

The Istanbul Convention is not an end to itself. It offers a solid basis for Zonta advocacy.



EDUCATE OURSELVES

Club boards and advocacy committees are advised to organize education/discussion at club meetings. Excellent materials are on the CoE website. See also the CoE page on the ZI website.

Districts boards are encouraged to take the lead and include training on the Istanbul Convention at area meetings and district conferences. Invite experts as speakers and organize workshops. Involve district advocacy committees and area directors in training. Print out CoE information leaflets in applicable language. If needed, have the leaflet translated into your own language.



SIGNING & RATIFYING



EUROPEAN ZONTA DISTRICTS/AREAS

Check if your country has signed and ratified the Istanbul Convention. If not, advocate to make this happen. Find lists of countries on the CoE website.



NON-EUROPEAN ZONTA DISTRICTS/AREAS

Discuss how your country can accede to the Convention.

Advocate to make your country request accession.

Utilize the expertise of district advocacy committees, and of other Zontians with legal knowledge, in planning your advocacy actions. National procedures before ratification differ depending on legal systems. Letters/petitions must be sent to people who are in the right positions to handle the matter; otherwise they are likely to be ignored.

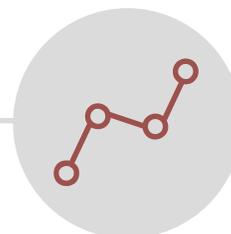
Publish statements in important media to influence public opinion.

Cooperate with like-minded organizations when effective.



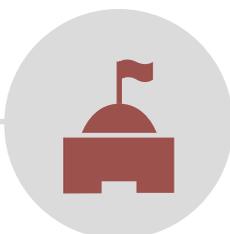
ADVOCATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Making the Istanbul Convention a reality requires a sustained effort to implement its provisions. Governments need not only to change laws and to strengthen law enforcement agencies. They also need to design and implement the policies required by the Convention, and tackle social and cultural patterns of behaviour that tolerate and deny violence against women.



MAKE PLANS, FOLLOW AND MONITOR PROCESS

Cooperation with like-minded organizations may be effective.



DISTRICTS AND AREAS ACT AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Use communication channels to governments and point out the national problems and needs they need to address. Monitor the implementation process and note its successes, failures and shortcomings. A country visit by the GREVIO will be known in advance and is a good time for Zontians to be active. The CoE implementation process is an open one. NGOs can complement information provided to the GREVIO by the states themselves. Ask the ZI CoE Subcommittee for information and advice as needed.



CLUBS MONITOR PROCESS AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

Important parts of implementation take place at the community level. Clubs may also suggest coordinated Zonta efforts at district or area levels.

When planning for advocacy, involve members from different fields and invite experts to share the knowledge and experience needed.