



**Women's Support and
Information Center**

There is a way out of violence!



ESTONIA

Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review

Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights,

a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996

and

Women's Support and Information Centre NPO

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The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact-finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publications. The Advocates works to end violence against women by changing laws and their implementation, as well as through monitoring and documentation, trainings, and advocacy.

Women's Support and Information Centre (WSIC) were founded in July 2002 as the first organization of its kind in Estonia, focusing on helping women affected by domestic violence. Its mission is to support women and their family members, break the cycle of violence, and reduce the risk of repeated abuse. The work of the Centre is built on a belief in individualized support, community education, and collaboration to help women and their children break free from violence and start new lives.

The Centre provides a wide range of services, such as a 24-hour helpline, safe accommodation for recovery, psychological and legal help, and guidance on alternatives to violent relationships. The Centre works closely with local partners who are first and recurring responders to ensure that women get comprehensive support. The work of the Center is tailored to the client's situation and focused on understanding that many women have limited ways to reach out safely, the shelter offers discreet contact options, a dedicated website, and e-mail counseling.

Raising public awareness is another longstanding focus, with poster campaigns, media interviews, and articles designed to spread information and challenge the stigma around domestic violence. Conducting trainings are also key parts of their work—as the Centre has organized over 300 trainings for various professionals and students and have held public campaigns and shared resources in Estonian.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Estonia is not in compliance with its human rights obligations toward women in all their diversities (hereinafter “all women”) and specifically has not fulfilled in its obligation to protect, prosecute, and prevent sexual violence, ensure access to justice and remedy; and eliminate violence against women, including domestic violence against women with disabilities. This report recommends Estonia to adopt several key measures to ensure better protection and prevention for all women.
2. These steps, among other things, include (1) adopting a consent-based legal definition of rape in line with international standards; (2) eliminating barriers and stereotypes within the justice system and law enforcement that impede survivors from accessing justice and protection; (3) strengthening police and judicial responses, including gender-sensitive and disability-sensitive training, effective enforcement of barring orders, and improved inter-agency cooperation; (4) ensuring accessibility of shelters and victim support services, particularly for women with disabilities; and (5) collecting and publishing disaggregated data to make visible the prevalence and characteristics of violence against women.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS BY ESTONIA

Sexual violence, Access to justice & remedy, Violence against women

Status of Implementation: Partially Accepted, Partially Implemented

1. In the third cycle, Estonia received six recommendations urging it to take additional measures to address domestic violence throughout the country.¹ Estonia noted half of these recommendations, notably the ones calling for expanding the definition of rape within the legislation.² In Estonia’s response, the State Party once again illustrated its commitment to advance the prevention of violence, while clearly expressing that the Government has no plans to amend the system of offense or the Criminal Code.³

Prevalence and Perceptions

2. According to the data of the Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs ("Crime in Estonia 2024"), the number of registered sexual offences has increased over the years. In 2024, 202⁴ reports of rape were registered in comparison to 152 reports in 2021.⁵ Although these government figures reveal a 32.9% increase in rape cases, it is essential to note that reports highlight that rape is not regularly reported to the police.⁶ In cases where these victim-survivors do report the crime, a proceeding may not be initiated, likely be terminated, or end in an acquittal.⁷

3. Numerous surveys conducted throughout Estonia in the last few years reveal societal perceptions around rape and consent. The Social Insurance Board's survey found that 99% of people in Estonia consider rape to be serious violence, with 72% of respondents acknowledging that rape can occur without physical resistance.⁸ In survey commissioned by the Ministry of Justice, 91% Estonians agreed that consent must be established before engaging in sexual intercourse.⁹ In a different study conducted by Estonian Women's Health,¹⁰ 96% of women expressed that non-consensual sexual intercourse is rape. These surveys suggest that the general public recognizes the importance of consent as well as the connection between lack of consent and rape.

Limitations posed by legislation

4. Although the national legislation does have a definition for rape, there is still room for improvement to guarantee the proper protection for victim-survivors of rape. Article 141 of the Penal Code defines rape as sexual intercourse with a person against his or her will by using force, or by taking advantage of a situation in which the person is not capable of initiating resistance or comprehending the situation.¹¹ Based on this definition, by law the perpetrator is subjected to one to five years of prison if sexual intercourse is brought upon by force and the victim-survivor cannot resist these acts. However, consent is not addressed in any part of this definition.
5. The current legislation contains loopholes that provide the perpetrator with significant protections, thereby enabling them to evade accountability. Article 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure¹² grants the accused the right to refuse to provide testimony, meaning if no statement is made on their behalf, then their version of the events is never challenged in court. Since the accused is presumed innocent and any contradictions in the prosecution's case are interpreted in their favor, perpetrators often have the advantage of this right to remain silent, avoiding statements that could undermine their defense.
6. Existing legislation is not gender-responsive and creates a structural imbalance between perpetrators and victim-survivors in rape cases. By failing to take into account the disproportionate impact on women as victim-survivors and the prevailing role of men as perpetrators, it fosters the application of harmful stereotypes and undermines equal access to justice. Article 7.1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure establishes the presumption of innocence, with the burden of proof lying with the prosecutor, and any doubts regarding the presented evidence are to be interpreted in favor of the accused.¹³ In practice, the burden of proof often shifts to the victim-survivor, as they are typically the only party able to provide the evidence necessary to move the case forward.¹⁴ As a result, victim-survivors carry the burden of the legal process as they are the heart of the trial,¹⁵ while perpetrators can remain invisible¹⁶ through the entire justice process.
7. Another advantage for perpetrators in these cases is that there is generally no other witness than the victim-survivor, as rape usually occurs in private. As a result, the victim-survivor

is required to testify as a witness¹⁷ as their testimony becomes the central piece of evidence to prove the crime, which can lead to revictimization and re-traumatization. Adding to this concern, Article 288 of the Code of Criminal Procedure¹⁸ grants the defense the right to question the witnesses in court, which means the victim-survivor is often subjected to aggressive cross-examination to question their credibility. When questioning shifts from examining the perpetrator's actions to exploiting the victim-survivor's vulnerability, the trial's focus becomes the exploitation of a victim-survivor's vulnerability. Consequently, the questioning loses its focus on inquiring about the perpetrator's actions and becomes a case of the victim-survivor being uncredible.

