

Title	Questionnaire on Protection Orders and their Recognition and Enforcement (REPO)
Document	N/A
Author	PB
Agenda Item	N/A
Mandate(s)	C&D Nos 22-25 of CGAP 2026
Objective	To gather information from HCCH Members on the cross-border recognition and enforcement of protection orders to assist the WG on REPO. Members are invited to respond to the Questionnaire by 11 September 2026 .
Action to be Taken	For Decision ☐ For Approval ☐ For Discussion ☐ For Action / Completion ☒ For Information ☐
Annexes	N/A
Related Documents	A summary of the work carried out between 2011 - 2018, along with several key documents pertaining to the project, can be found on the HCCH website, under " Publications & Studies ".

Questionnaire on Protection Orders and their Recognition and Enforcement (REPO)

I. Background

- 1 At its 2026 meeting, the Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) resumed discussions on a possible new instrument on the cross-border recognition and enforcement of protection orders (REPO), and adopted the following Conclusions and Decisions (C&D):
 22. Welcoming the proposal from the United Kingdom, CGAP mandated the establishment of a Working Group on a potential future convention on cross-border recognition and enforcement of protection orders (REPO).
 23. This Working Group will build on previous work by the PB in 2011-2018 and the Experts' Group in 2014 and further explore the feasibility of, and initially develop policy aims for, a potential future convention on REPO. The Working Group will report to CGAP 2027.
 24. To facilitate the work of the Working Group, CGAP mandated the PB to:
 - a. update its 2012 Questionnaire with a view to collecting information from Member States on civil protection orders available in their States and laws applicable available in their States for cross-border recognition and enforcement of protection orders;
 - b. circulate this Questionnaire in June 2026 and request responses by the end of September 2026.
 25. CGAP further mandated the PB to make arrangements for an in-person Working Group meeting with the possibility for online participation, ahead of CGAP 2027. CGAP thanked the United Kingdom for its offer to host this Working Group meeting including to cover travel costs for HCCH staff, and supports this proposal.¹

II. Introductory Note to the Questionnaire

- 2 The present document comprises the updated Questionnaire requested by CGAP.
- 3 The sole purpose of this Questionnaire is to gather factual and comparative information on the existence, scope, and operation of protection orders, including their recognition and enforcement in cross-border situations. The questions are designed to support informed discussions by providing a clearer picture of national, regional and international frameworks and practices. The Questionnaire deliberately takes a broad approach (e.g., in terms of the kinds of orders that could be in scope), in order to maximise information-gathering for that purpose. This is not intended to pre-empt or prejudice any policy decisions that may be taken regarding a potential future instrument in this area, including its scope and content.
- 4 Therefore, for the purposes of this Questionnaire, the term “protection order” may refer to any measure taken by a competent authority requiring a person to refrain from doing, or to carry out, specified acts to protect one or more identified persons. The term is used in a broad sense and may include orders issued in civil, administrative, or other proceedings, irrespective of the authority by which they are issued, provided that their primary purpose is protective and not punitive.

¹ These C&Ds are available on the HCCH website (www.hcch.net) under “Governance” => “Council on General Affairs and Policy”). A project on the recognition and enforcement of foreign protection orders was carried out by the PB between 2011 and 2018. A summary of the work, along with several key documents pertaining to the project, can be found [here](#).

- 5 Given that States may have different classifications for protection orders (civil, criminal, administrative, other), respondents are invited to adopt a **functional approach** when answering this Questionnaire. Respondents are encouraged to provide hyperlinks to useful online resources pertaining to their national systems.
- 6 This Questionnaire focuses primarily on orders issued for the **protection of adults**. Where relevant, respondents may also include orders issued to protect children and indicate this clearly in their responses.

III. Instructions to Complete the Questionnaire

- 7 To allow the PB to extract parts of the Questionnaire for compilation of the responses, you are kindly requested to use **this Word Version** of the document, and **not to return a PDF version** of the completed Questionnaire.
- 8 You are kindly requested to send your completed Questionnaire to the PB by e-mail to < secretariat@hcch.net > **no later than 11 September 2026, 5.00 p.m. CEST** with the following indication in the subject line of the e-mail:
“REPO - Questionnaire Response [name of State]”.
- 9 Please address any questions you may have on this Questionnaire to < secretariat@hcch.net >.
- 10 The PB intends, except where indicated otherwise or where expressly asked not to do so, to place all responses to the questionnaire on the HCCH website (www.hcch.net). Please, therefore, clearly identify any responses which should not be placed on the website.

