

# **Audit Report 4/2021**

## **Gender-based violence: Contribution of the hostels for abused women to the effective protection of victims of gender-based violence**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This audit was carried out at the request of the Parliamentary Committee on Institutions and Transparency. Its target was to ascertain whether female victims of gender-based violence are effectively protected by hostels for abused women.

These Hostels are part of the protection network of the General Secretariat for Demographic and Family Policy and Gender Equality, as provided for in the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).

The audit was carried out by seven Services of Commissioners of the Court of Auditors throughout Greece, from 1.7.2021 to 30.9.2021.

The audit findings are as follows:

1. The number of requests for accommodation in the Hostels is not proportional to the general escalation of the phenomenon of gender-based violence during the last decade.
2. This lack of proportion was even more intense during the lockdown periods imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, during which gender-based violence escalated.
3. Building and logistics infrastructure of most of these Hostels does not meet the hygiene and safety requirements provided by law.
4. Services provided to victims of gender-based violence proved to suffer from deficiencies.
5. Significant deficiencies were also identified in the Hostels' manpower, as well as in the supervision and training of their personnel.
6. The services rendered by the Hostels are not sufficiently evaluated, so that they may be redesigned according to the needs arising at any given time and improved. The objectives set for the evaluation of the work of the Hostels are only quantitative, not qualitative.
7. The expansion of the population served by the Hostels to include victims of multiple kinds of discrimination (other than gender-based violence) has created additional needs.