



Government of the Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Interior
Office of the Minister



Special Protocol on Conduct of Police Officers in Cases of Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence against Women

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The Government Conclusion dated 24 November 2011, adopting the General Protocol for Action and Cooperation of Institutions, Bodies and Organisations in the Situations of Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence against Women, provides that the Ministry of Interior shall adopt a special protocol in order to elaborate in more detail on internal actions, in accordance with the principles and objectives of the General Protocol.

The adoption of the Special Protocol on Conduct of Police Officers in Cases of Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence Against Women is of great importance for the Ministry of Interior, because it represents not only the adherence to the principle that victim security or safety is the priority, but also a normatively defined procedure of conduct of police officers in cases of domestic violence.

The objectives of the protocol is the standardisation of conduct of police officers in cases of domestic and intimate partner violence against women, as well as the specialisation of certain police officers who will participate in the police response in these cases.

The Ministry of Interior will not only adopt the Special Protocol on Conduct of Police Officers in Cases of Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence Against Women, continue with the implementation of activities in the process of victim protection against all forms of gender-based violence and but will also support intersectoral cooperation in this area, with the overall aim to introduce systemic solutions and implement mechanisms that enable efficient conduct in accordance with international commitments and the national legislation in relation to human rights protection

MINISTER
OF INTERIOR
Ivica Dačić

1. Definitions and general terms

Any form of gender-based violence, or any action that results in the infliction of damage or suffering of physical, mental or sexual nature, threat thereof, coercion or other forms of limitation to freedom represents violence against women as a form of discrimination under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the most important international women rights treaty, ratified by the Republic of Serbia in 1981.

Violence in the family and in intimate partner relationship comes in different forms and manifestations.

- **Physical violence** is deliberate use of physical force that can cause pain, injury, disability or death. It includes behaviour such as scratching, pushing, hair pulling, shaking, slapping, hitting, kicking, biting, strangling, stabbing, burning, restriction of movement, battering and murder and other manifestations.
- **Sexual violence** is a sexual act without consent or choice of the victim to consent, regardless of whether the act has taken place; sexual act or the attempt of such an act when a person is not capable of conceding to or refusing participation due to illness, disability, influence of psychoactive substances, age, that is, under intimidation, blackmail or pressure, a painful and demeaning sexual act. Intimidation, blackmail or pressure to participate in unwanted sexual act includes the use of words, gestures, objects or weapons with the intent to cause pain, injury or death.
- **Psychological violence** is the violation of the victim's serenity due to behaviour, threats and using methods of intimidation with or without the use of tools and weapons that can cause bodily injuries. It includes victim humiliation, controlling their behaviour, denying her information, shaming and demeaning them, blaming, isolating them from friends and family, manipulating her using children and demeaning the victim as parent, denying her access to money and other resources that influence the victim's mental and emotional state.

A specific form of psychological violence is controlling the victim by following or stalking her, again using disturbing and intimidation, such as persecution, coming to their place of work or residence, disturbing phone calls, letters and messages and destroying the victim's property.

- **Economic violence** is a form of psychological violence that includes unequal access to common resources, denied or controlled access to money, preventing employment or education and professional advancement, denying right to property, pressure to wave the right to property, alienating property without consent and other manifestations.



In the Republic of Serbia, domestic violence is defined and prohibited by the provisions of the Family Law, Criminal Code and Law on Public Order and Peace.

According to Article 197 of the Family Law, domestic violence is the behaviour by which one family member endangers physical integrity, mental health or serenity of another family member. Domestic violence is in particular

- Intentional infliction or attempt of infliction of bodily injury
- Fear caused by threat of death or infliction of bodily injury to a family member or a close person
- Forced sexual intercourse
- Inciting someone to sexual intercourse or inciting to sexual intercourse a person under 14 years of age or a vulnerable person
- Restricted freedom of movement or communication with third persons
- Insults, as well as any other insolent, rude or malevolent behaviour

Family protection, family assistance and custody affairs, in the sense of this Law, shall be provided by the centre for social work. The proceedings in case of protection against domestic violence are initiated by complaint. The complaint for domestic violence protection measure, as well as for the extension of measure of protection against domestic violence can be raised by: family member who has been violated against, their legal representative, public prosecutor and custody authority.

Pursuant to Article 198 of the Family Law the court can impose one or more measures for protection against domestic violence against the family member who has committed violence, which temporarily prohibit or restrict maintaining personal relationships with other family members.

