

An abstract painting of a woman's face in profile, facing left. The face is composed of various colors including blue, green, yellow, and pink, with bold black outlines. The hair is depicted with wavy lines in yellow, orange, and green. The background is a mix of blue, yellow, and white with some black swirls. The overall style is reminiscent of modernist or expressionist art.

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

The world's best laws and policies



FUTURE POLICY
AWARD 2014



The Future Policy Award identifies and celebrates exemplary laws and policies for the most pressing political challenges the global community is facing today. Ending violence against women and girls remains one of the most serious challenges, since it weakens all other efforts towards a future just society. The Award highlights achievements in policy-making and its implementation, as well as visionary new approaches. We commit to ensuring that these solutions are shared across the globe to inspire further progress towards a world free from violence against women and girls.

Alexandra Wandel, Director of the World Future Council



Violence against women is about gender inequality and power control. To come to grips with one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world today, we must imagine relationships, families, communities where women's equality and the right to live their lives free from fear and violence is a given. Laws and policies must create an environment that delivers this vision by actively engaging the State, the community and all individuals. Countries everywhere can take inspiration from the winners of the 2014 Future Policy Award in taking bold steps to accelerate change and bring hope to women across the world.

Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



Violence against women is one of the major challenges for countries around the world. It is a pandemic that affects one in three women globally, and has massive human, social, and economic costs for families and communities. The international community is currently developing a comprehensive blueprint for global progress through the post-2015 agenda. The empowerment of women and girls, including ending violence against women, must be at the centre of this agenda if it is to succeed. For countries to protect women from human rights violations, laws and policies are critical, including preventative measures to stop violence. However, these efforts must be backed by strong political will and sufficient resources to ensure full implementation.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and
UN Women Executive Director



FUTURE POLICY AWARD 2014

Dear Readers,

At the World Future Council, we strive to bring the interests of future generations to the centre of policy-making. With our annual Future Policy Award, we highlight the world's best solutions and we encourage policy-makers around the world to implement them.

In 2014, the Future Policy Award celebrated laws and policies that contribute to ending one of the most pervasive human rights violations: violence against women and girls. One in three women worldwide suffers some form of violence in her lifetime. By restricting women's choices and limiting their ability to act, the persistence of violence against women has serious consequences for peace and security, economic development and poverty reduction. Thus, it hampers all efforts towards a future just society. International experts from academia, civil society and international organisations have nominated twenty-five policies from around the world which were implemented

to improve the lives of women. Together, they reflect the broad scope of existing policy responses at local, national and transnational levels.

It is important to acknowledge that violence against women and girls is both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality and, in order to end it, a transformation of gender relations towards a more gender just society is necessary. This cannot be achieved through any single law or policy: the winners of the Future Policy Award provide inspiration for specific "parts of the puzzle" of a range of policy measures that can together lead to an end of violence against women and girls. Our analysis and the Jury's decision on the winners have provided important insights into the key elements of best laws and policies in this field. We have summarised them in the section "key recommendations".

Violence against women and girls has been on the political agenda for a relatively short time. Some of the most inspiring and exemplary policy approaches are still so new that assessing their effectiveness is not yet possible. However, not considering them would have excluded some of the most promising future just policy measures. Therefore, in 2014, the WFC also presented a "Vision Award" for the most promising policy approach, which can prove its effectiveness in the years to come.

We invite policy and law makers around the world to be inspired by the winners of the Future Policy Award. We would like to express our gratitude to the distinguished jury members and, in particular, to our institutional partners, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women.

Yours sincerely,
The 2014 Future Policy Award Team

WINNING LAWS AND POLICIES

VISION: The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), 2011

This legally binding human rights treaty commits States parties to adopt a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary response to violence through long-term preventive actions along with measures to ensure the prosecution of perpetrators and protection of survivors¹. In effect since August 2014, the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention is currently the most comprehensive international instrument on violence against women and is open for accession by any State in the world.

GOLD: The City of Duluth's Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence (The "Duluth Model"), 1981 (Minnesota, United States of America)

Coordinated Community Response (CCR) is a model for effective implementation of intimate partner violence legislation, involving all relevant stakeholders in a community. It rests upon a shared, gendered understanding of violence against women and prioritises the safety and autonomy of survivors along with ensuring perpetrator accountability. Regularly evaluated and adaptable, The Duluth Model has inspired policy making and implementation around the world.

SILVER: Burkina Faso's Law Prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation, 1996

This law translates the government's commitment to eradicate female genital mutilation/cutting by criminalising it. The effective implementation of the law in Burkina Faso is ensured through a range of accompanying measures, defined in a national action plan, and initiatives in the field of social policy, education and public health. The approach has proven successful in reducing FGM/C, holding perpetrators accountable and changing attitudes.

SILVER: Psychosocial and Legal Court Assistance for Victims of Violence during Criminal and Civil Procedure in Austria, 2006

In Austria, changes to the Criminal and Civil Procedure Act introduced the pioneering measure of a legally enshrined right to psychosocial and legal court assistance for all victims of violent crimes. Its aim is to safeguard the rights of victims and to empower them during legal proceedings. The Austrian government entrusts specialised victim support organisations with the implementation. Positive feedback and increasing uptake by victims of gender based violence and sexual abuse are testimony to the success and importance of this legal provision.

