

CfP: Special Issue: The Istanbul Convention in Eastern Europe (Women's Rights in Eastern Europe)

The journal "Osteuropa Recht", published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde (German Association of Eastern European Studies) is preparing a special issue on the Istanbul Convention (The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence) in Central and Eastern Europe and invites scholars and practitioners to submit their contributions.

The Istanbul Convention obliges its members states to criminalize several offences, including: physical violence (Art.35); sexual violence, including rape (Art.36), forced marriage (Art.37); female genital mutilation (Art.38), forced abortion and forced sterilisation (Art.39). The convention also includes an article targeting crimes committed in the name of so-called "honour" (Art. 42).

The issue focuses on the legal questions of the implementation of the treaty which was opened for signature on 11 May 2011, in Istanbul, Turkey, and came into force at 1 August 2014. While most Western and Northern European countries have ratified the Convention and become members states it is noteworthy that many Central and Eastern European states are reluctant to join and to implement the Convention or even consider to withdraw. On 27 July 2018 Bulgaria's Constitutional Court ruled that the "Istanbul Convention" contravenes the Bulgarian Constitution. The question is, why these countries decided to do so and what legal arguments are used to defend their standpoint?

This special issue welcomes all articles that are related to the topic. It encourages contributions employing different approaches and methods. Possible topics include:

- The Eastern European countries approaches and responses to the Convention and its implementation
- The Eastern European countries approaches to women's rights and reproductive rights
- Legal concepts of gender
- Traditional and conservative concepts of women and family in Eastern European legal discourse and jurisprudence
- The jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights on women's rights
- General concepts of the Istanbul Convention
- The role and influence of the churches on legal development
- Populism and law in the field of women's rights and family law
- Authoritarianism and democratic erosion
- Alternative legal projects: a "Family Rights Convention"

Deadline for abstract submissions: **15 August 2021**

Deadline for manuscript submissions: **31 December 2021**

Please contact the editors if you consider submitting a paper: c/o Prof. Dr. Caroline von Gall, University of Cologne, cvgall@uni-koeln.de

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