REPO Questionnaire

Respondent Identification

Name of State: Germany

Information for follow-up purposes

Name and title of contact person:

Name of Authority / Office

E-mail address:

I. Protection orders under domestic law: scope and main features

A. Types of behaviours required / prohibited by protection orders

1.	What types of protection orders are available in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☒ Prohibiting communication with or contacting the protected person(s): A family court may order that a person has to abstain from contacting the protected person, including electronic or other communication. This is also possible in order to protect a child (age 17 or below) Concerning children (age 17 or below), the same can also be ordered by a family court as part of an order regulating contact with the child (which may include ordering complete exclusion of any form of contact). ☒ Prohibiting approaching or being in physical proximity to the protected person(s): A family court may order that a person abstain from entering the protected person's home, from entering a certain area around that home, from going to places where the protected person is regularly staying, such as the work place, a school where she would accompany her children, a supermarket where she goes to shop etc. or from approaching or being in physical proximity to the victim beyond a certain distance. An equivalent order can be taken in order to protect a child (based on a different law, i.e. section 1666 of the German Civil Code (BGB)); if that order addresses a parent, certain additional conditions must be fulfilled in order to make sure that human rights related to family life are respected (§ 1666a BGB) ☒ Prohibiting harassment (incl. any kind of non-physical forms of abuse): In case of harassment, the family court may take the above mentioned orders. ☒ Prohibiting stalking: In case of stalking, the family court may take the above mentioned orders. ☒ Prohibiting or restricting certain social media / online activity: Concerning adults, this can be done under general civil law provisions concerning the protection of personality rights. Concerning children, social media and online activities of a child are generally a matter for parental responsibility and the child is represented by their parents in case online activities of an adult violate the child's personality rights.
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☒ Prohibiting taking someone abroad:

Concerning children, it is possible to restrict parental responsibility in such a way that parents may not bring the child outside the country, but this is subject to the strict condition that such measure is necessary to avoid a danger of physical or psychological harm (e.g. in cases where there is information that a forced marriage of a minor, or genital mutilation are imminent, or where there is a serious risk of child abduction).

☒ Prohibiting taking someone abroad and abandoning them there:

Abandoning a child or a helpless person for which one is responsible is generally forbidden by law without the need for a court order..

☒ Prohibiting certain physical or medical interventions affecting the bodily integrity of a person:

Concerning children, see above.

☒ Requiring a person to stay away from a specified place (e.g. home, workplace, school):

See above.

☒ Requiring a person to participate in counselling:

On 9 July 2026 a federal law was adopted which will allow family courts to order participation in mandatory perpetrator work or mandatory violence prevention counseling. The law will enter into force on 1 July 2027.

Concerning children, the family court may require the parents to obtain counseling or other supportive measures by the youth welfare office (Jugendamt).

☐ Restricting possession or use of weapons:

Germany has very restrictive laws concerning the possession of weapons and permission to possess weapons (e.g. for hunters) can be withdrawn by the administrative authorities if there are indications that a person is not reliable and risks using weapons for purposes other than those for which permission has been granted.

☐ Imposing other prohibitions (please specify):

Please insert text here

☐ Imposing positive obligations of a protective nature (please specify):

Please insert text here

☒ Other (please specify):

In case the perpetrator and the protected person live in the same house, it is possible for the court to order that the perpetrator has to leave that house for the protected person to live there. If the perpetrator is the owner of the house, or has rented the house alone or with a third person, that order has to be limited in time (usually six months maximum).

On 9 July 2026 a federal law was adopted which introduces the possibility for family courts to order electronic bracelet monitoring with GPS monitoring for a perpetrator in high risk cases. The victim may choose to use a receiver unit which will give alarm if the perpetrator approaches the victim beyond the distance specified by the court. Furthermore, the law also increases the maximum sentence of imprisonment for offences of violating a violence protection order from a maximum of 2 years imprisonment to up to 3 years imprisonment. The law also enables family courts to receive direct information from the federal firearms register for risk assessment purposes and allows victims of violence to be accompanied by a trusted person in violence protection proceedings. The law has partially already entered into force but the main part of the law will enter into force on 1 July 2027.