¹ See p. 19 for a definition of this term.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Honourable Mention: Spain's Organic Act on Integrated Protection Measures against Gender Violence, 2004

This law criminalises intimate partner violence against women and provides for a comprehensive set of measures aiming to empower and protect survivors and to change social attitudes. It addresses specific vulnerabilities and aims to ensure perpetrator accountability through provisions for effective prosecution, such as specialised courts.

Honourable Mention, Vision Category: Bolivia's Law against Political Harassment and Violence against Women, 2012

This law is a pioneering measure that acknowledges and criminalises the specific forms of violence that politically active women are facing. Though still in its early stages of implementation, it has the potential to effectively protect women particularly in the context of the comprehensive legislation on violence against women, which was adopted by the Bolivian government in 2013.

Students dancing for UN Secretary-General's UNiTE campaign in Maputo, Mozambique.





WINNER VISION AWARD

The Council of Europe
Convention on Preventing
and Combating Violence
against Women and
Domestic Violence
(Istanbul Convention), 2011

The Council of Europe Istanbul Convention is the most comprehensive international human rights treaty on violence against women and domestic violence. This legally binding instrument explicitly defines violence against women as a human rights violation and a form of gender-based discrimination and includes a strong emphasis on prevention and survivors' rights. In addition to Council of Europe Member States, it can be ratified by the European Union and is open for accession by any State in the world.

Following two decades of work on violence against women and informed by a body of evidence developed by academics and women's rights NGOs, Council of Europe Member States decided that a legally binding treaty on all forms of violence against women and domestic violence was needed. Two years of negotiations led to the adoption of the Convention in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2011.

The Convention recognises unequal power relations between men and women as the root cause of violence against women and advocates for a gender-sensitive perspective in tackling it. It calls

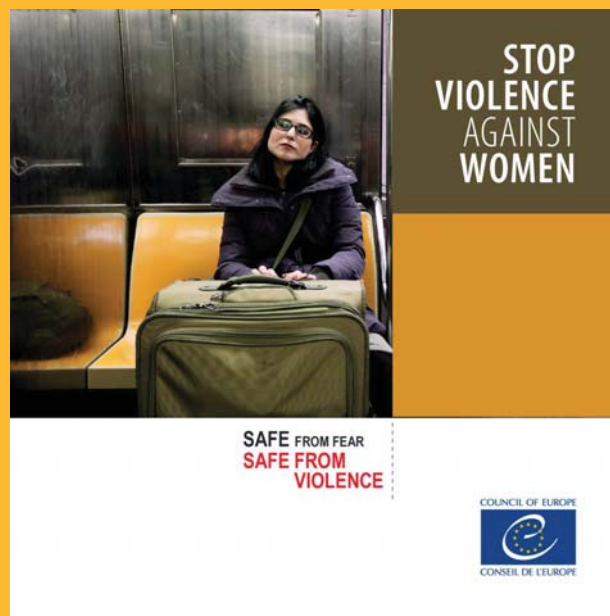
for the prosecution of an array of forms of violence against women and covers all forms of domestic violence, whilst clearly stressing that this disproportionately affects women. It places the due diligence principle as well as survivors' rights and needs at the core of all state response. Specifically, the needs of vulnerable groups such as asylum seekers and children affected by domestic violence are to be taken into consideration at all times.

In addition to appropriate responses for survivors of violence, the text focuses on prevention measures and requires States parties to develop comprehensive co-ordinated policies, to establish specialised institutions, partnerships with the non-governmental sector and the media, to ensure



substantial budget allocations, regular data collection and research for effective and sustainable implementation. It provides for a monitoring mechanism, which will include independent experts, to regularly assess States parties' progress in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

The Convention is detailed, and it can thus be used as a global standard for national law and policy making. Even before its entry into force, it has already inspired legislative reforms and policy improvements at national levels, including in countries which have not ratified it yet. Civil society organisations, which are invited to submit alternative reports to the monitoring body, will be key to ensuring States parties' accountability.



Adoption of the Convention at the 121st session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, May 10–11 2011, Istanbul, Turkey.



WINNER GOLD AWARD

The City of Duluth's
Coordinated Community
Response to Domestic Violence
(The "Duluth Model"), 1981
(Minnesota, United States of
America)

The Coordinated Community Response (CCR) is a strategy to effectively implement laws and policies that protect survivors from further acts of violence and hold offenders accountable for their criminal behaviour. It was first introduced in 1981 in the city of Duluth to ensure the implementation of the State of Minnesota's Domestic Abuse Act. With regular evaluation, adaptation to changing circumstances and new information gathered as laws and policies are implemented, the approach has gained international recognition and inspired law and policymaking, as well as implementation across the U.S.A. and beyond over the past decades.

At the heart of a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) is a shared understanding by all state and non-state actors involved that violence against women is a crime and a human rights violation, and that the response to it must prioritise the safety and autonomy of the survivor. A further key element of this approach is ensuring perpetrators' accountability and providing them an opportunity for rehabilitation through court-ordered classes. Research has found that 68% of offenders who pass through Duluth's criminal justice system and are consequently sent to men's nonviolence classes have not reappeared in the criminal justice system eight years on.²

The Duluth Model requires law enforcement and interveners in the criminal and civil justice systems to follow written policies and procedures. The Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs (DAIP),

The core elements of the Duluth Model are:

1. Written policies that centralise victim safety and offender accountability

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