Regarding police conduct, the incrimination of domestic violence in the Criminal Code is important, which, because of the complex criminal legal protection of the family member defines a special criminal act of Domestic Violence (Article 194 of the Criminal Code). However, the prosecutor in charge can qualify another criminal act with elements of violence in the perpetrator's actions (e.g. heavy bodily injury, light bodily injury, abandonment or neglect of a minor, abuse and torture, endangering safety, unlawful deprivation of liberty, threat with dangerous tool during fight or quarrel, inciting suicide and assisting suicide, rape and similar). Moreover, having in mind different manifestations of violence, it is possible to identify violations of the Law on Public Order and Peace.

The criminal act of domestic violence (Article 194 of the Criminal Code) is perpetrated by **whomever by use of violence, threat of attacks against life or body, insolent or ruthless behaviour endangers the serenity, physical integrity or mental state of a member of their family.**

Family members, under the Criminal Code, are: spouses, their children, spouses' first bloodline ancestors, common-law partners and their children, adoptive parents and adopted children, foster parents and foster children. Family members are also: siblings, their spouses and children, former spouses and their children and former spouses' parents if they share the residence, as well as persons who have a child together or child on the way and have not shared a domestic household.

2. General principles of protection of women victims of domestic and intimate partner violence

Domestic and intimate partner violence against women is recognised as a serious offence with negative impact on the social community and rights of individuals and it requires strong and efficient response of government bodies and civil society organisations dealing with these issues.

The police shall in their conduct adhere to the following common and general principles defined in the General Protocol for Action and Cooperation of Institutions, Bodies and Organisations in the Situations of Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence against Women::

1. Victim's security (safety) is the priority in the work of professional services.
2. Ensure the safety and wellbeing of the child by ensuring safety and supporting the independence of the non-violent parent.
3. The perpetrator is solely responsible for violent behaviour.
4. All interventions should take into account the inequality of power between the victim and the perpetrator of domestic violence.
5. Respect the needs, rights and dignity of the victim.
6. Emergency of procedure is in accordance with the assessed danger of the situation and vulnerability of the victim.
7. Institutions, within their roles, competencies and missions, shall be responsible to stop violence and undertake protection measures.
8. Raise professional competencies through planned education and promotion of best practice examples.



In order for the women victims of violence to access their rights, it is necessary to establish a system that will enable a fast, efficient and coordinated procedure in situations of violence, which momentarily stops the violence, protects the victim from further violence and ensures adequate legal and psychosocial intervention enabling her rehabilitation and integration.

Violence against family members has specific characteristics in relation to violence outside the family. Violence in the family always represents abuse of power and control over family members who have less power or have access to fewer resources. In most societies, especially in traditional and patriarchal communities, men have significantly more power – not only physical, but also economic and social power.

The police must be aware of the unequal power between men and women, as well as cultural differences between family members in different communities and areas, in order to treat women in an impartial, constructive, consistent and non-judgemental way, using all authorities defined by the law.

3. The conduct of police officers when they encounter a case of domestic and intimate partner violence against women

Protection against domestic violence begins by recognising violence. Recognising violence falls within the scope of regular duties of all institutions. Recognising violence can be the outcome of the victim's report of violence to any institution in the system of protection, or it can be a perception of physical, psychological or any other traces and manifestations of violence by any official or professional or any third person reporting the violence to the institution.

The police are obliged to act in cases of domestic and intimate partner violence. The police shall accordingly undertake measures to prevent, discover and document criminal acts and misdemeanours perpetrated by use of violence by the family member or partner.

The police should respect ethical rules when treating victims of violence and accordingly give them safety and support.

The police conduct shall include establishing cooperation with other government bodies and civil society organisation

3.1. Reporting domestic and intimate partner violence against women

The police can find out about an act of domestic violence in different ways (directly, indirectly and on own initiative):

- When the victim reports violence on own initiative
- By an anonymous or known person (over the telephone or in writing)
- Through report by a professional in a health centre, centre for social work or other institution
- While performing other police work and security tasks

We would here like to present cases when violence is reported, most commonly found in practice, and give them special attention because they are very important for a right approach to working with women victims of domestic and intimate partner violence: which are to report violence by telephone and directly in police offices.

3.1.1. Reporting domestic and intimate partner violence against women by telephone call

Initial conversation between the police officer with the person reporting the violence (citizen's information), should provide an opportunity to form a, to the extent possible, complete and good quality preliminary idea about the violence reported. With the aim of ensuring citizen safety, the police are required to undertake IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION in all cases, and particularly when the life and health of the victim may be in danger.

