DELEGATİON OF ESTONİA

 

Committee: UN Women

Topic: Violence against women during pandemic in estonia

Delegate: Bahattin Baki Bozbuğa

As an example of the respect shown to women and the value given to women in Estonia, we can show the candidate led by women. This is an island of Estonia in the Baltic Sea... What makes this place special is that women dominate almost everything. About 400 women live on Kihnu Island, located off the southwest coast of Estonia, and these women are responsible for the entire administration of the island and do everything themselves. This is actually an indication of the respect and value given to women

But unfortunately there is violence against women in the country. Margo Orupöld, head of the women's shelter in the province of Pärnu in Estonia, told News agency Yle that tension and violence within families increase during holidays, and that every day should be considered a holiday due to the pandemic. With the spread of the coronavirus, it was determined that there was a significant increase in domestic violence. Police officials also say that violence at home has increased, but think that this is not reflected in the statistics. Kristel Kaunismaa, one of the officials of the Northern Estonia Police District, said that despite the strict pandemic rules last year, the statistics did not show an increase in domestic violence, on the contrary, there was a decrease in reporting to the police. Noting that there was a decrease in the number of applicants to the police in February of this year compared to February of last year, the police chief said that it is very difficult to determine how much violence has increased after the pandemic.

Kaunismaa says that the actual number of victims of domestic violence is quite high. He states that 60% of the victims of violence avoid going to the police. He makes the assessment that domestic violence has been around for a long time, but has become more frequent and aggravated after the pandemic. Stating that 8 women and 8 men lost their lives due to violence in 2020, Kaunismaa said, "Last year, we clearly saw a significant increase in deaths due to violence at home." He points out that 90% of domestic violence incidents in Estonia are against women.

In addition to physical violence, there is also psychological violence. If women do not do the things they want, they face psychological violence, such as threats and intimidation. There are women who turn in on themselves and do not tell anyone because they have been subjected to psychological violence, and unfortunately this turns into physical violence afterwards. The increase in violence also worries us a lot. In addition, keeping silent about violence and not reporting the violence to the authorities is also a big problem. Our solution suggestions; For example, the perpetrator may be imprisoned for a certain period of time, and every woman may be given defense lessons to defend themselves against violence, or defensive tools may be allowed to defend themselves in case of violence. In addition, special permission should be given to women who have been subjected to violence to go to the country of their choice and to help them establish a new life. In addition, training can be provided so that women who have experienced violence will understand that it is important to report it to the authorities and that it will be much better for them to report it.