

## **DENMARK**

# **Recommendations to improve data collection on intimate partner violence by the police and justice sectors**



The recommendations were developed after an in-depth analysis of data collection from the police and justice sectors. The relevance and feasibility of the recommendations were discussed with national professionals whose work is closely related to the topic at a meeting on 11 May 2017 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The suggestions were revised upon participants' feedback. The recommendations aim to improve administrative data collection on intimate partner violence to better inform policies and to help the Member States meet the monitoring requirements outlined in both Directive 2012/29/EU (the Victims' Rights Directive) and the Istanbul Convention.

## 1. Legislative and policy recommendations

### Adopt a statistical definition of intimate partner violence

The Danish Criminal Code does not have a specific provision for intimate partner violence, and prosecutes it under the general provisions for crimes of physical, sexual, psychological or financial violence (the Danish Criminal Code, Chapters 23-27).

A predefined understanding of intimate partner violence will aid comparability and reliability of statistical information collected by different entities.

**It is recommended** for Denmark to introduce a definition of intimate partner violence for statistical purposes, based on the Istanbul Convention.

### Consider assessing the costs of intimate partner violence

Denmark has not yet developed its own method to calculate the cost of intimate partner violence. The Danish action plan on combating violence against women in the family and in intimate partner relations is financed via the state budget, which provides an indication of the costs. An approximate DKK 36 million (approx. EUR 4.8 million) was allocated to the action plan over 4 years. However, these numbers do not reflect the real cost of combating intimate partner violence to the police and justice sectors in the country.

**It is recommended** that Denmark develop a method to calculate the cost of intimate partner violence to police and justice sectors. The purpose-built economic model developed by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) can be used to calculate these costs. However, this necessitates, as a variable, the total number of intimate partner violence cases reported to the police and handled by the courts, which is not available.

## 2. Technical recommendations

### 2.1. Recommendations on data recording systems

#### Take steps to ensure the recording of the victim-perpetrator relationship for all offences

Denmark collects vast amounts of data in a consistent and uniform manner across sectors. The only problem with data collection in instances of intimate partner violence in Denmark is the absence of one key piece of information: the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. Currently, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is noted, when available, in an open text format in the case file. The issue lies in the failure to systematically input this information into current systems so that data can be easily extracted from the existing databases.

**It is recommended** that a method be devised to record this information. A tick-box approach would remedy the issue, both quickly and efficiently. This would involve listing the types of intimate partner relationships, for example married, cohabitating, none, etc. and having the person responsible for recording the details of the incident indicate, based on this list, the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. Necessary changes should be made to the data recording system in order to ensure the systematic recording of the victim-perpetrator relationship. The recording of this information should be made compulsory for all offences.

## Create well-defined relationship categories

In order to obtain clear and comparable data, different relationship types should be defined and used systematically when recording the incidents as suggested above. Defining and categorising the relationship types to be included in the data collection forms according to international standards will facilitate the interpretation of statistical information. To this end, predefined variables should include separate categories which can then be used to identify incidents that occur between current or former partners. The minimum categories should include those in line with the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes: current and former spouses and current and former partners. Additional categories adapted to the national context should also be included, such as current and former cohabitants.

**It is recommended** that the systematic recording of the relationship information be accompanied by these well-defined relationship categories.

## Flag intimate partner violence or domestic violence context of incidents

The current system does not provide variables to identify incidents taking place between intimate partners or domestic violence. Such flagging would be an efficient way to increase data availability and reliability. In addition, data on intimate partner violence could then be extracted and analysed using different variables. This would facilitate the statistical analysis of the data, as well as its dissemination.

**It is recommended** that the data collection process be adapted in order to allow the flagging of incidents as intimate partner violence or domestic violence through a specific code.

## 2.2. Recommendations on the indicators proposed by EIGE

### Indicator 1 — Annual number of women (aged 18 and over), victims of intimate partner violence <sup>(1)</sup> committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police

Denmark is unable to populate this indicator. There is no specific intimate partner violence or domestic violence offence in Denmark. Additionally, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is not systematically recorded.

