



Pacto de Estado

contra la violencia de género



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE LA PRESIDENCIA, RELACIONES CON LAS CORTES
E IGUALDAD

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO
DE IGUALDAD

DELEGACIÓN
DEL GOBIERNO
PARA LA VIOLENCIA DE GÉNERO



SPAIN AND GENDER EQUALITY

Spain is an international reference in the fight for equality between men and women and in applying measures to eradicate Gender-based Violence. In 2004, **Organic Law 1/2004 of Integral Measures against Gender Violence** was passed with unanimous support. This pioneering European legislation was binding on all public authorities and created foundational rules that the Autonomous Communities have adopted and developed within the decentralized political and administrative system that defines the Spanish territorial structure.

This Organic Law introduced notable innovations, such as **setting up Courts specialising in cases of Violence against Women** and the **creation of the original Special Government Delegation for Violence against Women**, which is currently integrated in the Ministry of the Presidency, Relations with Parliament and Equality, to direct public policy on this issue. The coordinated system that was drawn up was based on **3 pillars: prevention, protection and recuperation of the victim, and the prosecution of the crime.**

Many countries have expressed an interest in our system in the years since it was set in motion, drawing inspiration from it to develop similar legislation in their own respective legal systems. In 2014, the institutions of UN Women, World Future Council and the Unión Interparlamentaria, recognised Spain's Organic Law against Gender Violence as **one of the most effective laws worldwide in combating and eliminating sexist violence**, which it branded as one of the most widespread form of human rights abuse.

Spanish institutions have worked tirelessly in the intervening years in all sectors, supported by the dedicated commitment of professionals in all aspects and by an unprecedented degree of support from society. According to the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, **Spain is the country with the highest level of concern for this problem**, as shown by the high percentage of women (83%) who have seen or heard awareness campaigns against gender violence, compared with the 50% of the EU average.

*Between 2003 and 25 March 2019,
there have been 988 women
murdered by their partners and/or
ex-partners*

Despite Spain's pioneering stance in the eradication of all forms of Gender Violence, **the data shows that there is still a long way to go:** Between 2003 and 25 March 2019, there have been 988 women murdered by their partners and/or ex-partners, while 27 minors have been murdered since 2013 and a total of 241 have been made orphans.



On the other hand, more than 166,000 cases are reported to the police every year and over 20,000 people are tried. **There are nearly 40,000 protection orders issued every year and there were 8,018 women and girls who were victims of sex crimes in 2017.**

Faced with the challenge of combating all forms of gender violence, **the feminist movement and some political parties began to argue for public policy to reach further than at present, to devote more means and resources to the current system and stress the need to reach an agreement between all the political forces and institutions in the country.** Talks began for a State Pact to recuperate the spirit of consensus embodied in Organic Law 1/2004 of 28 December and to enable progress towards compliance with the **Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), as ratified by Spain in 2014**, which would bind all political parties, authorities and society in a firm commitment in favour of a sustained policy to eradicate all forms of gender violence.

WHAT IS THE STATE PACT AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE?

A State Pact is the term applied to agreements between political parties of opposing ideals to guide long-term State policy on issues of great significance without interference from whichever party is in government at any particular time. It is usually achieved through the consensus of the majority of parties in the parliamentary spectrum.

Examples of this in Spain include the Moncloa Pacts of 1977, the Pact of Toledo on the system of public pensions in 1995 and the Pact for Liberty and against Terrorism in 2000.

The State Pact against Gender Violence of 2017, which includes measures in all relevant areas, was the result of intense negotiations in parliament on the part of the working groups set up in the parliamentary sub-committee in Congress and the Senate's Equality Committee. After a whole year of negotiations and declarations, **the Report of the Parliamentary Sub-Committee for a State Pact on the issue of Gender Violence was passed in the Congress and the Senate in September 2017 with no votes against it**, making it the first State Pact to be agreed between parliamentary groups since 2015.

This Pact requires interventions in all areas of society and contains 214 measures from the Congress and 267 more from the Senate. **The Government Delegation for Gender-based Violence**, which is the Government body responsible for coordinating and promoting the application of the measures of the State Pact, **reworked the measures from the lower and upper houses into a single document with a total of 292 measures structured around 10 axes for action.**



WHY THE STATE PACT WAS SIGNED?

This Pact marks a turning point for the actions of public authorities in eradicating all forms of Gender Violence in our country. **Spain has achieved positive results in recent years, but despite the progress made under domestic and international law, women continue to be controlled, threatened, assaulted and murdered.** There has also been a rise in other forms of violence against women resulting from the changes driven by globalization, such as the trafficking of women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

This is why it has become necessary for the work carried out in the sub-committees of the Congress and Senate, respectively, to identify the failings and gaps, to draft proposals to continue improving, with more and better means, in the eradication of violence against women, which is a serious breach of human rights.

The aim of this Pact is to guarantee improvements and enhancement of the system for eradicating all forms of gender violence, regardless of whichever party happens to be in government

This calls for consensus from institutions, political groups and society itself to show the firm undivided conviction of all Spanish institutions. This is the demand of society as a whole, but also especially of women's organizations who are fully aware that **progress is only possible through the commitment of all social and political sectors to put the issue at the centre of the public agenda.**

The aim of this Pact is to guarantee improvements and enhancement of the system for eradicating all forms of gender violence, **regardless of whichever party happens to be in government.** It is a commitment that all parties and institutions accept, expressed in tangible measures and goals which can be gauged and evaluated.