	With regard to the protection of children similar rules were introduced for electronic bracelet monitoring, mandatory perpetrator work, increase of maximum imprisonment term for offences and the possibility to receive direct information from the federal firearms register.
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B. Contexts / situations or wider risks / behaviours that can be addressed by a protection order

2.	What types of contexts / situations or wider risks / behaviours can be addressed by a protection order issued in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☒ Domestic or family violence / abuse:² Please insert text here ☒ Sexual violence / abuse: Please insert text here ☒ Harassment (incl. any kind of non-physical forms of abuse): The delimitation between domestic violence or abuse, sexual violence or abuse and stalking is difficult to make. ☒ Stalking: In the law concerning the protection order (Act on Protection against Violence - "Gewaltschutzgesetz"), it is described as intentionally and unlawfully harassing a person against their explicit will or pursuing them using telecommunication means. Accordingly, a violence protection order may be issued in such cases of harassment and stalking. ☒ Forced marriage: Forced marriage is prohibited by law. There are usually no explicit orders about it. ☒ Honour-related violence: Violence is prohibited by law, whether or not it is "honour-related". There are no specific rules concerning "honour-related"; the rules apply to "violence" (by whatever motive). ☒ Human trafficking / modern slavery: This is prohibited by law and can concern either criminal law or supervision of the correct application of labour law. No specific court orders. ☒ Female genital mutilation (FGM): Prohibited by the law as a form of violation of the integrity of the body. ☒ Other contexts / situations or wider risks / behaviours (please specify): Maybe not relevant in a cross-border context, but: There are also cases of harassment, stalking, violence or abuse involving neighbours.
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² "A pattern of behaviour in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control, including physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological abuse." Source: [What Is Domestic Abuse? | United Nations](#) (definition provided for guidance purposes only). It is understood that this definition would be inclusive of terms such as "intimate partner violence" and "coercive control".

C. Legal basis for protection orders

3.	What is the legal basis enabling authorities in your jurisdiction to issue the protection orders listed in Question 1 above? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> <i>Provide additional details where appropriate, as well as references and links where available.</i> ☒ Legislation: On the federal level: Act on Protection against Violence ("Gewaltschutzgesetz") and Civil Code (BGB); rules of civil procedure in family matters (FamFG) and rules on general civil procedure (ZPO). In matters of police: Laws of the German Länder (States), as police is a matter of the Länder's legislation, and not of the federal legislation. Consequently, there are 16 different laws with diverging rules. ☐ Administrative regulations / instruments: Please insert text here ☐ Other sources (e.g., case law; please specify): Please insert text here
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D. Type(s) of authorities that may issue protection orders

4.	Which authorities are competent to issue protection orders in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☒ Judicial authorities (please specify): ☒ Civil court / tribunal: Family court and, in case of violation of personality rights, civil court. ☐ Criminal court / tribunal: Please insert text here ☒ Administrative authorities (please specify): ☐ Administrative tribunal: Please insert text here ☒ Police / law enforcement officer: Depending on the 16 different laws of the Länder (States): the police may issue temporary emergency protection orders similar to the civil law protection orders including emergency barring orders, prohibiting a person from entering an apartment or other specified locations or contacting or approaching the victim beyond a certain distance. Under the police laws of some states, these protection orders may also be prolonged by a court, at the request of the police, for a period of several months. ☐ Other (please specify): Please insert text here ☒ Other authorities (please specify):
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In case of imminent danger to the child, i.g. by violence, abuse etc, a Youth Welfare Office can place the child in a care home or foster family and seek confirmation by the family court.

