



Finland

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Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice maintains and develops the legal order and legal safeguards and oversees the structures of democracy and the fundamental rights of citizens.

The Ministry of Justice has three departments responsible for protection of victims' interests

- the Law Drafting Department is in charge of law drafting in matters relating to the legal position of private persons and organisations, including legislation which concerns the rights of the victim
- the Department of Criminal Policy is responsible for developing crime prevention and the position of victims in general and for coordinating the victim issues in the Ministry
- the Department of Judicial Administration is responsible for the practical functioning of the courts, the enforcement units and the State legal aid offices

CONTACTS:

Website: <https://oikeusministerio.fi/en/frontpage>

Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is responsible for the prevention of and assistance to victims of domestic violence and trafficking.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

- is responsible for social and health planning, supervision and implementation

- is responsible for issues related to domestic violence; aims to develop a national service system for offering services and support to victims of domestic and family violence
- promotes gender equality
- is responsible for the prevention of trafficking and assistance to victims of trafficking

CONTACT:

Website: <http://www.stm.fi/>

Ministry of Interior

The Ministry of Interior is responsible for police activities and the development of legislation on matters dealing with crime prevention.

The Ministry of Interior

- is responsible for police activities and the development of legislation on matters dealing with crime prevention (Police Department)
- is responsible for immigration policy and law and for the coordination between the other relevant administrative branches (Immigration Department)
- provides coordination in the field of anti-trafficking
- ensures equality and good ethnic relations and promotes prevention of racism and discrimination

CONTACTS:

Website: <http://www.intermin.fi/>

The Police Board

- designs, develops, manages and supervises police activities and support functions
- is responsible for police activities related to public services, equal access and quality across the country

CONTACTS:

Website: <https://www.poliisi.fi/en>

Local police

- maintain public order and safety and work to prevent crime
- investigate crimes and other public order or security incidents
- carry out other police duties assigned to or provided for

CONTACTS:

Contact details of police stations and other police units can be found on the police website: <https://www.poliisi.fi/en>

State Legal Aid Offices

The State Legal Aid Offices give individuals the possibility to obtain assistance on legal matters fully or partially at the expense of the State. In Finland legal aid covers all sorts of legal matters.

The State Legal Aid Offices

- give Legal Aid both in court proceedings and in other matters and the nature and significance of the matter have an effect on the coverage of legal aid
- can provide legal aid free of charge , at the expense of the State to victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence
- under certain circumstances provide the defendant in criminal proceedings with a public defender at the expense of the State, regardless of his or her financial status
- usually do not grant Legal Aid if the applicant has legal expenses insurance that covers the matter at hand
- have a telephone service for directing you forward to you own legal aid office

CONTACTS:

Website: <https://oikeus.fi/oikeusapu/en/index.html> (contact details for each Legal aid Office)

State Treasury

The State Treasury, which operates under the Ministry of Finance, is a service bureau, which grants compensation payable from State funds to victims of crimes. It acts as well as the assisting, receiving and transmitting authority in matters of compensation for criminal damage in cross-border situations between the EU Member States.

The State Treasury

- may grant the victim of a crime compensation for personal injury, property damage, financial loss and suffering payable from State funds
- acts as the assisting, receiving and transmitting authority in matters of compensation for criminal damage in cross-border situations between the EU Member States

CONTACTS:

Website: <http://www.statetreasury.fi/en-US/Contact>

Victim Support Finland

Victim Support Finland is an organisation founded in 1994 by seven organisations in Finland. It supports those who have experienced a crime, their close relatives as well as those who have witnessed a crime.

Victim Support Finland

- has grown into a national organisation that has a Central office, eight regional offices, 26 local service points, over 20 professionals as paid staff and about 300 trained volunteers
- maintains two nationwide helplines, operating anonymously and in confidence, that offer the possibility to talk with somebody who understands what a crime experience can mean to the victim
- supports a legal helpline with volunteer lawyers, who give legal advice by phone to victims and help them to find out their legal rights and to receive guidance on such matters
- provides confidential and anonymous online support service called Rikunet for crime victims, their family members and witnesses of crime
- can ensure a support person for crime victims, their family members and witnesses who can accompany them when attending police hearings or court sessions, assist in filing for a restraining order or applying for compensation

CONTACTS:

Website: <https://www.riku.fi/fi/victim+support/services>

Women's Line

Women's Line is a national telephone help-line, which provides help, advice and support to girls and women who have experienced violence or a threat of violence, and also to their friends and family.

Women's Line

- is a national toll-free helpline which provides help, advice and support to girls and women who have experienced violence or the threat of violence, and also to their friends and family
- provides information and advice on issues affected by violence or the threat of violence such as women's juridical, economic and income status, education, work and access to employment, status and care of children, and family, intimate and other relationships
- guides to other relevant services
- gives opportunity to girls and women to speak about their situation confidentially and anonymously;
- operates nationally in English, in Finnish and in Swedish

- the same service is also available on the Internet
- the service is provided by Women's Line in Finland, a member of Women Against Violence Europe – WAVE

CONTACTS:

Website: <https://www.naistenlinja.fi/en/>, <http://www.naistenlinja.fi/>, <https://wave-network.org/>

Rape Crisis Centre Tukinainen

The Rape Crisis Centre Tukinainen provides support and guidance for persons who have been sexually assaulted or abused, as well as for their families.