The recommended changes of flagging incidents as intimate partner violence or domestic violence and systematically recording the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator would allow Denmark to populate this indicator in the future. The relationship categories should cover, as mentioned above, current and former spouses and current and former partners, with or without cohabitation.

**Such recording should concern the following offences which would constitute the general category of intimate partner violence:**

General category for indicator	Existing offence — statistical classification
<b>Physical intimate partner violence</b>	Murder, attempted murder, violence, threat to life, qualified violence, violence resulting in injury to body or health, violence by female circumcision, qualified violence resulting in gross injury, qualified violence leading to death
<b>Sexual intimate partner violence</b>	Rape by use of violence or threat of violence, rape by use of unlawful coercion, rape by abuse of helpless state, misrepresentation which leads to intercourse, other sexual relations by way of violence or threat of violence, other sexual relations by way of misrepresentation, intercourse by way of exploitation of a mental abnormality, other sexual relations by way of exploitation of a mental abnormality, intercourse resulting from the abuse of a relationship of dependency, other sexual relations resulting from the abuse of a state of helplessness
<b>Psychological intimate partner violence</b>	Threats, harassment, pursuit, stalking
<b>Economic intimate partner violence</b>	Theft

<sup>(1)</sup> Any act of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occurs between former or current spouse or partner, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim (EIGE, *Terminology and indicators for data collection: Rape, femicide and intimate partner violence*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2017).

## Indicator 2 — Annual number of reported offences related to intimate partner violence against women committed by men (aged 18 and over)

Denmark is unable to populate this indicator. Indicator 2 is quite similar to indicator 1 apart from the unit of measurement being the number crimes, as opposed to the number of female victims. Denmark would be unable to populate this indicator due to the lack of specific relationship information concerning the victim and the perpetrator.

## Indicator 3 — Annual number of men (aged 18 and over) perpetrators of intimate partner violence against women (and percentage of male population that are perpetrators)

While Denmark can provide information about the number of perpetrators for cases reported to the police, it is currently unable to populate this indicator due to the lack of precise information on the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

### For indicators 2 and 3

**It is recommended** to implement adjustments in the data recording process to include the victim–perpetrator relationship in order to report complete data on these indicators. The relationship categories should cover, as mentioned above, current and former spouses and current and former partners, with or without cohabitation.

## Indicator 4 — Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of physical intimate partner violence <sup>(2)</sup> committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police

Denmark is unable to populate this indicator due to the lack of information on the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

**It is recommended** to implement adjustments in the data recording process to include the victim–perpetrator relationship in order to report complete data on this indicator. The relationship categories should cover, as mentioned above, current and former spouses and current and former partners, with or without cohabitation.

Additionally, data on the suggested offences must be compiled to cover the full scope of the incidents concerned: murder, attempted murder, violence, threat to life, qualified violence, violence resulting in injury to body or health, violence by female circumcision, qualified violence resulting in gross injury and qualified violence leading to death.

## Indicator 5 — Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of psychological intimate partner violence <sup>(3)</sup> committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police

Denmark is unable to populate this indicator due to the lack of information on the relationship between the victim and perpetrator.

**It is recommended** to implement adjustments in the data recording process to include the victim–perpetrator relationship in order to report complete data on this indicator. The relationship categories should cover, as mentioned above, current and former spouses and current and former partners, with or without cohabitation.

Additionally, data on the suggested offences must be compiled to cover the full scope of the incidents concerned: threats, harassment, pursuit and stalking.

## Indicator 6 — Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of sexual intimate partner violence <sup>(4)</sup> committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police

Denmark is unable to populate this indicator due to the lack of information on the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

**It is recommended** to implement adjustments in the data recording process to include the victim–perpetrator relationship in order to report complete data on this indicator. The relationship categories should cover, as mentioned above, current and former spouses and current and former partners, with or without cohabitation.