HOW THE STATE PACT IS APPLIED?

To put the Pact into effect, the Government applies the measures through the **Government Delegation for Gender-based Violence**, in coordination with the other **Ministries** and their dependent autonomous bodies, as well as the **Autonomous Communities** and **Local Entities** represented in the **Spanish Federation of Municipal and Provincial authorities.**



A total increase in funding of **one billion euros** has been assigned to carry out the measures included in the Pact as part of a global financial commitment over the next five years, broken down as follows:

- **100 million** additional euros assigned to **Local Entities**
- **500 million** additional euros assigned to the **Autonomous Communities** (who have responsibility for social assistance, health and education)
- **400 million** additional euros assigned to the **State's responsibilities in Gender Violence and included in the National Budget.**

Besides these financial resources, there is also a **need for collaboration and coordination between institutions in the framework of the multi-level administrative structure of the Spanish territorial model**, through permanent dialogue and active listening between the Sector Conference on Equality and the State Observatory on Violence against Women, with public authorities, society, the media and private bodies.

As regards the monitoring of the measures included in the Pact, a working group has been assembled with the Autonomous Communities to **design a system of indicators that offer objective control over changes in the measures in accordance with the working method of Agenda 2030**. The Congress has set up the **Monitoring Committee for the State Pact**, which is responsible for monitoring the Pact as well as the Government's control in this area.

THE MAIN COURSES OF ACTION

The measures specified in the State Pact focus on the aspects of awareness and prevention, improving institutional response, making the help, support and protection of victims more effective; caring for and protecting minors; promoting the training of different agents; statistical monitoring; recommendations for Public Authorities and other institutions, visibility and awareness of other forms of violence against women; financial commitment and monitoring of the pact.



Axis 1

Breaking silence through encouraging actions for awareness in society and for the prevention of gender violence with actions aimed at increasing awareness in society of the damage that inequality and violent behaviour causes, and raising people's awareness of the scale of the problem of violence against women and the consequences it has for the lives of women and their children.

Axis 2

Improving the institutional response through coordination and connected work between responsible authorities and organs. This involves maximizing the use of the resources available, promoting support resources in the local sphere, improving the protocols for intervention and communications between the agents involved.

Axis 3

Perfecting the help, support and protection offered to women victims of gender violence and their children. This calls for a revision of the plans for offering support for victims to guarantee personalized treatment and to strengthen and ensure that the resources available are appropriate and that they are accessible for all women, with special emphasis on access for women from more vulnerable groups. The existing medical protocols shall be reviewed and reinforced along with the job placement schemes for women victims, with the active engagement of social entities, while all the support systems foreseen by the law will be simplified and improved.

Axis 4

Enhancing support and protection for minors. The specific protection for minors derives from recognition of their status as direct victims and the associated need to expand and improve the measures to support and safeguard them through the deployment of new services in cases where children are orphaned through gender violence, a review of the civil law measures in relation with the custody of minors and encouragement of reinforcement actions in education.

Axis 5

Improved training of the agents to ensure better care services. To offer victims of gender violence the best possible support, all the professionals who have a role to play in the system, such as judges, prosecutors, psychologists and social workers, forensic pathologists, Police and Security Forces, medical staff and teachers, among others, must be offered specialist training. The commitment lies in ensuring that the training material is mandatory, approved by specialist bodies and subject to examination for all those involved.



Axis 6

Improvement of knowledge as an essential ingredient in ensuring that the fight against all forms of violence against women is effective in all the areas where the Istanbul Convention applies, with more reliable, complete and detailed data on the forms, frequency, causes and effects. This is the reason for the commitment to ensure statistical monitoring of all kinds of violence against women, taking variables such as age, disability, stability of employment or frequency in rural areas into account, and the preparation of studies and reports that place special emphasis on the impact on the children of the victims, on sexual violence and on the employment situation of the women who are victims.

Axis 7

Recommendations for Autonomous Communities, Local Entities and other institutions, as essential collaborators to achieve the elimination of gender-related violence against women. The measures they adopt are directly related to the responsibilities they have acquired.

Axis 8

Observation and attention on forms of gender violence that take place outside the context of the partner or ex-partner, with special focus on sexual violence, trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation and forced marriages.

Axis 9

Financial commitment towards policies for the eradication of violence against women. The implementation of the measures considered in the State Pact requires a corresponding financial commitment in the budget, so that each of the administrative bodies receives the funds it needs from the national budget in accordance with the responsibilities it has acquired.

Axis 10

The monitoring of the State Pact and the submission of the information required by the Pact Monitoring Committee, enabling it to carry out its functions of assessing and supervising the progress that has been made in deploying the Pact.

All the documents related with the State Pact against gender violence are available at:

www.violenciagenero.igualdad.mpr.gob.es/pactoEstado/home.htm



Pacto de Estado

contra la violencia de género

Delegación del Gobierno para la Violencia de Género

Calle Alcalá, 37, 28014 Madrid
comunicacióndgv@igualdad.mpr.es

www.violenciagenero.igualdad.mpr.gob.es