

EN

P-002649/2025

Answer given by Ms Lahbib

on behalf of the European Commission

(12.8.2025)

1. Beneficiaries of EU funds have the obligation to uphold EU values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, in full compliance with the values and rights enshrined in the EU Treaties and in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. A beneficiary's grant may be reduced or terminated if such provisions are not respected. In view of risk management and safeguarding of EU funds, the Commission follows up any reports of potential wrongdoing with the relevant national or executive agency and other stakeholders as necessary.

2. Both Directive (EU) 2024/1385¹ and the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention² provide a definition of domestic violence that covers any act of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence between members of the family or domestic unit, irrespective of biological or legal family ties. The definitions are formulated in a gender-neutral way to encompass victims *and* perpetrators *regardless of their gender*. The Directive requires Member States to ensure that victims of domestic violence have access to specific protection and support measures, including specialised, age-appropriate medical and psychosocial care, and the best interests of the child should always be taken into account.

The Commission Recommendation on integrated child protection systems³ promotes a zero-tolerance to any form of violence against children.

¹ Directive - EU - 2024/1385 - EN - EUR-Lex <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj/eng>.

² Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence <https://rm.coe.int/168008482e>.

³ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/1238 adopted 23 April 2024 on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32024H1238>.