The police officer who receives the report on violence should obtain answers to the following questions:

1. Where the violence is (address, apartment number)
2. Who they are talking to (victim, witness, family member)
3. What has happened (is the violence in progress at the time of the call)
4. If someone is hurt (if yes, whether they need emergency medical assistance)
5. Who the reported person is, whether they are there, if not, where they are
6. Who the victim is (if she is in immediate danger)
7. Whether weapons have been used, whether there has been threat with weapons, where the weapon is now



8. If the reported person is under the influence of alcohol or opiates
9. Whether there are children present (how many children, what ages, whether they are safe)
10. If violence has occurred before (if the police have intervened before)
11. Whether there is a court measure in force for protection against violence.

NOTE: In cases when there is no immediate threat to the victim or urgency to act, focus on questions regarding victim safety.

Depending on the specific situation and if deemed necessary, the police officer will notify the person who reported the violence about the approximate time of arrival of police officers to the crime scene. The person who reported the violence can be asked to stay on the telephone line with the police, and if possible to inform the police about current events and the violence. In cases when there is immediate danger to the victim, the police can recommend the victim to go to a safe place (to neighbours', parents', relatives', etc.) until police officers arrive to provide the necessary protection.

The police officer who communicates with the victim cannot make comments and express personal attitudes about the incident while they are talking with the victim of violence, nor can they inquire in the victim's readiness to testify in further legal proceeding.

RECOMMENDATION: there should be police officers on duty who have undergone education/training on conduct in cases of domestic violence, so they can take over this type of call.

There should be a written record of the interview performed (events log, official note, report or similar).

3.1.2. Reporting domestic and intimate partner violence by the victim or other person in the police offices

One of the ways to report domestic and intimate partner violence against women is for the victim or another person to directly report it to police officers in police premises.

When taking a statement from the victim of violence it is necessary to provide physical protection and enable the victim to give a statement about the event without the perpetrator present, if possible in police offices that are separated and free from disturbance and everyday work activities of police officers.

3.2. Referral of police officers and their arrival to the scene of domestic and intimate partner violence

The aim of police intervention is to stop domestic violence within the limits of police authority.

At least two police officers shall be referred to the scene of events (preferably officers of different sexes to provide opportunity for the victim to talk to a woman), with the aim to determine the circumstances of the case and provide protection and other assistance to the victim of violence, prevent the perpetrator from continuing with violent behaviour, and as needed, provide transport to the nearest medical institution or shelter.

It is necessary to give information to the police officers appointed to the intervention on what is known about the reported person, if they are under the influence of alcohol, opiates or medicines that can alter his mental state. Also, it is important to know if force, weapons or other means were used during the reported violence to hurt the victim or might have hurt the victim, as well as whether the reported person had previously committed the same or similar acts with elements of violence.

Upon arrival to the scene of events, the police officers' duty is to:

1. Perform identification of the perpetrator of violence (one or more), victim and witnesses to the event
2. Separate the victim from the perpetrator and provide physical protection to the victim of violence and enable her to make her statement without the presence of the perpetrator and out of his sight
3. Collect all data necessary to inform and prove the criminal offence or misdemeanour of domestic or intimate partner violence. In doing so, special care should be given to take into account all information regarding the circumstances related to the concrete situation of violence, define the type of violence more precisely and the way in which the violence was committed, the duration, continuity, possible earlier violence and if the authorities have already been involved and to what extent.
4. Take into special consideration the children exposed to violence
5. Inform the victim of violence that the relevant centre for social work will be notified about the case
6. Inform the perpetrator of violence about the concrete measures that will be taken against him

Police officers who have the above information should be aware of the high risk that accompanies the cases of domestic violence. When collect-



ing information, it is necessary to make an assessment of potential risks to their own safety as well as that of the victim, and take all necessary measures and activities of precaution and the protection of safety.

It is determined whether a weapon, dangerous tool or other objects suitable for attack or self-harm were used at the scene of events. The weapon shall, issuing a receipt on temporarily confiscated object, be temporarily confiscated and the motion for permanent confiscation shall subsequently be given. In case of knowledge of illegal possession of a weapon, necessary measures shall be undertaken to discover it and confiscate pursuant to the Criminal Procedure Code.

