

Statement on the Decree-Law 12/2020 on Urgent Measures of Protection and Assistance to Victims of Gender-Based Violence

We find positive this Decree as it provides essential services and attention to victims of sexual exploitation, but not the amnesty for improper use of the fund on measures against gender-based violence taken by the Spanish government two years ago.

The declaration on the regional and local State networks of care services for victims of gender violence, as essential services for the maintenance of basic social functions, such as health and safety, is very positive. It should contribute not only to providing new services to face situations linked to the confinement and to have conditions of financial stability of personnel and of provision and territorial equity that until now we have not had.

The recognition that women victims of gender violence are a particularly vulnerable group in situations of home isolation with their aggressor is positive. This needs not only police measures, but comprehensive and available social assistance, as well as extension of care, as an essential service, to all forms of violence included in the Istanbul Convention.

However, the second part of the Decree Law grants an amnesty to the improper use of the 100 million Euros transferred to the Autonomous Communities in 2018 and 2019 by the Ministry of Equality, without demanding them to reinvest or return the funds.

Even if the text mentions that the funds have not been used for regional actions against gender violence, as denounced in December 2019 by the Feminist Policy Forum before the Ombudsman, but it states that the delay is not long enough to achieve "the continued implementation and provision during the five years of validity of the State Pact of the assistance and protection services for victims of gender violence" that it claims to seek. Moreover, the Decree does not take into account the demands of the Sectoral Conference on Equality, notably to stabilize and strengthen the State, autonomous and local structures of economic-administrative management and provision of essential services to victims of VAW.

Madrid April 2020
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