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Reference CU 2013/183/DO/JS

Taking action against gender- related killing of women and girls in Finland

In Finland police investigate and prosecutors make the prosecution of all suspected homicide thoroughly and intensively regardless for example victim's gender or social status or any other character concerning victim's person regardless circumstances. There is no difference in the process of pre-trial investigation or prosecution between male and female victim. All necessary actions concerning technical and tactical investigations or prosecution are made without discrimination.

Also the crimes can be prevented in advantage, and it is always the possibility to use restraining order against the person who is threat, and if it is necessary, woman, or child can go to the shelter. Almost every police department has a social worker or help available when it is needed in domestic violence or partnership violence cases.

According to Finnish law, police have to perform a medico legal investigation in the cause of death when death is caused or suspected to be caused by crime, accident, suicide, poisoning, occupational disease or medical treatment or when death has not been caused a disease or when during the last illness the deceased had not been treated by a doctor, or when death is otherwise unexpected. Criminal police has special units to investigate different kind of victims of violence and police as well prosecutors get training for technical or tactical investigation concerning for example homicide. Clearance rate of homicide is high in Finland, from 80 to 100 percent yearly.

During pretrial investigations or court hearing police, nursing staff and prosecutors participate in multiprofessional co-operations and coordination in order to prevent or solve the current cases of domestic violence or violence against children. In the most serious sexual - and domestic violence crimes prosecutor's Office of the General Prosecutor work together with local prosecutors.

During the trial victims and witnesses has legal right to get support person and special arrangements are made that victim and offender(s) do not to face each other. As a rule, punishment of offenders is equal to both sexes in domestic violence cases and harsher if the victim has been a child.

In the beginning of 2014 pre-trial law changes and in the domestic violence cases a child will get a trustee in the early stages of pre-trial investigation.