



San Marino, May 6, 2020/1719 d.f.R.

**Information on the implementation of General Assembly Resolutions A/RES/73/148 on "Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment", A/RES/73/146 on "Trafficking in women and girls" and A/RES/73/149 on "Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation".**

The Republic of San Marino is strongly committed to the issues covered by the Resolutions in question, with particular reference to the first Resolution. Concerning the other two Resolutions, although the Republic has the legislative, administrative and health instruments to deal with these phenomena, it does not currently have any judicial proceedings or cases of complaint related to them.

On 22 January 2016, the Republic of San Marino ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence", done at Istanbul on 11 May 2011. Law no. 57 of 6 May 2016 contains rules adjusting San Marino legal system to the provisions of the Istanbul Convention.

The Commission for Equal Opportunities and the Authority for Equal Opportunities are the two bodies in charge of coordinating and supervising services, actions and initiatives in the field of prevention and combating of violence against women and gender violence. The Commission for Equal Opportunities suggests to the relevant institutional bodies the necessary initiatives to ensure full legal equality and equal opportunities. The Authority for Equal Opportunities is responsible for preventing and combating violence against women and gender violence.

The State budget contains a specific chapter dedicated to the Authority for Equal Opportunities (the 2020 expenditure chapter 1-2-4497 - Charges for the activities of the Authority for Equal Opportunities -, amounts to Euro 15,000.00), which is currently totally allocated to training initiatives. Neither remuneration nor reimbursement of expenses is currently envisaged for the members of the Authority for Equal Opportunities. Article 5 of Law no. 57/2016 also provides for the establishment of a further Fund, called Victims Assistance Fund, to be used by the Authority for Equal Opportunities.

Since its establishment, and thanks to several legislative amendments that have strengthened its powers and responsibilities, the Authority for Equal Opportunities has played an important role in coordinating and providing impetus in the areas covered by the Convention, both in terms of training at all levels and in relation to the various services that provide protection and combat violence against women, as well as domestic and gender violence.

The Social Security Institute (SSI) has the task of coordinating the various Services and Bodies involved; the Mental Health Complex Organisational Unit and the Minors' Protection Simple Organisational Unit are in charge of assessing and processing the reports of violence sent by the Judicial Authority and are the Services to which victims can directly access, besides being in charge of the psychological treatment of victims of violence. The SSI network cooperates with other institutions and agencies: Authority for Equal Opportunities, Department of Human Sciences of the



University of San Marino, Court, law enforcement agencies, schools, professional associations of psychologists and lawyers and free associations. A technical-institutional panel has also been set up (as provided for by Delegated Decree no. 60 of 31 May 2012), which is made up of representatives of the Authority for Equal Opportunities, Gendarmerie, Civil Police, SSI General Directorate, Lawyers' Association, Psychologists' Association, Schools and the Court. The technical-institutional panel provides the opportunity for agents dealing with violence to exchange views, prepare collaboration protocols, set up networking activities and provide indications on training needs. It is therefore a fundamental tool to implement the objectives defined by domestic and international legislation.

Following the World Health Organization's announcements, in particular that of 30 January 2020, in which the COVID-19 epidemic was declared an international public health emergency, and that of 11 March 2020, in which it was declared a "pandemic", as well as the World Health Organization's recommendations to the international community regarding the need to adopt appropriate measures and the evolution of the epidemiological situation, the highly contagious nature of COVID-19 and the particular seriousness of the infected and deaths in the Republic of San Marino (one of the highest percentages in the world), the Congress of State of the Republic of San Marino (Government) has adopted a series of urgent and necessary measures to reduce and manage the spread of this virus.

Some of these measures have forced San Marino population to remain in their homes, except in cases of proven necessity and urgency. Due to the forced and prolonged compulsory cohabitation of family members, this may have exacerbated the problem of violence against women and gender violence.

In the Republic of San Marino the law enforcement agencies and social assistance services responsible for collecting reports and complaints have continued to operate regularly during this period. To date, no cases have been recorded during the reference period. Similarly, the Counselling Centre, located in a shopping centre, has remained open and operational.

Since last 10 April, the assistance services of the Social Security Institute have made available to victims of violence (women, minors, victims of domestic and gender violence) a new toll-free number, which is active 24 hours a day and seven days a week, including holidays. This number is managed by trained staff of the Women's Health Simple Organisational Unit, with the support of law enforcement agents. Together with the telephone number, an email address has been made available, to which simple messages can be sent. This service has been widely communicated to the population through the media.

The assistance service is also developing a new app, which can be freely downloaded from mobile phones with apple or android operating systems and which has the following features:

- users can register via mobile phone number to the application and then enter their first and last name and GPS location (these data will be saved on a database accessible to the Gendarmerie);
- emergency call button: by pressing this button, users automatically call the established emergency number and at the same time they start the recording;
- the person initiating the call will be able to speak as in a normal phone call with the police officer or will be able to have the officer listen to the live recording (in case the person cannot speak, when the call is initiated, the officer will be able to listen without interacting with the person);



- when the call to the law enforcement agency is initiated, the call initiation is shown on the web panel, together with the phone number/first name/surname and GPS location of the person making the call;
- when the call ends or when the user finishes the recording, the latter is saved locally on the user's phone in a password-protected section of the application and the same registration is saved on cloud databases accessible by the law enforcement agencies, if a 3g/4g/Wi-Fi network is available. The password-protected local registration can be listened to again by the user only by entering the correct password that is set the first time the application is started;
- static section within the app for consulting texts and images related to the SSI on domestic violence and/or other information (information section);

Web panel for the law enforcement agencies:

- to view in real-time on the map the reports coming from the apps;
- to search (by name, surname, mobile phone number) for audio recordings uploaded by users