E. Protected person(s)

5.	Who can be protected by a protection order issued in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☒ Intended protected person(s) only: ☒ Adults (please indicate minimum age requirement if applicable): Age 18. ☒ Children (please indicate age limit if applicable): 0-17 ☒ Other individuals close to the intended protected person(s) (please specify): There is ongoing legislation implementing an EU Directive on the protection against violence which requires introducing protection measures for persons who are dependant on the victim. Please refer, for the content of this Directive, to the contribution by the European Commission.
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F. Applicant(s)

6.	Who can apply for a protection order in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> ☒ The intended protected person(s) ☐ Family member(s) of the intended protected person(s) ☐ Police / law enforcement officers ☐ Courts <i>ex officio</i> ☒ Other person, public authority or official (please specify): The information given above refers to the issuance of protection orders under the Act on Protection Against Violence (federal law). In case of minors, the parents or, as the case may be, guardian can act for the child. In case of minors, the court can act <i>ex officio</i> and the Youth Welfare Office may invite the family court to act in order to protect the child. Police officers can order temporary measures based on the police law of the relevant State (Land). In some states these temporary measures can be prolonged by a court at the request of the police
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G. Person(s) against whom protective orders can be issued

7.	Against whom can a protection order be issued in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply</i> ☒ Perpetrator(s) / alleged perpetrator(s) / putative perpetrator(s) / person(s) causing the risk ☐ Family members of the perpetrator(s) / alleged perpetrator(s) / putative perpetrator(s) / person(s) causing the risk
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	☐ Others (please specify): Please insert text here
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H. Supplementary matters

8.	Can supplementary matters, which may or may not be directly related to the immediate safety of the protected person(s), be addressed in protection orders? ☒ Yes (please specify): ☒ Child custody ☐ Maintenance ☐ Property protection ☐ Mandatory counselling (to the extent not covered by Question 1) ☒ Other (please specify): contact (in case contact is excluded) ☐ No ☐ In some cases (please specify): Please insert text here
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I. Duration of protection orders

9.	Please provide details regarding the possible duration of protection orders issued in your jurisdiction. Shortest duration for fixed term orders (incl. interim / emergency orders): Please indicate the shortest time frame for such orders: Please insert text here Please provide examples of such orders: Please insert text here Longest duration for fixed term orders: Please indicate the longest time frame for such orders: Please insert text here Please provide examples of such orders: Please insert text here Indefinite duration: ☒ Yes In practice, as protection orders have to respect the principle of proportionality, they have to be reexamined regularly and usually are limited in time as ordered by the court. Orders requiring the proprietar owner of a house (i.e. the person having the in rem right of property) to leave their own house have to be limited in time (see above). ☐ No Please insert text here Renewal of protection orders:
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	☒ All protection orders are potentially renewable (please specify any conditions or limitations, if applicable): Renewable if all the conditions for making the order continue to be in place. ☐ Some protection orders are potentially renewable (please specify): Please insert text here ☐ Protection orders are not renewable: Please insert text here
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J. Transportability of the domestic protection order

Please complete this section if your jurisdiction has a framework for the cross-border recognition and enforcement of protection orders issued in your jurisdiction.

