to seven days before an abortion can be performed, to allow the woman to "reconsider her decision". Abortion can only be performed in licensed institutions (typically hospitals or women's clinics) and by physicians who have specialized training. The physician can refuse to perform the abortion, except the abortions for medical necessity. The new law is stricter than the previous one, in that under the former law abortions after 12 weeks were allowed on broader socioeconomic grounds, whereas under the current law such abortions are only allowed if there are serious medical problems with the mother or fetus, or in case of rape.

UK: New law raises minimum marriage age to 18 in England & Wales

By Emaan Warraich

BBC (26.04.2022) - <https://bbc.in/3mM3xmp> - Previously, people could get married at 16 or 17 as long as they had parental consent.

The new law also applies to cultural or religious marriages that are not registered with the local council.

Conservative MP Pauline Latham, who introduced the bill to Parliament, said it would "transform the life chances of many girls".

Under the new rules, children will not face penalties but adults who facilitate their marriage could face up to seven years in jail and a fine.

This would include adults who took children abroad to carry out the marriage.

Backed by the government, the bill has sailed through Parliament with very little opposition - and will receive Royal Assent later this week, meaning it will become law.

Payzee Malika, who was coerced into a marriage, said: "Today, tears of joy roll down my face because I know what this means for girls like me."

While Payzee escaped her marriage, her sister Banaz was murdered in a so-called honour killing.

"There has not been a single moment in this journey when Banaz was not at the forefront of my thoughts," [she tweeted](#).

"Every day I thought of her. I fought for her. This law could have saved her."

Mihai Calin Bica, of the Roma Support Group, said the bill was "a good initiative to protect our youth", but the group expressed concern "about how it will be applied in practice".

It noted that in Roma communities the word "married" was often used to explain boyfriend-girlfriend relationships their children have.

They warned this could create complications when enforcing the law and urged the government to run an educational campaign aimed at raising awareness of the new rules.

The new law will not affect the validity of any marriages or civil partnerships that happened before the legislation comes into force.

It does not apply to Northern Ireland and Scotland, where the minimum age will stay at 16 - in Northern Ireland you still need parental consent to marry at 16, but in Scotland you don't.

UK: Femicide - 125 women killed by men March 2021 - 2022

See the full list and pictures [HERE](#)

By [Joan Smith](#)

Telegraph (03.03.2022) - <https://bit.ly/3s0VHbq> - Some of their faces are familiar, but dozens more we are seeing for the first time.

Their names are barely known, except to families and friends. But two other women and a teenage girl were killed by men in the same week that [Sarah Everard's murder shook the country to its core](#) a year ago. Four murders of women in such a short space of time is unusual – it tends to be between two and three per week – but it is a stark reminder of how many of their deaths go unremarked.

Around 125 women have been killed by men since March last year. The figure is not definitive because the perpetrator has yet to be identified in some cases. But we know that the victims ranged in age from 16 to 88. Most were attacked by someone known to them and many died in their own homes, challenging the notion that the streets are the most dangerous place for women.

Some of their faces are familiar, such as [Sabina Nessa](#), the 28-year-old primary school teacher attacked while walking through a London park to meet a friend; [Julia James](#), 53, a PCSO killed while walking her dog; teenager Bobbi-Anne McLeod, who went missing from a bus stop and was found dead on a Devon beach in November last year.

Dozens more – some of whom are pictured above, all of whom are named below – we are seeing for the first time.

The figure is substantially higher than in 2020, when the annual Femicide Census recorded 110 women killed, but similar to the 128 recorded in 2019. Despite all the assurances by police and government ministers that they are determined to protect women, the number killed by men has never fallen below two a week.

The list shatters some myths, demonstrating that stranger-killings like that of Sarah Everard are comparatively rare. The largest number of women are killed by current or former partners, while the next most significant group is mothers killed by sons; anyone who thinks that matricide is a rare event, confined to Greek tragedy, should think again. Sexually motivated murders are third on the list.

The popular notion that women in their 20s and 30s are most at risk is quite wrong, confirming the urgent need to make tackling violence against older women a priority.

Of the women killed over the last 12 months, 11 were in their 70s, another nine were 80 or older and 14 were in their 60s. That's over a quarter of the total. There is a peculiar horror about these fatal attacks on older women, some of them carried out by men they gave birth to and raised.

In April last year, a DJ strangled his mother, 85-year-old Loretta Herman, in their east London home. Mark Herman, 54, later killed himself in a secure mental health facility. It is one of many cases in which there were warning signs: Herman, who had been unable to work because of Covid, had previously attempted suicide and attacked his mother.

It followed a horrendous murder-suicide the previous month in Northern Ireland. Karen McClean, 50, was stabbed to death by her son, Ken Flanagan, 26, who went on to kill his girlfriend, Stacey Knell, 30, and himself. Friends of the family, who lived in Northern Ireland, said Ms McClean had been worried that her son was using drugs and might hurt himself or someone else. Ms Knell's previous partner, who had a child with her, had contacted police and social services the day before the double murder.