Reforming existing legislation

8. The Government of Estonia approved the draft Bill on the Amendments to the Penal Code to adopt a consent-based approach to sexual offenses.¹⁹ The Bill is currently in the legislative branch for discussion and approval. With its passing, the Bill considers non-consensual sex punishable even if no physical violence was used against the victim-survivor.²⁰ Its core principle is the “yes means yes” model, requiring active consent to be given freely and voluntarily before engaging in sexual intercourse. Until consent is expressed, it is absent and cannot be assumed; therefore, participation in sexual activity cannot be considered voluntary until both parties have found out if consent is present.²¹ If approved, this legislation would fulfill the standards of The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, also known as “the Istanbul Convention.
9. Although the Bill focuses on the reform of Articles 141, 141.1, and 143 of the Penal Code, Estonia still needs to invest in further legislative and procedural infrastructure to prosecute rape based on consent. Under the current legislative framework, the burden of proof continues to fall mainly on the victim-survivor, as they must now prove that (1) rape occurred and (2) consent was not present. This dual burden is particularly unfair to victim-survivors, as not only is proving rape difficult, but now they are also expected to demonstrate that consent was absent, which continues to uphold disproportional obligations on the victim-survivor to gather evidence to obtain justice. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that the courts will properly apply the standards of consent, which can place additional burdens and emotional strains on the victim-survivor.
10. The current Bill is currently subject to criticism that is based on harmful gender stereotypes; such views have been prevalent in the process, with stakeholders who have participated in engagement meetings for the Bill and expressed the view that an increase in rape-related inquiries could lead to more false complaints.²² Such attitudes reflect an inherent distrust of the victim-survivors' credibility and may continue to affect the efficacy of investigations within the justice system. These statements undermine not only the reform to the Penal Code, but also victim-survivors' access to justice.

Gender-based Violence, Violence against women, Domestic Violence, Status of Implementation: Accepted, Partially Implemented

11. In the third cycle of the UPR, Estonia received eight recommendations to take additional measures to address domestic violence throughout the country.²³ Notably, these recommendations do not explicitly mention law enforcement's role in preventing domestic violence. However, recommendations apply to law enforcement, including such of conducting investigations of reported cases, providing survivors with protection, addressing barriers to reporting domestic violence, and continuing measures to combat discriminatory practices against women and girls experiencing domestic violence.

Systemic gaps contributing to the police response to domestic violence

12. In Estonia, every police station is mandated to respond to cases of domestic violence; however, not all stations have specialized domestic violence units. In the smaller police stations, officers are often not specialized in domestic violence as they are expected to work on all types of cases.²⁴ Limited resources frequently lead to staff overload, leaving officers with little time for professional development or opportunities to learn improved approaches and strategies for responding to violence. Consequently, police responses and reporting on domestic violence vary significantly across the country, particularly given the lack of clarity on whether the government provides standardized guidelines and protocols for law enforcement to handle domestic violence cases.²⁵
13. Police academies do not offer mandatory training on gender and gender-based violence,²⁶ which leaves police officers without a fundamental understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence. The training opportunities that exist for police officers and other state actors are often limited, fragmented, and rarely apply trauma-informed approaches.²⁷ As a result, many police officers do not have enough knowledge or experience to notice domestic violence and react to the threat.²⁸ This gap in police training contributes to inconsistent practices across the country, which can potentially leave the victim-survivors in danger and further traumatize them. Ultimately, the victim-survivors who feel dismissed or inadequately protected may lose trust in law enforcement altogether, reducing their proclivity to seek help in the future. In turn, perpetrators will remain unaccountable, the risk of future violence will not be mitigated, further undermining the safety of the victim-survivor.²⁹
14. The lack of practical cooperation and communication between the police and other key institutions, such as social workers, victim support services, and the prosecutor's office, impacts victim-survivors' safety and well-being.³⁰ In most instances, the flow of information between these actors is limited, resulting in the fragmentation of cases, with each institution working in isolation.³¹ As a result, crucial interventions are delayed or overlooked, leaving victim-survivors of violence without the comprehensive support and protection they urgently need.³²

Police attitudes and harmful gender stereotypes when responding to domestic violence on the scene

15. According to available research, police officers often perceive domestic violence as a private issue or conflict in which both parties share responsibility, attributing it to communication problems within the relationship.³³ Many relationships that involve constant bickering may be viewed as “normal by society.” Thus, practices like emotional violence or manipulation by abusers³⁴ may also be perceived as a normal response within a relationship dynamic. As a consequence, a police officer who adopts this assumption into their work will disregard the gendered power imbalance that facilitates the perpetrator’s coercive control and abuse over the victim-survivor.
16. Many police officers interpret women’s outward reactions to abuse as psychological provocation and violence against their partner. Interviews with police officers and analyses of their notes from the scene reveal that when women expressed reproach or pleaded for their partners to stop, these behaviors were often characterized as “nagging.”³⁵ The use of this term reflects clear gender bias, as officers would rarely describe a male victim-survivors’ pleas or reproaches in the same way. Moreover, labeling women’s responses to violence as “nagging” favors male perpetrators by creating room for interpretations that can be used to justify their violence.³⁶ As a result of these gendered interpretations, the blame shifts to the victim-survivor rather than recognizing that these reproaches and pleas are most likely a form of self-defense.
17. According to a survey conducted in 2024, 37% of the population partially blames the victim-survivor for experiencing domestic violence.³⁷ A related study that examined the attitudes of police officers revealed that officials often hold views that perpetuate victim-blaming.³⁸ Common misconceptions in the general population include the belief that if the relationship were truly dangerous, the victim-survivor would leave.³⁹ These victim-blaming attitudes reflect a lack of a gender-sensitive perspective and an inadequate awareness and understanding of domestic violence, both by governmental actors and the general public. Officers often fail to recognize the complex emotional, financial, and safety barriers that victim-survivors face when deciding whether to stay in or leave an abusive relationship. As a result, these officers often misunderstand victim-survivors’ intentions, assuming they seek only short-term relief from a single incident rather than pursuing a lasting solution.⁴⁰
18. According to the sourced study, many officials operate under the belief that perpetrators rarely change, which often results in a bias from officers who place the primary responsibility for ending the violence on the victim-survivor.⁴¹ However, victim-survivors may face multiple barriers to cooperating with investigations, including concerns about their safety, distrust of the system, or a desire not to engage with legal or support services. These circumstances can leave officers feeling that single interventions are insufficient to stop the abuse.⁴² Managing such cases can also contribute to emotional exhaustion, frustration, sadness, and a sense of powerlessness.⁴³ These professional challenges may inadvertently lead officers to misinterpret victim-survivors’ behaviors as irrational or uncooperative,⁴⁴ which can affect the quality of support provided and risk further traumatizing the victim-survivor.