MOST COMMON RISKS

1. The perpetrator of violence has access to, is using or threatening to use weapons.
2. Prior history of domestic violence and escalation of violence.
3. There are court orders in place and a history of violation.
4. The perpetrator has criminal history (not necessarily related to acts of domestic violence)
5. There is alcohol or drugs abuse or suspicion of mental disorders or illness.
6. Suicide threats or attempts (by the perpetrator and/or the victim).
7. Victim's feeling of fear and her opinion about the risks of future violence.
8. Unemployment and financial issues.
9. Current problems in intimate partner or family relations (e.g. announced leaving of the partner, divorce, property, custody or visiting rights over children and similar).
10. If there are children present, whether they have been or might be hurt.
11. Threats to victim, her family, friends.
12. Coercion to sexual intercourse.
13. History of jealous behaviour of the perpetrator in relation to the victim, stalking or harassment of the victim by former partner.
14. Other indicators of potential relevance: victim isolation (social or geographic), reluctance to leave the apartment/house, lack of (or weak) language skills or no citizenship, certain types of disability or chronic conditions, pregnancy, victim's age and similar. болести, трудноћа, узраст/старост жртве и сл.

The first presented risk indicates a possibility that the perpetrator of violence has access to weapons and in this respect the police officers have the duty to note whether any of the family members in the household possess weapons as well as if they can possibly acquire a weapon differently.

The conduct of police officers on the scene of violence must be professional. Means of coercion must be used within the boundaries of the legally defined authorities, with the prevailing use of the reciprocity principal. When undertaking measures and actions police officers shall act in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code.

3.3. Control over the perpetrator of violence

It is the task of the police when they intervene to re-establish order and peace, that is, to establish control over the perpetrator of violence but also over other persons found at the scene of events. For certain complex interventions to be successful, an estimation number of police officers to intervene must be estimated. The exercise of police authority in order to prevent the criminal act or misdemeanour from continuing and the separation of the attacker is possible by arresting them and taking them in the police official premises.

NOTE: During police intervention, it should be kept in mind that there is fear of retaliation with the victim and fear of what will happen during the next encounter. Also, victims often do not wish the perpetrator to lose his job as a result of reporting them, because in this case he would not be able to support the family. Not seldom it happens that victims of violence feel guilty about the event and feel they should have done something to avoid violence, so they are uncertain when the police arrives about whether they should testify about the event or withdraw, thinking that the police intervention is sufficient to “scare” the perpetrator, who will not then repeat the violence.

3.4. Conduct of police officers after collecting information

In accordance with the information received from the victim of violence related to the severity of the act and its consequences, it shall be decided on whether uniformed police officers or criminal police detectives will continue working on the case. **(Instruction on the operations of organisational units on crime fighting).**

Responsible police officers shall report on the knowledge, information and evidence acquired to their superior or officer on duty, who shall further inform the relevant prosecutor, who within their competences shall qualify



the crime and give order on further procedure (collecting evidence and information, criminal and technical work on the scene of events, in certain cases informing the relevant investigating judge about the event in order to authorise investigation and other).

In case the relevant prosecutor states that there are no elements of crime in the act initiated ex officio, police officers shall inform the victim about this qualification and tell her that she can file a private complaint. Also, if there is evidence of misdemeanour pursuant to Law on Public Order and Peace, police officers shall take measures in accordance with the Law on Misdemeanours.

The victim shall be notified about the undertaken police measures.

3.5. Documenting events

The scene of domestic violence events is where the police officers establish the facts, by establishing where the violence occurred, in order to find material evidence and possible witnesses to the violence, but also they determine whether the victim sustained injuries (visible injuries or other injuries that are determined by medical examination).

It is very important to locate the evidence at the scene of events in order to document well the criminal report. In this respect it is necessary to:

1. Specify the type and location of victim's injuries by describing them, and also, with the victim's consent, by photographing the injuries.
2. Collect clothes that are torn or bloody, as well as objects that can provide traces, etc., in accordance with the rules of criminal tactics and techniques.
3. Photograph and describe the appearance of the scene of events as found (the furniture in the apartment overturned, destroyed, damaged), whether it is necessary to initiate a search investigation in order to collect material evidence that can be used during the criminal proceeding.

Interrogation of the suspect for the crime or misdemeanour in the area of domestic violence shall be performed in accordance with the Law on Criminal Procedure, that is, the Law on Misdemeanours.

In addition to the criminal or misdemeanour report, it is also necessary to submit the following: reports on previous reports of violence to the police, reports on prior sentences (misdemeanours or criminal offences), record of existing protection measures against domestic violence issued by the court (Family Law) and their violation, as well as information and documents from other sources, such as the reports of the centre for social work or organisations specialised in providing support to victims of domestic violence.

