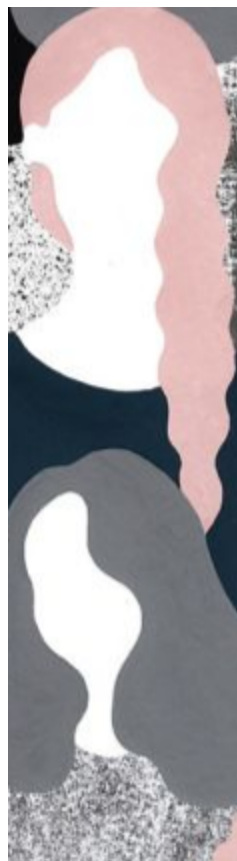


**The Council of Europe
Convention on
Preventing and
Combating Violence
against Women and
Domestic Violence
(Istanbul Convention)**



No more victims of violence



**Violence
against women**



Framework:

Violence against women and children continues to increase worldwide. Secretly or openly, in the private or public sphere, the numbers are known and the statistics are devastating. 1/3 of women in Europe and 1/4 in Greece have experienced a form of violence at some point in their lives. 1/4 of girls in Greece under the age of fifteen have experienced some form of violence by an adult. In our country, the number of rapes is estimated to 5.000 per year, while only 150 of them are denounced and reach the court rooms.

Istanbul, 2011 - forty-two countries, including Greece, decided to take a stance on violence against women and children by signing the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. The convention is a strong and innovative framework aiming to harmonize the national laws in order to combat violence against women (including girls under the age of 18) and domestic abuse.

Greece, 2017-2018 - the YWCA of Greece, recognizing the importance of the rights of women and children, actively advocated for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by creating a petition. All local YWCA centers in Greece participated by educating, empowering and collecting signatures by women and men nationwide. More than 15.000 signatures were collected and delivered to the President of the Greek Parliament on **March 8th, 2018**.

Athens, April 2018 - almost seven years later, the Greek Parliament ratified the Council of Europe Convention, thus assuming responsibility to improve the existing legislation and take a comprehensive set of measures to tackle all forms of violence against women and domestic violence.

Athens, November 2019 - We are currently monitoring its implementation process. The YWCA of Greece is an active participant in the **Special Permanent Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights of the Greek Parliament**.