There is a repeated sense of the police letting women down. One of those failed was [Yasmin Chkaifi](#), 43, who was killed in January, in Maida Vale, by her ex-husband. There was an arrest warrant out for Leon McCaskie, who had been accused of breaching an interim stalking protection order and failed to appear in court, when he stabbed his former partner on the street. Friends told how Yasmin had previously predicted that she would die at her ex-husband's hands. Her son, Zayd Bakkali, has since said [he will "never fully trust" the police again](#).

A look at figures from the Femicide Census in recent years shows that the number of women confirmed to have been killed by a man they know hovers between the 60-65 per cent mark each year (that number is likely higher, but the killer has not been caught).

That was the case for the youngest victim last year: 16-year-old Wenjing Ling. She was killed two days after Sarah Everard, strangled at her family's Chinese takeaway in Wales. The murder was carried out by a friend, Chun Xu, 32, who had gambling debts and owed money to the family. In November last year, Xu was jailed for a minimum of 30 years for the murder. He was also convicted of the attempted murder of Wenjing's stepfather.

Three days earlier, Samantha Heap, 45, was found dead in a flat in Congleton, Cheshire. Her neighbour, David Mottram, 47, strangled, stabbed and inflicted multiple blunt force injuries on her. Mottram boasted that he killed Ms Heap "because he didn't like her". He was sentenced to life with a minimum term of 30 years.

Another woman was killed on the day following Ms Everard's murder. Geetika Goyal, 29, met a hideous death at the hands of her husband, Kashish Aggarwal, 28. Ms Goyal's body was found with 19 stab wounds, wrapped in plastic and dumped in a street in Leicester. Aggarwal told her family she had gone missing but later admitted murder, and was sentenced to a minimum of 20 years and six months in prison.

What's striking about these murders is that the men received long prison sentences, but too late to help their victims. Around three-fifths of men who kill women known are found guilty of murder or manslaughter, a relatively high proportion, but they are clearly not deterred by the prospect of spending decades in prison.

A chilling feature is the prevalence of "over-killing", where the perpetrator uses far more force than was needed. These are men who refuse to control their rage towards the women in their lives – and their prior behaviour offers ample warnings. In the decade after the Femicide Census was founded in 2009, a history of domestic abuse featured in 59 per cent of killings committed by current or former partners.

During the outcry that followed Sarah Everard's murder, many people expressed the hope that it would be a turning point. We now have 125 reasons to doubt that aspiration.

It is in part a consequence of an under-funded criminal justice system, but it is also a question of priorities. Women who report abuse or threats to kill still don't get the advice and protection they need, and police have been slow to use measures such as domestic violence prevention orders. The failures are so egregious that there appears to be an unspoken assumption that a certain level of fatalities is inevitable.

The agonies these women went through – stabbed, strangled, bludgeoned, raped, even set on fire – are almost unbearable to contemplate. Like Sarah Everard, they all had a right to life, but every single one was let down.

UKRAINE: Ukrainian Churches against the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, due to the 'gender ideology'

Orthodox and other Churches in Ukraine are opposed to President Zelensky's ratification of the Istanbul Convention protecting women against violence and domestic abuse because of the 'gender ideology' included in the Convention. They complain about being excluded from the public debate.

Position of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations

RISU – (05.07.2022) - <https://bit.ly/3uPflZr> - The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, also known as the Istanbul Convention, was signed 11 May 2011 and became effective 1 August 2014. Official opposition to the Convention has been voiced in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Slovakia, none of which has ratified it, and in Poland. Armenia, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, and the United Kingdom have not ratified it. Turkey denounced the Convention in 2021, alleging that LGBTQ groups had sought to use it to promote their [ideology](#).

On 18 June 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky registered a bill on the ratification of the Convention in parliament. Parliament ratified it and the president signed it into law on 21 June, effective 1 October. Afterwards, the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations objected that a full public discussion had not taken place, as had been promised ([UGCC website](#), 24 June 2022).

Instead, the Council alleged, social media had been full of verbal attacks on religious organizations. The Council noted that religious persons and organizations are entitled to take part in all public discussions, and should not be excluded from the public forum.

Read the whole article [here](#).

Position of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC)/ Moscow Patriarchate

Union of Orthodox Journalists (27.06.2022) - <https://bit.ly/3RxJMwW> - On June 21, 2022, the President of Ukraine signed a law, which had been opposed by all religious organizations in Ukraine and a significant part of society. Why?

On June 20, 2022, the Verkhovna Rada **voted** for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, the next day the President **signed** the law on the ratification of the Convention: "Its main content is simple, but extremely important. It is an obligation to protect women from violence and all forms of discrimination. We share European values." But Ukrainian society, notably Christians, does not share the head of state's optimism. What's next?

Read the whole article **here**. It addresses the following topics:

Why Ukraine ratified the Istanbul Convention

The main destructive provisions of the Convention

1. Popularization of gender ideology at all levels of education, culture and sports.
2. *Destruction of traditional ideas about social roles.*
3. *Ample room for abuse*

What are we to do now?

Conclusions