3.6. Information from citizens (victim and witnesses)

Gathering information from the victim requires the following **special preparations**:

1. Provide official premises where the victim will be encouraged to testify about the violence that happened to her.
2. Check how the victim feels (whether she needs to rest, drink water, medical assistance, etc.).
3. Prepare all relevant knowledge about previous cases of reported violence, doctor's reports, material evidence collected.
4. Present the police officer who takes information from other persons present, as well as the purpose of the interview.
5. Explain to the victim before the interview starts, that the police officer is there to help her and ask her to tell the officer if she feels she has not understood a question and encourage her to speak about everything in her own words, even about the details she thinks the police already know.

Understanding, support, expressed consideration and skills of the police officer are important to gain the victim's and the witnesses' trust and gather information about the event or events related to the violence. Having this in mind, it would be preferable if the police officers interviewing the victim are women. Interview with children should be conducted exclusively by a police officer with adequate license, with a professional from the centre for social work, pedagogue and potentially a trustworthy person present.

In situations of domestic and intimate partner violence, there are often no witnesses, or they will not speak about what they have seen or what they know (they do not want to interfere or they fear consequences). Useful witnesses are not just the eye-witnesses to the specific event, but also all individuals who know that the victim has suffered violence, harassment, stalking, that she received threatening phone calls, persons who heard sounds (such as screaming, yelling, breaking), saw the victim immediately after the event, saw the place of events immediately after the incident, gave assistance to the woman or children immediately after the event. Therefore, it is important when the victim is giving her statement about the event, to ask her in each phase if someone was present or could know something about the event.



3.7. False reports

There is a certain percentage of false reports of criminal acts with elements of domestic violence, and the most common motives for false reports are:

- Revenge towards the partner for breaking off the relationship
- Jealousy
- Unrequited love
- Material benefit
- With young persons to justify: running away from home, staying out late, missing school, bad results in school, turning the parents' attention to personal or family problems.

Some of the elements that may indicate that the domestic and intimate partner violence report is false are the following:

- inaccurate details about the time, place and method used in the act
- lack of defence injuries with the plaintiff reporting forced intercourse
- Time lapse between the moment when the crime was “committed” and when it was reported, etc.

NOTE: Inconsistencies in the victim's or witnesses' statements do not necessarily mean that the report is inaccurate (false). Inconsistencies can occur because of a misunderstood or unclear question, confusion because of the situation they are in, difficulty to recall events because of the experienced trauma, excitement, potential reluctance of the victim, influences by the family not to report the violence and similar.

4. Victim safety and referral to protection system

The police officers shall in a suitable and clear manner inform the victim about her legal rights, in particular the protective measures and conditions under which they can be imposed and how they affect the perpetrator, as well as the measures and actions to be undertaken by the police in the future against the perpetrator of violence, which are of particular importance for her safety (e.g. bringing the perpetrator to the police offices, issuing and duration of the measure of police custody, referring to the relevant judge with proposal for custody, that is, issuing custody order, releasing the perpetrator immediately after questioning by the relevant judge, about the importance of self protection and cooperation of the victim in a manner that would contribute to her safety).

The police officer shall consider all relevant issues for the assessment of the victim's safety, as well as the safety of other family members and discuss with them the measures of their safety. In cases when there is risk of repeated victimisation, the police officer shall warn the victim about the potential risk to her or potentially her child. (3.2. – most common risks)

In high risk cases, or if the victim asks to move to a shelter/safe house for domestic violence victims, the relevant centre for social work shall be asked to consider and initiate measures for urgent assistance to the victim and family members under threat.

If it is necessary to conduct an interview with or assist a child or a minor, urgent arrival and intervention shall be sought of a social worker from the centre for social work, taking care that the time spent in the police station is as short as possible.

It is necessary for the victim to gain detailed information about all the participants involved in providing assistance and ensuring safety. This includes addresses, telephone numbers, and helpline for women victims of violence, shelters (safe houses) and other organisations in the community specialising in domestic violence and violence against women. Allow for a "support person" to be by the victim (someone that will accompany her in proceedings with authorities).

It is important to build a relationship of trust and be clear that violence is an unacceptable form of behaviour and that responsibility for the violence is always with the perpetrator and not with the victim.