Implementation of Barring Orders

19. Article 44 of the Law Enforcement Act⁴⁵ grants police officers the discretion to apply emergency protection orders, such as a prohibition on stay on a perpetrator if there is 1) immediate danger to another person's life, 2) countering a serious threat, 3) ensuring the safety of a person, and 4) other reasons outlined in Article 44. When enforced, a prohibition on stay requires the perpetrator to leave the vicinity of the victim-survivors and maintain distance from them.
20. Between 2022 and 2023, an average of 450 emergency barring orders were issued.⁴⁶ While these measures are intended to provide immediate protection, the fact that 84% were applied in cases where no criminal proceedings were initiated underscores a broader systemic challenge: protective interventions are not consistently linked to mechanisms that ensure perpetrator accountability.⁴⁷ In 2022 and 2023, the issuance of temporary restraining orders was limited, and many urgent cases relied on short-term measures, highlighting gaps in both timely response and sustained support.⁴⁸ Taken together, these findings suggest that, although protective orders are formally applied, the justice system lacks a comprehensive approach to addressing intimate partner violence, leaving victims at risk and limiting the potential to prevent repeated abuse.
21. An officer can only apply a prohibition on stay for up to 12 hours, which can only be extended with the authorization of a prefect or another senior law enforcement agent.⁴⁹ A twelve-hour timeframe does not provide victim-survivors with the necessary conditions to recover from the immediate psychological impact of violence or to develop a comprehensive and effective safety strategy.⁵⁰ This short time frame leaves victim-survivors without sufficient protection, as perpetrators can legally return to shared spaces or approach the victim-survivor after half a day. As a result, the current barring order protocol can produce unintended harm, like exposing victim-survivors to retaliation by their abusers and leaving them with little time for recovery or obtaining security. It can also undermine public confidence in law enforcement and discourage future reporting of abuse. For this reason, the Ministry of Internal Affairs is working on an initiative to extend the prohibition on stay from 12 hours to 72 hours.⁵¹

Gender-based Violence against women, Persons with Disabilities

Status of Implementation: Accepted, Partially Implemented

22. In the third cycle, Estonia supported all nine recommendations aimed at enhancing the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities—focusing on accessibility, legal protection, support services, and participation in societal life.⁵² While the recommendations do not explicitly mention women with disabilities, they address the rights and issues of persons with disabilities, which can apply to women with disabilities facing gender-based violence against women and girls (GBVAW).

Frontline Response to Violence Against Women with Disabilities

23. While some police officers may receive voluntary training on domestic violence, such training does not include disability-sensitive components. Estonia has no systematic protocol for disability-sensitive communication, leaving frontline officers without the tools to sensitively communicate with or accommodate women with diverse abilities.⁵³ The Estonian Code of Criminal Procedure requires “effective communication” with participants in proceedings, including through interpreters for deaf or mute persons, but such provisions focus narrowly on linguistic barriers and do not ensure adapted procedures for women with cognitive, psychosocial, or multiple disabilities at the stage of police reporting or initial investigation.⁵⁴ This absence impacts women with disabilities as they may face higher risks of violence and specific barriers when seeking support. Disability organizations across the European Union (EU) emphasize that women with disabilities are two to five times more likely to be exposed to violence and that responses must include communication adaptations and reasonable accommodation.⁵⁵
24. The lack of disability-disaggregated data in police and justice records makes the scale of violence against women with disabilities largely invisible.⁵⁶ Without such data, frontline actors are left without a clear understanding of the prevalence or characteristics of violence against women with disabilities in Estonia. This invisibility contributes to the widespread assumption that cases are rare or exceptional, when in fact European data show that women with disabilities are significantly more likely to experience violence. In the absence of national, disability-disaggregated statistics, Estonian policy responses remain generic—focused on “women” as a homogeneous category—rather than tailored to the specific risks and barriers women with disabilities face, such as communication obstacles, dependence on caregivers who may also be perpetrators, and limited access to accessible shelters.
25. Estonia’s frontline response to domestic violence remains insufficient for women with disabilities. Without disability-sensitive protocols, targeted training, or disaggregated data, their experiences remain largely invisible, allowing for policy to mandate the generic application of procedures that fail to ensure accessibility. Until Estonia embeds disability competence into guidelines, training, and monitoring, women with disabilities will continue to face systemic barriers to protection and justice.

Barriers to Access to Services

26. Estonian women with disabilities who experience GBVAW face compounded structural barriers when attempting to access support services. These barriers are not only physical, but also social, institutional, and attitudinal. A survey conducted by local NGOs found that most women with disabilities who are facing violence are unable to access shelters, due to a lack of available information or because there are insufficient accessibility measures in place.⁵⁷ Such a situation directly puts women with disabilities at risk as access

to a sufficient range of quality social services helps reduce and prevent the risk of intimate partner violence.⁵⁸

27. Despite legislative reforms and the establishment of a national victim support system,⁵⁹ Estonia continues to neglect the specific needs of disabled women in its gender-based violence response. GREVIO found that disability is scarcely addressed in policies and that victim support services lack accessibility measures such as ramps, adapted bathrooms, and trained staff.⁶⁰ This is exacerbated by the absence of systematic disaggregated data collection on survivors with disabilities, which makes their needs largely invisible to policymakers and service providers.⁶¹
28. Significant gaps persist among specialists working in public sector institutions, particularly within social protection and welfare systems, where bureaucracy and post-disability assessment reforms have created barriers to inclusive service delivery. A recent survey found that 68.8% of respondents reported their organizations do not specifically address the needs of girls and women with disabilities, or they were unsure. While over a quarter identified such issues as a priority, most either did not recognize their relevance or lacked clarity on what “priority” entails.⁶² Comments from respondents suggest that equal treatment is often misinterpreted as equity: statements such as, “All citizens are equal, regardless of gender” and “We address people’s needs, not their disabilities” illustrate a reactive, one-size-fits-all approach.⁶³ Limited municipal resources, insufficient staffing, and a lack of training in psychological support and disability-sensitive interaction further undermine effective service delivery.
29. These gaps in knowledge, resources, and proactive planning leave women and girls with disabilities particularly vulnerable to abuse and social exclusion, demonstrating that formal equality is insufficient without targeted measures to ensure genuine accessibility, protection, and empowerment.