10.	What steps, if any, need to be taken in your jurisdiction to ensure that the protection order issued in your jurisdiction can be relied upon across borders? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ A certificate / abstract / other document to accompany the order is issued automatically Please insert text here ☒ A certificate / abstract / other document to accompany the order is issued upon request In case of a protection order issued by a German court and intended to be enforced in another EU Member State (Regulation 606/2013) or in case of a protection order concerning parental responsibility for the child or a measure of protection of the child (Brussels IIb-Regulation) or in cases of violation of personality rights, possibly under Brussels Ia Regulation. ☐ A signature / stamp by a competent authority on the order itself Please insert text here ☒ There is no procedure to ensure that the protection order can be relied upon abroad In all other cases. The requirements depend on the laws of the States in which the decision is likely to be enforced. The German court would just confirm the enforceability under German law, and an apostille or legalisation may be required in addition. ☐ Other (please specify): Please insert text here
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11.	At the time of receiving the protection order, is / are the protected person(s) informed that it may be enforceable abroad? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Yes – please explain how and at what stage the protected person(s) are made aware of this (e.g., upon issuance of the order, via written materials, or through follow-up contact with authorities)? Please insert text here ☒ No
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12.	Is / are the protected person(s) informed about any potential limitations of the protection orders in other jurisdictions (e.g., possible lack of electronic monitoring)?
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	<i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Yes – please specify how they are informed: Please insert text here ☒ No
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13.	Is / are the (alleged / putative) perpetrator(s) / person(s) causing the risk informed of the protection order's potential enforceability abroad when the order is issued? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Yes Please insert text here ☒ No
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14.	Has your jurisdiction issued any guidance to raise awareness about the availability of protection orders and their potential cross-border reach? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☒ Yes – please describe the guidance (i.e., if they are in form of instructions, non-binding documents, etc.) The Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection has launched an information campaign for victims and witnesses of domestic violence and for professionals (for more information, see https://www.raus-aus-gewalt.de/presse (in German)). The campaign focuses on domestic law only and does not cover questions of cross-border protection against violence, this is also because in practice, cases are predominantly domestic and the political attention is on the domestic situation. Further general information about the Act on Protection against Violence and the availability of protection orders including their potential cross-border reach is available in the brochure "Greater Protection in Cases of Domestic Violence" ("Mehr Schutz bei häuslicher Gewalt") published jointly by the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection and the Federal Ministry for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and available online at https://www.bmjbv.de/SharedDocs/Publikationen/DE/Broschueren/Schutz_haeusliche_Gewalt.html. In addition there is a website maintained by the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection dedicated to helping victims of criminal offences including victims of domestic violence (https://www.hilfe-info.de/Webs/hilfeinfo/DE/Home/home_node.html). There is also a website and a phone number ("Help-Phone 116 016) with information and guidance for victims of all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, sexual violence, work place harassment, digital violence, genital mutilation etc. (see for more information https://www.hilfetelefon.de/gewalt-gegen-frauen/haeusliche-gewalt/) which is maintained by a subsidiary of the Federal Ministry for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. ☐ No
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II. Ensuring / monitoring compliance with domestic protection orders

A. Registers

15.	Are there any registers in your jurisdiction to monitor protection orders?
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	☐ Yes (please specify): ☐ National database: ☐ Accessible to police ☐ Accessible to courts ☐ Accessible to others (please specify): Please insert text here ☐ Regional database(s): ☐ Accessible to police ☐ Accessible to courts ☐ Accessible to others (please specify): Please insert text here ☐ Local / municipal database(s): ☐ Accessible to police ☐ Accessible to courts ☐ Accessible to others (please specify): Please insert text here ☒ No ☐ Other (please specify): Please insert text here
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B. Preventing a potential breach or monitoring compliance

16.	By what technological means can compliance with a protection order be monitored or a breach of a protection order be prevented in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> ☒ GPS monitoring ☒ Electronic bracelets ☒ Digital alerts ☐ Databases ☐ None ☒ Other (please specify): The corresponding legislation for the above mentioned measures has been adopted on 9 July 2026 but the respective provisions will not enter into force until 1 July 2027 which is when those measures are going to become operational.
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C. Addressing a breach

17.	Which authorities are responsible for the enforcement of protection orders in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> ☒ Police / law enforcement
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	☒ Bailiff / Sheriff ☒ Court ☐ Other (please specify): Please insert text here
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D. Enforcement upon simple presentation of protection order

18.	Can a protection order be enforced on the simple presentation of the order to the enforcement officer? ☐ Yes ☒ No - if so, is enforcement subject to one or more of the following: ☐ Verification ☐ Registration ☒ Any other additional steps – describe what needs to happen for enforcement to take place: Once a protection order under the Act on Protection against Violence is issued by the family court, the order becomes binding on the perpetrator. No further steps are necessary for it to come into effect. If the perpetrator violates the protection order, it is a criminal offence and the police may initiate criminal proceedings ex officio. Furthermore, in cases of a violation reported by the victim the police may take the necessary measures against the perpetrator pursuant to the relevant state law in order to avert the danger to the victim. Finally, the victim may initiate a civil enforcement of the protection order by the family court. The family court may then issue an administrative fine or order an administrative detention.
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E. Sanctions following breach

19.	What are the consequences following a breach of a protection order in your jurisdiction? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☒ Civil sanctions (e.g., injunction, contempt of court) Please insert text here ☒ Fines Please insert text here ☒ Arrest / confinement Please insert text here ☒ Criminal sanctions Section 4 of the Act on Protection against Violence (Gewaltschutzgesetz) (cf. above) ☐ Other (please specify): Please insert text here
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III. Current national, regional, and international rules for the recognition and enforcement of foreign protection orders

Part III aims to identify all applicable rules in your jurisdiction pertaining to the recognition and enforcement of foreign protection orders, including those rules deriving from regional or international instruments.