The Rape Crisis Centre Tukinainen

- has a free national helpline on which victims of crime can receive information from experts with special qualification about sexual assault and abuse,
- can arrange personal appointments and appointments for groups
- provides free legal consultation for victims of crime about sexual offences, restraining orders, sexual molestation and harassment and free legal assistance when reporting a sexual offence to the police, during the preliminary investigation and during the trial
- provides free legal consultation for victims of domestic violence

CONTACTS:

Website: <https://www.tukinainen.fi/english/rape-crisis-centre/>

Registered Association for the Close Relatives of Homicide Victims HUOMA

HUOMA is a registered association whose members constitute a peer network that gives support to those who have lost someone as a victim of a homicide.

The Registered association for the close relatives of homicide victims HUOMA

- provides a free peer helpline by trained members of the association on call operating on Sunday and Monday nights
- organises peer group discussions to those who have lost a close person as a victim of a homicide
- organises the members of the association rehabilitation courses and provides a closed internet forum in the HUOMA website to discuss their experiences

CONTACTS:

Website: <http://www.huoma.fi/>

Shelters/Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters

The Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters is a national child welfare organisation founded in 1945 to help families and support parenthood. There is a shelter for the victims of domestic violence in 14 member associations situated in different parts of Finland.

The Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters

- has concentrated more on providing support for the family as a whole
- is particularly concerned with helping families in need and with the prevention of problems
- has shelters for people who have experienced domestic violence or threat of violence; the shelters are 24/7 service centres, in which persons either suffering from or threatened with domestic violence can find help in overcoming a crisis; there is a shelter in 14 member associations situated in different parts of Finland

Website: <https://nettiturvakoti.fi/> (Online Family Shelter); <https://ensijaturvakotienliitto.fi/en/>

The Ombudsman for Minorities

The Ombudsman for Minorities is an independent authority, which aims to prevent ethnic discrimination and promote equality in a number of different ways. The Ombudsman for Minorities also acts as the national rapporteur on trafficking in human beings.

The Ombudsman for Minorities

- is an authority with the basic task of advancing the status and legal protection of ethnic minorities and foreigners as well as equality, non-discrimination and good ethnic relations in Finland
- supervises compliance with the prohibition of ethnic discrimination under the Non-Discrimination Act
- provides guidance and advice to those contacting the office in issues related to ethnicity and being a

foreigner in Finland

- can take the case to the National Discrimination Tribunal of Finland
- as the national rapporteur on trafficking in human beings, the Ombudsman also provides legal advice and assists victims as necessary
- can assist the possible victim in securing his or her rights or obtaining legal assistance..

CONTACTS:

Website: <https://www.syrjinta.fi/web/EN/frontpage>

Assistance system for victims of human trafficking

Joutseno and Oulu reception centres represent assistance system for victims of human trafficking.

The Joutseno and Oulu Reception Centres

- are responsible for the administration of the system for victim assistance; the Joutseno Reception Centre serves adult victims of human trafficking, families and groups, and the Oulu Reception Centre provides services and other forms of support for minor victims of human trafficking
- provide assistance for victims of human trafficking includes residential arrangements, social and health care services, legal advice and assistance, security arrangements and other support measures required by the victim
- provide assistance for victims of crimes similar to human trafficking (aggravated prostitution, extortionate work discrimination and the aggravated arrangement of illegal immigration) are also admitted to the system
- administer assistance for victims with a municipality of residence in Finland who can receive the necessary basic services from their home municipality; even in this case, some services can be paid for through the system for victim assistance using state funds

CONTACTS:

Website: http://www.humantrafficking.fi/in_english

Multicultural Women's Association in Finland – Monika

MONIKA is a non-governmental organisation, for women from minority ethnic groups. It provides easy access services, guidance, support and peer group activities for immigrant women and children who suffer from intimate relationship violence.

Multicultural Women's Association in Finland - Monika

- develops and provides free services for immigrant women and children who are suffering from violence
- operates the Mona Shelter for immigrant women and children who are victims of violence, including domestic violence, forced marriage, honour-related violence and human trafficking; the shelter provides safe, culturally sensitive housing and specialised services in a language understood by the victim; services are provided by multi-cultural social and healthcare professionals; home security can apply to all parts of Finland
 - The Resource Centres offer guidance, advice and help to immigrant women, girls and children who are victims of violence; the centres are located in Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Finland, Kemi and Mikkeli
 - The Resource Centres, the Mona Shelter and the national 24-hour helpline number assist immigrant women and children who have been victims of violence and those living under the threat of violence

- operates 24-hour national helpline offering help and guidance around the clock
- operates the Multicultural Women's Houses in Helsinki and Mikkeli, which are multicultural meeting spaces for immigrant women
- offers services in a number of languages, including Arabic, Dari, English, Spanish, Farsi, Hindi, Italian, Kurdish, Persian, Portuguese, French, Romanian, Swedish, German, Somali, Tagalog, Thai, Turkish, Russian, Vietnamese and Estonian

CONTACTS:

Website: <https://monikanaiset.fi/en/>

Finnish Association for Mental Health

The Finnish Association for Mental Health is a non-governmental organisation with the mission to support and promote good mental health, considered essential at all levels of society and in all spheres of life.

The Finnish Association for Mental Health

- stimulates interaction between individuals and communities, while activating people to work for the welfare of their own communities
- responds to social challenges by employing new models to promote mental health and provide help and assistance in crises
- maintains the SOS crisis centre which provides assistance to foreigners and their family members living in Finland, in different crises of life
- the SOS crisis centre follows the principle of providing immediate and anonymous assistance, free of charge help

CONTACTS:

Website: <https://www.mielenterveysseura.fi/en>

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