Limited Government Support and Funding for Women with Disabilities

30. Government support for women with disabilities in Estonia remains limited, particularly in the area of protection from violence. GREVIO highlights that civil society organizations carry the bulk of awareness-raising and advocacy work, often relying on external donor funding rather than sustainable public financing, and notes an overall lack of protective measures tailored to women with disabilities.⁶⁴ This leaves women with disabilities disproportionately dependent on underfunded NGOs, often operating on short-term project grants, to secure access to basic protection and counselling.⁶⁵ Without stable state financing, the sustainability of such services, and thus the safety of women with disabilities, remains precarious.
31. Equally concerning is Estonia’s lack of coherent legislative or policy framework addressing the rights of women with disabilities in the context of violence. The Gender

Equality Act and other anti-discrimination statutes prohibit unequal treatment broadly, but they do not contain provisions that specifically address the intersection of gender and disability.⁶⁶ Moreover, national development plans and equality strategies have historically overlooked women with disabilities and continue to do so.⁶⁷ This legislative invisibility means that women with disabilities are not recognized as a distinct policy target group, resulting in generic interventions that fail to address their heightened risk of violence, dependence on caregivers who may also be perpetrators, or the accessibility barriers they face in seeking justice and support.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

32. This stakeholder report suggests the following recommendations for the Government of Estonia

- Bring the Penal Code into line with the Istanbul Convention and switch to a consensual approach to sexual offences. Establish a consent-based approach to sexual violence, so that sexual activities without consent are punishable.⁶⁸
- Amend Article 141 of the Penal Code to align the definition of rape with international standards, basing it on lack of consent rather than use of force or threat.⁶⁹
- Modify Articles 7.1 and 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which directly and indirectly contribute to legal gaps and stereotypes in the prosecution of rape, allowing for a shift in the burden of proof from demonstrating resistance to establishing whether there was freely given consent.
- Ensure gender-sensitive training for members of the judicial and non-judicial officers, legal professionals, and court experts on international human rights standards and jurisprudence with respect to rape, and on the myths and stereotypes that still hinder the implementation of those standards.
- Undertake gender sensitive and trauma-informed protocols to ensure prosecutors and judges will treat victim-survivors' testimony that is supported by a physical and psychological assessment of harm and assessed alongside existing evidence, as sufficient proof.
- Strengthen the capacity and the human, technical, and financial resources of the police stations across Estonia, especially in rural areas, to expand the coverage of the joint rapid response unit to prevent domestic violence against women and girls across the territory.
- Ensure mandatory and continuous training and accountability mechanisms for law enforcement officials on the dynamics of gender-based violence against women and on how to identify and respond to domestic violence, as well on how to provide comprehensive assistance to victim-survivors, taking into account a gender-sensitive approach and confidentiality. Such trainings should be led by or done in consultation with specialized NGOs that serve and best understand victim-survivors' needs.

- Strengthen training and capacity-building for law enforcement officers on eliminating harmful gender stereotypes and build the capacity of authorities on gender-sensitive investigation and interrogation methods.
- Conduct annual state-funded awareness-raising campaigns to the general public on eliminating gender bias and destigmatize of women and girls' survivors of gender-based violence
- Ensure the practical implementation of inter-agency cooperation between law enforcement and other state bodies like the judiciary system, services providers and specialized NGOs with the objective of providing victim-survivors with improved case management and support. The composition of inter-agency councils should be personalized in order to respect confidentiality. Any such coordination must include specialized NGOs in the composition of inter-agency councils.
- Ensure timely and effective issuance, enforcement and monitoring of emergency barring orders, in cases of domestic violence, and impose adequate deterrent penalties for non-compliance with such orders.
- Initiate criminal proceedings in a prompt manner for an individual issued with an emergency barring order, ensuring that these perpetrators of domestic violence are prosecuted and adequately punished.
- Develop a comprehensive law on combating domestic violence that includes all form of violence—physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and economic abuse; covers all relations including spouses, partners, former partners, family members, and cohabitants; recognize violence against women and girls as a gendered phenomenon rooted in inequality; ensure protection for all victims of domestic violence; strengthen existing protection measures and services; ensure accountability and data collection; and adequately sanction perpetrators and systems actors that perpetuate any form of violence or discrimination.
- Amend Article 44 of the Law of Enforcement Act to extend the duration of the emergency barring order from the current 12 hours minimum to 72 hours, in line with international standards.
- Adopt and implement disability-sensitive protocols for police, prosecutors, and frontline justice actors to ensure effective communication and accessibility for women with disabilities at every stage of proceedings.
- Introduce mandatory, recurring training for law enforcement and judicial personnel on gender and disability-sensitive approaches to domestic and sexual violence.
- Collect disability-disaggregated data in police and justice records on incidents of gender-based violence, ensuring confidentiality and ethical safeguards, to make visible the prevalence and characteristics of violence against women with disabilities.
- Guarantee accessibility of shelters and victim support services (physical accessibility, adapted communication tools, staff trained in disability-sensitive support), and allocate earmarked resources for these adjustments.

