

(English version)

Question for written answer E-005078/25
to the Commission
Elena Kountoura (The Left)
(26 December 2025)

Subject: Ensuring stable, sustained and sufficient funding for the smooth operation of structures and services addressing gender-based violence in the Member States

Despite some progress in preventing and responding to gender-based violence, there are significant shortcomings in several EU Member States, including Greece, in terms of the number, coverage and viability of specialised gender-based violence response structures ⁽¹⁾.

Many of these structures operate with fragmented funding, which is often dependent on temporary European programmes or national sources that are insufficient to ensure long-term continuity. As a result, there are gaps in victims' access to essential protection and support services, which violates Member States' obligations under EU law and the Istanbul Convention ⁽²⁾.

Given that these structures provide crucial prevention and safety services as well as psychosocial and legal support services to women and children who are victims of gender-based violence, can the Commission say:

1. Does it intend to look into the creation of a permanent European financial mechanism in the framework of the new MFF (2028-2034) to support gender-based violence response structures in the Member States so that they operate smoothly and in line with minimum European standards?
2. Does it intend to integrate a gender dimension into the upcoming European affordable housing plan, paying special attention to the housing needs of victims of gender-based violence?
3. Will it prioritise, in the context of the new gender equality strategy, the strengthening and stable funding of counselling centres, shelters, helplines and general and specialised support services for women survivors of gender-based violence?

Submitted: 26.12.2025

Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(1 April 2026)

The Democracy, Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values strand of the proposed AgoraEU programme (2028-2034) should contribute to fighting gender-based violence, violence against children and other groups at risk (so-called Daphne objective).

The Daphne specific objective should focus on protecting and supporting all victims of gender-based violence and on supporting the achievement of the objectives of the Council of Europe Convention on Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence ⁽¹⁾.

The European Affordable Housing Plan ⁽²⁾ recognises that groups in a situation of disadvantage including victims of gender-based violence face specific challenges in accessing housing.

It promotes housing solutions that protect and empower people in vulnerable situations and encourages Member States and regions to step up their support for such groups.

Freedom from gender-based violence features as the first objective in the new Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030 ⁽³⁾, adopted on 5 March 2026.

Directive (EU) 2024/1385 ⁽⁴⁾ requires, *inter alia*, the availability of helplines and specialist support services, and the provision of sufficient human and financial resources for the latter.

¹ Such as counselling centres, shelters, helplines, as well as other specialised psychosocial, legal and health support services for victims of gender-based violence.

² Article 25 of Directive (EU) 2024/1385 requires Member States to ensure sufficient human and financial resources for specialised services and, where these are provided by NGOs, that Member States provide them with adequate funding. Articles 22 and 23 of the Istanbul Convention require Member States to ensure, with an adequate geographical distribution, immediate, short- and long-term specialised support services for all victims, as well as specific services for women and their children, and also to establish appropriate, easily accessible shelters in sufficient numbers, providing safe accommodation for and reaching out proactively to victims.

⁽¹⁾ See Article 8: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0550>.

⁽²⁾ https://housing.ec.europa.eu/document/download/756915b5-d1b1-4bde-ac82-03532d2d3d90_en?filename=0.pdf.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/1f5fa936-9fba-4435-93f5-32fa220bac82_en?filename=gender-equality-strategy-2026-2030.pdf.

⁽⁴⁾ Directive (EU) 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj/eng>.

The Commission will closely monitor the transposition of the directive and continue to address the need for funding at all levels to fight gender-based violence.