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT TO THE VICTIM

- The violence you experience was not your fault
- Violence is solely the responsibility of the perpetrator
- Nobody has the right to abuse you
- Violence is prohibited (as misdemeanour and as criminal offence)
- You are not alone, you can get help, I can tell you who can give you help other than the police
- Violence has serious effects on your health, but also the health of your children

STATEMENTS OF HARM TO THE VICTIM

- How could you let this happen to you?
- What did you do to make him angry?
- Why didn't you tell me this before?
- Why didn't you call the police?



- Why are you with him when you know he's violent?
- Why didn't you leave him the first time he hit you?

Giving protection shall not depend on the victim's readiness to file charges or testify against the perpetrator of violence.

It is important to ensure good exchange of information between all the participants in providing protection.

In accordance with the Law on Social Protection and the centre for social work Rules of Organisation, Normatives and Standards of Work, it is the duty of the centre for social work to coordinate measures and services in the community. The police shall refer all domestic and intimate partner violence victims to the Centre for Social Work, exchange information and participate in meetings organised to discuss the case, organise plan of protection and services for the victims of violence.

The plan of protection needs to ensure victim safety, stop the violence and prevent it from repeating, to protect the victim's rights, to enable her make free decisions in her best interest, to receive services that assist her recovery, empowerment and independence. The plan of protection and services should also include repeated contact with the victim, monitoring and evaluation of the effects of the measures taken.

Please note that pursuant to the provisions of the Law on Police, police affairs are safety and protection of victims, rights, freedoms and integrity of person, as well as support to the rule of law.

5. Cooperation with other institutions that deal with domestic and intimate partner violence against women

Written information shall be produced and submitted to the centre for social work about the measures taken and the situation found, in order to enable social and intervention measures or measures of legal family protection (example: In order to ensure urgent protection of the woman victim of domestic and intimate partner violence and other family members exposed to the violence, the public prosecutor and the custodial authority shall, in accordance with the law, request the issuance of protection measures against domestic violence).

Participate in meetings about the case organised by the Centre for Social Work (as coordinator) together with the representatives of other relevant bodies, institutions and organisations.

6. Special protocol implementation and monitoring

1.1. Knowledge about the Special Protocol

Relevant organisational units of the Ministry of Interior shall present to the employees the content and activities to be implemented in the implementation and monitoring of the activities in accordance with the Special Protocol.

1.2. Training of police officers about the implementation of the Special Protocol

General Police Directorate, Criminal Force Directorate and Directorate for education, training, professional development and science shall organise training on domestic and intimate partner violence against women and on the implementation of the Special Protocol on Conduct of Police Officers in Cases of Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence against Women.

The training programme shall be designed in accordance with the principles of the General Protocol and the Special Protocol on Conduct of Police Officers. The content of the training shall include information on the following: regulations, rules and principles of police conduct in accordance with the Special Protocol. The content of the training shall also include information on: the dynamics of partner and domestic violence, prejudice and specific characteristics of domestic violence in relation to the cultural differences and lifestyles of some populations, information about the work of the public prosecutor, court procedures, support groups for victims of violence, efficient exchange of information with other institutions and organisations. It would be preferable if the trainers included persons other than police officers, who work on the protection of victims of domestic and intimate partner violence.

Basic training shall include all police officers whose daily work includes domestic violence reports. This training shall be implemented through the annual Programme of Professional Development of Police Officers with the Ministry of Interior.

Specialised training can be organised for police officers who will more often than others have the opportunity to work with the issue of domestic and intimate partner violence. This type of training shall be provided on proposal of the Area Police Directorate Commissioner. Police Directorate shall together with the Directorate for education, training, professional de-



velopment and science organise the training, and if possible engage experts in the proposed area (judges, prosecutors, university professors, civil society organisations, etc.).

1.3. Information sharing about police jurisdiction

Having received consent from the Minister of Interior, informational materials on domestic and intimate partner violence can be printed.

1.4. Monitoring implementation of the Special Protocol

In order to improve the conduct in cases of domestic and intimate partner violence victims, the Ministry of Interior shall monitor the implementation of the Special Protocol as well as the effects of the conduct.

In Area Police Directorates the following shall be continuously performed:

- Analysis and assessment of undertaken measures of protection against domestic violence
- Identification of the necessary changes and improvements in operations
- Monitoring of the effects of conduct in cases of domestic and intimate partner violence against women and ensuring data processing, as well as their publication in accordance with the law

7. Data records on cases of domestic and intimate partner violence against women

Records on acting on reports of violence against women shall be kept within the existing records of the Ministry of Interior, depending on the type of violation. истарства унутрашњих послова у зависности од врсте учињене повреде.