- Ensure proactive outreach and accessible information on available services in formats accessible to women with different disabilities (Easy-to-Read, sign language, Braille, plain language websites).
- Embed disability competence into victim support services by requiring specialized training for social workers, counsellors, and shelter staff to identify and address risks specific to women with disabilities.
- Strengthen national policies and strategies on gender-based violence to explicitly address the intersection of gender and disability, recognizing women with disabilities as a distinct target group.
- Reform disability assessment and welfare procedures to remove bureaucratic barriers that prevent women with disabilities from accessing social protection and victim support in cases of violence.
- Establish regular consultation mechanisms with organizations of women with disabilities to co-design policies, monitoring systems, and service provision standards.
- Allocate sustainable state funding to civil society organizations, reducing reliance on external donors.
- Introduce targeted budget lines within gender equality and disability inclusion policies for measures that address violence against women with disabilities.

¹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Estonia*, (23 June 2021), U.N. Doc A/HRC/48/7 ¶ 137.208 Take additional legal measures necessary to reduce crimes of violence against women and strengthen the provision of legal aid for the victims (Saudi Arabia); ¶ 137.210 Enact a special law on violence against women and girls, as well as amend the Penal Code to criminalize sexual harassment and broaden the definition of “rape” (Spain); ¶ 137.220 Increase efforts to promote gender equality and combat gender-based violence, including domestic violence, by amending the law to ensure the definition of rape includes any non-consensual sexual acts (United States of America); ¶ 137.221 Increase efforts to combat sexual violence and to address barriers to reporting domestic violence, including full implementation of the Istanbul Convention (Australia); ¶ 137.224 Extend the recent efforts to address violence and discrimination against women to cover the rights and interests of girls, including through upward revision of the legal age for sexual consent (Canada); ¶ 137.225 Take effective measures to end domestic and gender-based violence and amend the Penal Code to review the definition of rape (Chile).

² Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Estonia*, (23 June 2021), U.N. Doc A/HRC/48/7 ¶ 137.16

³ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Estonia* (14 July 2021) U.N. Doc A/HRC/48/7/Add.1 ¶ 137.116 It is essential that all offences against a person’s sexual self-determination are criminalized. There are currently no specific plans to amend the system of offences as defined and prohibited in the Criminal Code.

⁴ Advokatuur, *Karistusseadustiku muutmise seaduse (nõusolekupõhine seksuaalvägivalla käsitletus) eelnõu seletuskiri* (Aug. 13, 2025), 16, accessed on September 10, 2025, https://cms.advokatuur.ee/app/uploads/2025/08/OKT_SK_KarS-muutmise_nousolek_13.08.25.pdf?

⁵ Kadi Viik, *Seksuaalvägivalda ohvrid Eesti õigussüsteemi nõiaringsis: kohtupidamine tundub sageli hoopis ohvri üle käivat*, Feministeerium, Sept. 24, 2021, <https://feministeerium.ee/seksuaalvagivalda-ohvrid-eesti-oigussusteemi-noiaringsis/>

⁶ Advokatuur, Karistusseadustiku muutmise seaduse (nõusolekupõhine seksuaalvägivalda käsitus) eelnõu seletuskiri (Aug. 13, 2025), 16, accessed on September 10, 2025, https://cms.advokatuur.ee/app/uploads/2025/08/OKT_SK_KarS-muutmine_nousolek_13.08.25.pdf?

⁷ Kadi Viik, *Seksuaalvägivalda ohvrid Eesti õigussüsteemi nõiaringsis: kohtupidamine tundub sageli hoopis ohvri üle käivat*, Feministeerium, Sept. 24, 2021, <https://feministeerium.ee/seksuaalvagivalda-ohvrid-eesti-oigussusteemi-noiaringsis/>

⁸ Social Insurance Board, Eesti elanikkonna teadlikkuse uuring soopõhise vägivalda ja inimkaubanduse valdkonnas (2024), <https://www.sotsiaalkindlustusamet.ee/sites/default/files/documents/2024-04/Eesti%20elanikkonna%20teadlikkuse%20uuring%20soop%C3%B5hise%20v%C3%A4givalla%20ja%20inimkaubanduse%20valdkonnas.pdf>

⁹ Advokatuur, Karistusseadustiku muutmise seaduse (nõusolekupõhine seksuaalvägivalda käsitus) eelnõu seletuskiri (Aug. 13, 2025), 11, accessed on September 10, 2025, https://cms.advokatuur.ee/app/uploads/2025/08/OKT_SK_KarS-muutmine_nousolek_13.08.25.pdf?

¹⁰ Advokatuur, Karistusseadustiku muutmise seaduse (nõusolekupõhine seksuaalvägivalda käsitus) eelnõu seletuskiri (Aug. 13, 2025), 11, accessed on September 10, 2025, https://cms.advokatuur.ee/app/uploads/2025/08/OKT_SK_KarS-muutmine_nousolek_13.08.25.pdf?

¹¹ Penal Code of Estonia, RT I 2001, 61, 364 (entry into force Sept. 1, 2002), Article 141. See also, <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/510052022003/consolide>

¹² Code of Criminal Procedure, RT I 2003, 27, 166 (entry into force July 1, 2004), Article 34. See also, https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/527012016001/consolide?utm_source=

¹³ Code of Criminal Procedure, RT I 2003, 27, 166 (entry into force July 1, 2004), Article 7. See also, https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/527012016001/consolide?utm_source=

¹⁴ Advokatuur, Karistusseadustiku muutmise seaduse (nõusolekupõhine seksuaalvägivalda käsitus) eelnõu seletuskiri (Aug. 13, 2025), 12, accessed on September 10, 2025, https://cms.advokatuur.ee/app/uploads/2025/08/OKT_SK_KarS-muutmine_nousolek_13.08.25.pdf?

¹⁵ Women's Support and Information Centre NP, *Shadow report For GREVIO about Estonia implementing Istanbul Convention*, by Anu Laas and Pille Tsopp-Pagan (2021), 11, <https://rm.coe.int/estonia-grevio-shadow-report-wsic-fvvf-sept21/1680a475d>.

¹⁶ Women's Support and Information Centre NP, *Shadow report For GREVIO about Estonia implementing Istanbul Convention*, by Anu Laas and Pille Tsopp-Pagan (2021), 11, <https://rm.coe.int/estonia-grevio-shadow-report-wsic-fvvf-sept21/1680a475d>.