In this regard, jurisdictions may have adopted a specific legal regime for foreign protection orders, which may cover all or only certain aspects of their recognition and enforcement. In the absence of, or alongside, such a specific regime, general rules on recognition and enforcement may apply. In some jurisdictions, foreign protection orders may not be recognised or enforced at all. Where a specific regime does not address all relevant issues, any remaining matters may or may not fall within the scope of a general regime. Sections F, G, and H below are designed to accommodate these different approaches.

F. Specific vs general rules of recognition and enforcement

20.	Please indicate the types of rules available in your jurisdiction for the recognition and enforcement of foreign protection orders. <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> <i>Provide additional details where appropriate, as well as references and links where available</i> ☒ My jurisdiction applies specific rules³ of recognition and enforcement to foreign protection orders coming from: ☐ Any jurisdiction ☒ Specified jurisdictions (please specify)⁴: EU law (all Member States except DNK). ☒ My jurisdiction applies general rules⁵ of recognition and enforcement to foreign protection orders If you ticked both boxes on specific and general rules of recognition and enforcement, please explain: All other jurisdictions (except EU MS except DNK). Please note that we have, under our general law, specific rules for the recognition of measures qualified as falling under "family procedure". We are not sure where to put them, so we have filled in answers in all fields. ☐ My jurisdiction is currently not capable of recognising and enforcing foreign protection orders
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G. Specific rules of recognition and enforcement for protection orders

Please complete this section if foreign protection orders can be recognised and enforced (in full or in part) under a specific set of rules in your jurisdiction.

21.	If your jurisdiction has a specific set of rules for the recognition and enforcement of foreign protection orders, how is it determined whether a foreign protection order falls within the scope of your jurisdiction's specialised recognition and enforcement regime/rules? <i>Tick all boxes that apply.</i> <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i>
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³ Please complete section G below.

⁴ Please complete section H below, if applicable.

⁵ Please complete section H below.

	☐ Based on which authority issued the order Please insert text here
	☒ Based on the content of the order
	☒ Based on a certificate / abstract / other document accompanying the order (please specify): Depending on the EU instrument which applies to the decision in case (e.g. Regulation 606/2013).
	☐ Based on certification on the order itself (e.g., by way of a stamp or seal) Please insert text here
	☒ Based on which jurisdiction issued the order (i.e., State or territorial unit of a State) See above, if an EU instrument applies. All other cases are subject to the general rules of domestic law on the recognition and enforcement of decisions.
	☐ Based on an authority's full assessment of all relevant information (please specify): Please insert text here
	☐ No determination is necessary for foreign protection orders to be recognised and enforced Please insert text here
	☐ Other (please specify): Please insert text here

