



# Policy Brief on Clinical Management of Rape Guidelines and Recommendations

**CARE International in Poland, June 2023**

# CARE International in Poland - Overview

## Since February 2022:

- We work in 4 countries:
  - Poland
  - Slovakia
  - Hungary
  - Ukraine
- Partnerships with local organizations
- Programs in 3 sectors:
  - Basic Needs + Livelihood
  - Gender in Emergencies
  - Education in Emergencies
- Research and advocacy

## **Objective of the brief:**

To support the Polish translation and implementation of the WHO clinical handbook with two sets of guidelines and tools, including a training package and quality assurance tool advancing the implementation of CMR interventions into a Polish health care system.

## **Audience:**

Central and local governments in Poland

## **Overview:**

- Context: Sexual violence, its types, characteristics and prevalence in Poland
- Access to public health care services related to sexual violence response
- Legal frameworks
- Systemic barriers
- CMR in Poland

## Recommendations for the Ministry of Health:

- Prioritize patients who have experienced sexual and intimate partner violence and ensure patients' timely access to high quality CMR and mental health and psychosocial support services.
- Require from health managers and health care professionals in health care facilities in Poland to adopt the WHO clinical handbook, and clinical guidelines.
- Ensure the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of care pathways (algorithms, clinical care pathways) based on WHO guidelines in health care facilities by unit managers.

## Recommendations for the Ministry of Family and Social Policy

- Include relevant activities to strengthen the role of medical staff and quality medical service provision in the framework of the National Program for Prevention of Domestic Violence.
- Conduct coordinated joint public awareness-raising activities on sexual and intimate partner violence prevention and response in cooperation with health care providers, the police, the prosecutors' offices, institutions organizing social care and non-government organizations.

## Recommendations for local governments

- Within the framework of local governments' domestic violence prevention programs, increase personnel knowledge about CMR policies.
- Train medical units' staff at commune, district and provincial levels
- Strengthen resources
- Allocate budgets

## Dissemination in progress:

- Ministry of Health (Poland)
- Ministry of Family and Social Policy (Poland)
- City of Cracow and City of Wroclaw (authorities responsible for equal treatment)
- Journalists from the medical sector in Poland (15+ outlets incl. mainstream media)
- Sectoral working groups (Protection, Health, GBV)
- Partner organizations: Autonomia, Emma, Equita, Feminoteka, Federa, FoC, Pink Box
- Participants of both WHO clinical guidelines launch events (Warsaw, Zielona Góra)
- Next steps: advocacy outreach with likeminded representatives of the City of Warsaw

# Questions?

# Thank you!

**Karolina Maciorowska**  
**Women's Health and Protection Coordinator**  
**[karolina.maciorowska@care.org](mailto:karolina.maciorowska@care.org)**