¹⁷ Code of Criminal Procedure, RT I 2003, 27, 166 (entry into force July 1, 2004), Article 37. See also, https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/527012016001/consolide?utm_source=

¹⁸ Code of Criminal Procedure, RT I 2003, 27, 166 (entry into force July 1, 2004), Article 288. See also, https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/527012016001/consolide?utm_source=

¹⁹ ERR, "Estonian Government Approves Draft Sexual Consent Law," accessed October 1, 2025, <https://news.err.ee/1609804500/estonian-government-approves-draft-sexual-consent-law>

²⁰ Advokatuur, Karistusseadustiku muutmise seaduse (nõusolekupõhine seksuaalvägivalda käsitus) eelnõu seletuskiri (Aug. 13, 2025), 1,3, accessed on September 10, 2025, https://cms.advokatuur.ee/app/uploads/2025/08/OKT_SK_KarS-muutmine_nousolek_13.08.25.pdf?

²¹ Advokatuur, Karistusseadustiku muutmise seaduse (nõusolekupõhine seksuaalvägivalda käsitus) eelnõu seletuskiri (Aug. 13, 2025), 7, accessed on September 10, 2025, https://cms.advokatuur.ee/app/uploads/2025/08/OKT_SK_KarS-muutmine_nousolek_13.08.25.pdf?

²² Advokatuur, Karistusseadustiku muutmise seaduse (nõusolekupõhine seksuaalvägivalla käsitlus) eelnõu seletuskiri (Aug. 13, 2025), 15, accessed on September 10, 2025, https://cms.advokatuur.ee/app/uploads/2025/08/OKT_SK_KarS-muutmine_nousolek_13.08.25.pdf?

²³ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Estonia*, (23 June 2021), U.N. Doc A/HRC/48/7 ¶ 137.207 Take further measures to eliminate violence against women, particularly domestic violence, including by conducting investigations of reported cases, adequately punishing perpetrators, as well as providing survivors with protection and legal, financial and psychological support (Portugal); ¶ 137.208 Take additional legal measures necessary to reduce crimes of violence against women and strengthen the provision of legal aid for the victims (Saudi Arabia); ¶ 137.212 Take effective measures to combat domestic violence and violence against women (Islamic Republic of Iran); ¶ 137.221 Increase efforts to combat sexual violence and to address barriers to reporting domestic violence, including full implementation of the Istanbul Convention (Australia); ¶ 137.227 Intensify further efforts at preventing and addressing domestic violence (Georgia); ¶ 137.238 Continue measures for combating discriminatory practices against women and girls, including gender-based violence (India); ¶ 137.239 Continue its efforts to combat all forms of discrimination against women and girls, address the phenomenon of domestic violence, and empower women and integrate them into economic life (Libya); ¶ 137.240 Intensify efforts in tackling domestic violence, also by adopting a specific law on domestic violence (Montenegro).

²⁴ Council of Europe, GREVIO: Baseline Evaluation Report Estonia, by GREVIO (Nov. 17, 2022), ¶ 204, accessed on Sept. 17, 2025, [GREVIO_Inf202232_eng_Final-report-on-Estonia_PUBLICATION.pdf](https://www.grevio.int/sites/default/files/2022-11/GREVIO_Inf202232_eng_Final-report-on-Estonia_PUBLICATION.pdf)

²⁵ Council of Europe, GREVIO: Baseline Evaluation Report Estonia, by GREVIO (Nov. 17, 2022), ¶ 204, accessed on Sept. 17, 2025, [GREVIO_Inf202232_eng_Final-report-on-Estonia_PUBLICATION.pdf](https://www.grevio.int/sites/default/files/2022-11/GREVIO_Inf202232_eng_Final-report-on-Estonia_PUBLICATION.pdf)

²⁶ Estonian Ministry of the Interior, Lähisuhtevägivallaga seotud teadmised ja hoiakud päästekorraldajate ja politseinike seas: Uuringu raport 2023, by Liina Rajaveer and Elis Kaljuvee, literature review by Kadri Aavik, with contributions from Kristiina Pilvet-Petrov and Ulvi Karu (Tallinn: Estonian Ministry of the Interior, 2023), p. 16-17.

²⁷ Women's Support and Information Centre NP, *Shadow report For GREVIO about Estonia implementing Istanbul Convention*, by Anu Laas and Pille Tsopp-Pagan (2021), 11, <https://rm.coe.int/estonia-grevio-shadow-report-wsic-fvvf-sept21/1680a475d>.

²⁸ Skytte Institute, *RAKE uuring paljastab puudujäägid ametiasutuste töös surmaga lõppenud perevägivalla juhtumite ennetamisel ja lahendamisel*, University of Tartu, Sept. 19, 2025, https://skytte.ut.ee/et/uudis/rake-uuring-paljastab-puudujaagid-ametiasutuste-toos-surmaga-loppunud-perevagivalla-juhtumite?utm_source=

²⁹ Estonian Ministry of the Interior, Lähisuhtevägivallaga seotud teadmised ja hoiakud päästekorraldajate ja politseinike seas: Uuringu raport 2023, by Liina Rajaveer and Elis Kaljuvee, literature review by Kadri Aavik, with contributions from Kristiina Pilvet-Petrov and Ulvi Karu (Tallinn: Estonian Ministry of the Interior, 2023), p.16.

³⁰ Skytte Institute, *RAKE uuring paljastab puudujäägid ametiasutuste töös surmaga lõppenud perevägivalla juhtumite ennetamisel ja lahendamisel*, University of Tartu, Sept. 19, 2025,

³¹ Skytte Institute, *RAKE uuring paljastab puudujäägid ametiasutuste töös surmaga lõppenud perevägivalla juhtumite ennetamisel ja lahendamisel*, University of Tartu, Sept. 19, 2025,

³² Estonian Ministry of the Interior, Lähisuhtevägivallaga seotud teadmised ja hoiakud päästekorraldajate ja politseinike seas: Uuringu raport 2023, by Liina Rajaveer and Elis Kaljuvee, literature review by Kadri Aavik, with contributions from Kristiina Pilvet-Petrov and Ulvi Karu (Tallinn: Estonian Ministry of the Interior, 2023), p.89.