22.	Are foreign protection orders recognised and enforced automatically (by operation of law) in your jurisdiction? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Yes, it is recognised and enforced on simple presentation of the relevant documents (please specify): ☐ The order in and of itself ☐ The order with the stamp / seal of the issuing authority ☐ Certificate ☐ Abstract ☐ Other accompanying document (please specify): Please insert text here ☒ No, recognition and enforcement takes place once the following step(s) has / have been taken: ☐ Registration ☐ Certification in the jurisdiction where the order is to be recognised and / or enforced ☐ Authentication / verification in the jurisdiction where the order is to be recognised and / or enforced ☒ Other judicial procedure (please specify): Exequatur procedure (except in cases of EU protection Directive or Regulation). ☐ Other administrative procedure (please specify): Please insert text here
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	Please indicate the language(s) in which the accompanying documents must be submitted in your jurisdiction: German
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23.	Is there a time limit for the recognition and enforcement of a foreign protection order in your jurisdiction? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☒ Yes (please specify): In case of EU Regulation 606/2013, 12 months - Article 4(4) of the Regulation; for further information please refer to comments by the European Commission. In other cases: no. ☒ No
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24.	If registration is not required in your jurisdiction, can foreign protection orders nevertheless be registered? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Yes - please explain how this registration is done: Please insert text here ☒ No Please insert text here
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25.	Are there any restrictions to the effect of the recognition of a foreign protection order in your jurisdiction (e.g., if the foreign protection order does not correspond to the types of protection orders available in your jurisdiction or if the specified sanctions for a breach of the order cannot be applied in your jurisdiction)? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Yes Not sure whether the correct answer is Yes or No. In general, enforcement would follow the domestic enforcement law and, in case the order would impose a certain way of enforcement that does not exist under German law, this could not be implemented and the nearest possible equivalent would be sought. ☐ No
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26.	Can foreign protection orders be adjusted / modified in your jurisdiction? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Yes, without any limitations ☒ Yes, with certain limitations (please specify): ☐ Factual elements of the order (e.g., address)
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	Please insert text here ☐ Geographic scope of the order (e.g., distances, locations) Please insert text here ☐ Duration of the order Please insert text here ☐ The person(s) allowed to seek the adjustment / modification (e.g., only the intended protected person) Please insert text here ☒ Other (please specify): This is a very theoretical answer, as no case law is known to exist. German enforcement law requires a very clear indication of what the person addressed is required to do, or to abstain from doing. If the order of the foreign court is not sufficiently explicit, it is held by scholars that, when declaring an order enforceable, the court is allowed to, and even required to, add the necessary precision to the foreign order. If this is done in practice is not known as no case law has become public. ☐ No
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27.	How do you deal with foreign protection orders that do not have a direct equivalent in your jurisdictions' legal system? Please provide information on whether such orders can / need to be adapted in order to be recognised and enforced in your jurisdiction and if the modalities of enforcement also can / must be adapted (e.g., enforcement by courts in your jurisdiction as opposed to police in the jurisdiction where the order was issued). See answer to question 26. In addition, concerning orders for other EU Member States that qualify as protection orders but have been adopted on a basis of criminal law (Directive 2011/99), we recognise them and declare them enforceable based on civil law (as German law only provides for protection orders under civil law).
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28.	Is it possible to object to the recognition and enforcement of a foreign protection order? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☒ Yes Please specify who can object: ☒ A competent authority <i>ex officio</i> In theory. In practice, it requires information to be obtain from the parties in any event. But the court, if it has indications that there is a ground for the refusal of recognition, may take steps to enquire into the matter. ☒ The person against whom the protection order is issued As this is considered a matter of civil law. ☐ Other (please specify): Please insert text here Please list all available grounds on which the recognition and enforcement of the foreign protection order can be refused:
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	For European Union law instruments, please refer to the answer by the European Commission. German law: Section 109, paragraph 1, of the rules on family procedure (FamFG) 1. the issuing court would not have have jurisdiction if German law had been applied, 2. the decision was given by default and the person concerned by the order invokes that they have not been notified the document instituting the procedure, or an equivalent document, in time to prepare for their defence, 3. the decision is incompatible with a decision given by a German court, or with an earlier foreign decision that fulfils the conditions to be recognised in Germany, or if the foreign procedure was incompatible with a procedure already pending in Germany, 4. if the recognition of the decision leads to a result that is manifestly incompatible with German public policy and in particular with fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution. ☐ No
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29.	Is the recognition and / or enforcement of a foreign protection order subject to appeal in your jurisdiction? ☒ Yes ☐ No
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H. General rules of recognition and enforcement in civil and commercial matters

Please complete this section if foreign protection orders can be recognised and enforced (in full or in part) under your jurisdiction's general rules of recognition and enforcement in civil and commercial matters.