³³ Barbara Haage, *Lähisuhtevägivallaga seotud teadmised ja hoiakud päästetöötajate ja politseinike seas*, Antropoloogia Keskus, 2023, <https://www.antropoloogia.ee/projektid/#lahisuhtevagivallaga-seotud-teadmised-ja-hoiakud-paastekorraldajate-ja-politseinike-seas>

³⁴ Estonian Ministry of the Interior, Lähisuhtevägivallaga seotud teadmised ja hoiakud päästekorraldajate ja politseinike seas: Uuringu raport 2023, by Liina Rajaveer and Elis Kaljuvee, literature review by Kadri Aavik, with contributions from Kristiina Pilvet-Petrov and Ulvi Karu (Tallinn: Estonian Ministry of the Interior, 2023), p. 53.

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- ³⁵ Estonian Ministry of the Interior, Lähisuhtevägivallaga seotud teadmised ja hoiakud päästekorraldajate ja politseinike seas: Uuringu raport 2023, by Liina Rajaveer and Elis Kaljuvee, literature review by Kadri Aavik, with contributions from Kristiina Pilvet-Petrov and Ulvi Karu (Tallinn: Estonian Ministry of the Interior, 2023), p. 36.
- ³⁶ Estonian Ministry of the Interior, Lähisuhtevägivallaga seotud teadmised ja hoiakud päästekorraldajate ja politseinike seas: Uuringu raport 2023, by Liina Rajaveer and Elis Kaljuvee, literature review by Kadri Aavik, with contributions from Kristiina Pilvet-Petrov and Ulvi Karu (Tallinn: Estonian Ministry of the Interior, 2023), p. 53.
- ³⁷ Sotsiaalkindlustusamet, *Eesti elanikkonna teadlikkuse uuring soopõhise vägivalla ja inimkaubanduse valdkonnas* (Tallinn: Sotsiaalkindlustusamet, April 2024), <https://sotsiaalkindlustusamet.ee/sites/default/files/documents/2024-04>
- ³⁸ Estonian Ministry of the Interior, Juhtumianalüüs: ametiasutuste tegevus surmaga lõppenud perevägivalla juhtumite lahendamisel: Aruanne, by Sabina Trankmann, Mari Puniste, Kristiina Vain, Doris Pavlov, Janika Bachmann, and Triin Taal (Tartu: University of Tartu Centre for Applied Social Sciences [RAKE], March 2025), p. 24.
- ³⁹ Estonian Ministry of the Interior, Juhtumianalüüs: ametiasutuste tegevus surmaga lõppenud perevägivalla juhtumite lahendamisel: Aruanne, by Sabina Trankmann, Mari Puniste, Kristiina Vain, Doris Pavlov, Janika Bachmann, and Triin Taal (Tartu: University of Tartu Centre for Applied Social Sciences [RAKE], March 2025), p. 24.
- ⁴⁰ Estonian Ministry of the Interior, Lähisuhtevägivallaga seotud teadmised ja hoiakud päästekorraldajate ja politseinike seas: Uuringu raport 2023, by Liina Rajaveer and Elis Kaljuvee, literature review by Kadri Aavik, with contributions from Kristiina Pilvet-Petrov and Ulvi Karu (Tallinn: Estonian Ministry of the Interior, 2023), p. 57.
- ⁴¹ Estonian Ministry of the Interior, Lähisuhtevägivallaga seotud teadmised ja hoiakud päästekorraldajate ja politseinike seas: Uuringu raport 2023, by Liina Rajaveer and Elis Kaljuvee, literature review by Kadri Aavik, with contributions from Kristiina Pilvet-Petrov and Ulvi Karu (Tallinn: Estonian Ministry of the Interior, 2023), p. 56.
- ⁴² Estonian Ministry of the Interior, Lähisuhtevägivallaga seotud teadmised ja hoiakud päästekorraldajate ja politseinike seas: Uuringu raport 2023, by Liina Rajaveer and Elis Kaljuvee, literature review by Kadri Aavik, with contributions from Kristiina Pilvet-Petrov and Ulvi Karu (Tallinn: Estonian Ministry of the Interior, 2023), p. 7.
- ⁴³ Estonian Ministry of the Interior, Lähisuhtevägivallaga seotud teadmised ja hoiakud päästekorraldajate ja politseinike seas: Uuringu raport 2023, by Liina Rajaveer and Elis Kaljuvee, literature review by Kadri Aavik, with contributions from Kristiina Pilvet-Petrov and Ulvi Karu (Tallinn: Estonian Ministry of the Interior, 2023), p. 8.
- ⁴⁴ Estonian Ministry of the Interior, Lähisuhtevägivallaga seotud teadmised ja hoiakud päästekorraldajate ja politseinike seas: Uuringu raport 2023, by Liina Rajaveer and Elis Kaljuvee, literature review by Kadri Aavik, with contributions from Kristiina Pilvet-Petrov and Ulvi Karu (Tallinn: Estonian Ministry of the Interior, 2023), p. 53.
- ⁴⁵ Law Enforcement Act, RT I, 22.03.2011, 4, (entry into force July 1, 2014), Article 44. See also, <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/528072023002/consolide>
- ⁴⁶ Council of Europe, *Report submitted by Estonia pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 1 of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (First thematic evaluation round – GREVIO)* (May 16, 2025), 11, accessed Sept. 17, 2025, https://rm.coe.int/report-submitted-by-estonia-pursuant-to-article-68-paragraph-1-of-the-/1680b5db9e?utm_source=
- ⁴⁷ Council of Europe, *Report submitted by Estonia pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 1 of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (First thematic evaluation round – GREVIO)* (May 16, 2025), 11, accessed Sept. 17, 2025, https://rm.coe.int/report-submitted-by-estonia-pursuant-to-article-68-paragraph-1-of-the-/1680b5db9e?utm_source=
- ⁴⁸ Council of Europe, *Report submitted by Estonia pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 1 of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (First thematic evaluation round – GREVIO)* (May 16, 2025), 11, accessed Sept. 17, 2025, https://rm.coe.int/report-submitted-by-estonia-pursuant-to-article-68-paragraph-1-of-the-/1680b5db9e?utm_source=

⁴⁹ Law Enforcement Act, RT I, 22.03.2011,4, (entry into force July 1, 2014), Article 44. See also, <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/528072023002/consolide>

⁵⁰ Council of Europe, GREVIO: Baseline Evaluation Report Estonia, by GREVIO (Nov. 17, 2022), ¶ 222, accessed on Sept. 17, 2025, [GREVIO/Inf202232_eng_Final-report-on-Estonia_PUBLICATION.pdf](https://rm.coe.int/grevio-inf-2022-32-eng-final-report-on-estonia-publication/1680a8fcc2)

⁵¹ Information on file with the authors (October 2025).