30.	What are the general rules for the recognition and enforcement of civil and commercial judgments, including foreign protection orders, in your jurisdiction? ☒ Foreign protection orders are recognised automatically (by operation of law) ☐ Foreign protection orders are subject to a formal recognition and enforcement procedure filed with a competent authority ☒ Foreign protection orders and relevant / accompanying documents need to be accompanied by a certified translation in the language(s) of the requested State ☐ Foreign protection orders need to be certified by a competent authority from the State of origin ☒ Foreign protection orders are subject to legalisation or a similar formality ☒ Foreign protection orders are subject to an <i>exequatur</i> procedure ☐ Foreign protection orders need to be registered with a competent authority ☐ There are no general rules for the recognition and enforcement of foreign protection orders ☒ Other rule(s) (please specify): The foreign decision needs to be enforceable in the State of origin, and this needs to be shown somehow (e.g. by a statement of the issuing court). We distinguish between recognition, which does NOT require <i>exequatur</i>, and enforcement, which DOES require <i>exequatur</i>, except in cases of Regulation 606/2013 (see comments by the European Commission).
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31.	Can foreign protection orders be adjusted / modified in your jurisdiction? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☐ Yes, without any limitations ☐ Yes, with certain limitations (please specify): ☐ Factual elements of the order (e.g., address) Please insert text here ☐ Geographic scope of the order (e.g., distances, locations) Please insert text here ☐ Duration of the order Please insert text here ☐ The person(s) allowed to seek the adjustment / modification (e.g., only the intended protected person) Please insert text here ☒ Other (please specify): See explanation above on the need for precision of the order, and the possibility to clarify the order in the context of the exequatur. ☐ No
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32.	How do you deal with foreign protection orders that do not have a direct equivalent in your jurisdictions' legal system? Please provide information on whether such orders can / need to be adapted in order to be recognised and enforced in your jurisdiction and if the modalities of enforcement also can / must be adapted (e.g., enforcement by courts in your jurisdiction as opposed to police in the jurisdiction where the order was issued). It is examined if the decision is functionally equivalent to the German court's decision in civil matters. If it is not (e.g. if it is clearly a decision of an administrative authority such as a police authority, or has to be characterised as criminal law decision, recognition under civil procedure is not possible (except in case of Directive 2011/99 of the EU, see above and see comments by the European Commission)). See also answer to question 25.
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33.	Is it possible to object to the recognition and enforcement of a foreign protection order? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☒ Yes Please specify who can object: ☐ A competent authority <i>ex officio</i> Please insert text here ☒ The person against whom the protection order is issued Please insert text here
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	☐ Other (please specify): Please insert text here Please list all available grounds on which the recognition and enforcement of the foreign protection order can be refused: See answer to question 28. ☐ No
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34.	Is the recognition and / or enforcement of a foreign protection order subject to appeal in your jurisdiction? ☒ Yes ☐ No
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IV. Future developments in the area

35.	Are there any legislative developments planned or contemplated in your jurisdiction pertaining to (foreign) protection orders? <i>Provide additional details where appropriate.</i> ☒ Legislative changes in progress There are several legislation projects aiming at improving the protection from domestic violence. First, legislation has been adopted to enable supervision of a perpetrator by way of an electronic bracelets and to enable the victim to receive digital alerts. Second, legislation is on the way to improve protection of children against violence, recognising also the negative effect violence against one parent can have on a child that is witness of such violence. Third, further legislation is currently under discussion regarding the violence protection order for dependants of victim and for the simplification of the termination by the victim of a joint lease agreement in cases of domestic violence. ☐ Legislative changes under consideration Please insert text here ☐ No legislative changes planned at the moment Please insert text here ☐ Other (please specify): Please insert text here
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V. Electronic resources

Please use the space below to provide any links to useful and relevant online resources.

36.	Some translations are available here (albeit a) sometimes not in a good quality and b) not always up to date), in alphabetical order of the abbreviated name of the laws in questions which are mentioned in our answers): https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/Teilliste_translations.html Further information regarding the Act on Protection Against Violence is available in English under the following online-sources: https://www.hilfe-info.de/Webs/hilfeinfo/SharedDocs/Publikationen/EN/Information_Domestic_Violence.html
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	https://www.hilfetelefon.de/en/
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VI. Other comments

Please use the space below to provide any additional information pertaining to the recognition and enforcement of (foreign) protection orders in your jurisdiction. You may also wish to make any suggestions pertaining to the work of the WG on REPO (general comments or specific comments in advance of the first WG meeting in November 2026).

37.	For further comments, please refer to the comments by the European Commission.
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