⁵² Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Estonia*, (23 June 2021), U.N. Doc A/HRC/48/7 ¶ 137.88 Make the necessary amendments to the Equal Treatment Act in order to ensure equal protection against discrimination and intolerance (Bahrain) (Belarus) (North Macedonia) (Czechia) (Germany) (Iceland) (Peru) (Montenegro) (Sweden) (Greece); ¶ 137.118 Promote gender equality and effectively protect the rights of vulnerable groups including women, children and persons with disabilities (China); ¶ 137.201 Implement actions aimed at ensuring that boys and girls with special needs do not drop out of school before acquiring a basic education (Cuba); ¶ 137.218 Take further measures to ensure that rural, older and marginalized women benefit from adequate medical services (Timor-Leste); ¶ 137.223 Strengthen the efforts, with the meaningful participation of all stakeholders concerned, to mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into all disability-related legislation and policies (Bulgaria); ¶ 137.239 Continue its efforts to combat all forms of discrimination against women and girls, address the phenomenon of domestic violence, and empower women and integrate them into economic life (Libya); ¶ 137.245 Increase determination to remove the physical obstacles that children with disabilities encounter in schools and health services, and prevent children with mental disabilities from ending up in reformatories together with juvenile offenders and children with behavioral problems (Spain); ¶ 137.248 Ensure appropriate support, inclusive quality education and social protection systems for all children with disabilities, with particular attention to their needs during the COVID-19 pandemic (Bulgaria); ¶ 137.263 Continue efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and increase their integration in the society through taking all necessary measures to facilitate their access to public, health and educational facilities (Sudan); ¶ 137.264 Address the challenges related to non-compliance with accessibility requirements (Ethiopia); ¶ 137.265 Ensure inclusive education and accessibility of health-care services and facilities for persons with disabilities (Israel).

⁵³ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Estonia*, (5 May 2021), U.N. Doc. C/EST/CO/7 ¶ 32(a).

⁵⁴ Code of Criminal Procedure § 10, *Riigi Teataja*, RT I 2003, 27, 166, last amended RT I, 20 Jan. 2015.

⁵⁵ European Disability Forum, *Combating Violence Against Women with Disabilities: A Guide for Organisations of Women and Persons with Disabilities*, by European Disability Forum (European Disability Forum, Nov. 2024), 3.

⁵⁶ Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), *Baseline Evaluation Report on Estonia*, GREVIO/Inf(2022)32, Council of Europe, 2022, 14, <https://rm.coe.int/grevio-inf-2022-32-eng-final-report-on-estonia-publication/1680a8fcc2>.

⁵⁷ EPNU, *SINA, ja tahad veel lapsi?! : Kõsitluste tulemuste analüüs*, by Maari Põim (Tallinn: EPNU, 2023), 18.

⁵⁸ EPNU, *SINA, ja tahad veel lapsi?! : Kõsitluste tulemuste analüüs*, by Maari Põim (Tallinn: EPNU, 2023), 19.

⁵⁹ *Victim Support Act*, RT I, 3 Apr. 2023, 4 (Est.), <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/503042023004/consolide>

⁶⁰ Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), *Baseline Evaluation Report on Estonia*, GREVIO/Inf(2022)32, Council of Europe, 2022, 14, <https://rm.coe.int/grevio-inf-2022-32-eng-final-report-on-estonia-publication/1680a8fcc2>.

⁶¹ Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, *Concluding Observations on the Initial Report of Estonia*, (24 Nov. 2021), U.N. Doc. CRPD/C/EST/CO/1 ¶ 33(b).

⁶² EPNU, *SINA, ja tahad veel lapsi?! : Kõsitluste tulemuste analüüs*, by Maari Põim (Tallinn: EPNU, 2023), 45.

⁶³ EPNU, *SINA, ja tahad veel lapsi?! : Kõsitluste tulemuste analüüs*, by Maari Põim (Tallinn: EPNU, 2023), 47.

⁶⁴ Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), *Baseline Evaluation Report on Estonia*, GREVIO/Inf(2022)32, Council of Europe, 2022, 19, <https://rm.coe.int/grevio-inf-2022-32-eng-final-report-on-estonia-publication/1680a8fcc2>.

⁶⁵ Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), *Baseline Evaluation Report on Estonia*, GREVIO/Inf(2022)32, Council of Europe, 2022, 19, <https://rm.coe.int/grevio-inf-2022-32-eng-final-report-on-estonia-publication/1680a8fcc2>.

⁶⁶ Estonian Chamber of Disabled People, *Submission to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, 6.

⁶⁷ Estonian Chamber of Disabled People, *Submission to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, 6.

⁶⁸ Advokatuur, Karistusseadustiku muutmise seaduse (nõusolekupõhine seksuaalvägivalla käsitus) eelnõu seletuskiri (Aug. 13, 2025), 1, accessed on September 10, 2025, https://cms.advokatuur.ee/app/uploads/2025/08/OKT_SK_KaS-muutmine_nousolek_13.08.25.pdf?

⁶⁹ Human Rights Council, *Rape as a grave, systematic, and widespread human rights violation, a crime and manifestation of gender-based violence against women and girls, and its prevention*, (April 19, 2021), U.N. Doc A/HRC/47/26, ¶ 85(a), “explicitly include lack of consent at the center of the definition for rape.... force is not a constitutive element of rape... [and] specify that consent must be given freely, as a result of a person’s free will, assessed in the context of the surrounding circumstances. Intercourse without consent should be criminalized as rape in all definitions.”