Additionally, data on the suggested offences must be compiled to cover the full scope of the incidents concerned: rape by use of violence or threat of violence, rape by use of unlawful coercion, rape by abuse of helpless state, misrepresentation which leads to intercourse, other sexual relations by way of violence or threat of violence, other sexual relations by way of misrepresentation, intercourse by way of exploitation of a mental abnormality, other sexual relations by way of exploitation of a mental abnormality, intercourse resulting from the abuse of a relationship of dependency and other sexual relations resulting from the abuse of a state of helplessness.

(<sup>2</sup>) Any act which causes physical harm to the partner or former partner as a result of unlawful physical force. Physical violence can take the form of, among others, serious and minor assault, deprivation of liberty and manslaughter (EIGE, 2017).

(<sup>3</sup>) Any act or behaviour which causes psychological harm to the partner or former partner. Psychological violence can take the form of, among others, coercion, defamation, verbal insult or harassment (EIGE, 2017).

(<sup>4</sup>) Any sexual act performed on the victim without consent. Sexual violence can take the form of rape or sexual assault (EIGE, 2017).

### **Indicator 7 — Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims of economic intimate partner violence (5) committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police**

Denmark is unable to populate this indicator due to the lack of information on the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

**It is recommended** to implement adjustments in the data recording process to include the victim–perpetrator relationship in order to report complete data on this indicator. The relationship categories should cover, as mentioned above, current and former spouses and current and former partners, with or without cohabitation. Additionally, data on theft must be compiled to cover the full scope of the incidents concerned.

### **Indicator 8 — Annual number of women (aged 18 and over) victims reporting rape (6) committed by men (aged 18 and over), as recorded by police**

Denmark can populate this indicator.

### **Indicator 9 — Women victims of intimate femicide (7) (aged 18 and over) committed by a male intimate partner (aged 18 and over), as a share of the women victims of homicide (aged 18 and over)**

Denmark is unable to populate this indicator due to the absence of victim–perpetrator relationship information. Regarding the denominator of this indicator, the total number of female victims of homicide is available and published by the National Statistics Office, *Danmarks Statistik*.

### **Indicator 10 — Annual number of protection orders applied for and granted in cases of intimate partner violence against women by type of court**

Denmark is currently unable to populate this indicator as data on violation of expulsions, restraining orders and bans on stay does not include information on the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

#### **For indicators 9 and 10**

**It is recommended** to implement adjustments in the data recording process to include the victim–perpetrator relationship in order to report complete data on this indicator. The relationship categories should cover, as mentioned above, current and former spouses and current and former partners, with or without cohabitation.

### **Indicator 11 — Annual number of men (aged 18 and over) prosecuted for intimate partner violence against women**

Denmark is currently unable to populate this indicator as intimate partner violence requires the establishment of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

### **Indicator 12 — Annual number of men (aged 18 and over) sentenced for intimate partner violence against women**

Denmark is currently unable to populate this indicator as intimate partner violence requires the establishment of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

### **Indicator 13 — Annual number of men (aged 18 and over) sentenced for intimate partner violence against women and held in prison or with a sanction involving a form of deprivation of liberty**

Denmark is currently unable to populate this indicator as intimate partner violence requires the establishment of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

#### **For indicators 11, 12 and 13**

**It is recommended** to implement adjustments in the data recording process of the judiciary to include the victim–perpetrator relationship in order to report complete data on this indicator. The relationship categories should cover, as mentioned above, current and former spouses and current and former partners, with or without cohabitation.

(5) Any act or behaviour which causes economic harm to the partner. Economic violence can take the form of, among others, property damage, restricting access to financial resources, education or the labour market, or not complying with economic responsibilities, such as alimony (EIGE, 2017).

(6) Sexual penetration, whether vaginal, anal or oral, through the use of object or body parts, without consent, using force, coercion or by taking advantage of the vulnerability of the victim (EIGE, 2017).

(7) The killing of a woman by an intimate partner and death of a woman as a result of a practice that is harmful to women. Intimate partner is understood as former or current spouse or partner, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim (EIGE, 2017).



<http://eige.europa.eu>

More information on the European Union is available on the internet (<http://europa.eu>).

Neither EIGE nor any person acting on behalf of EIGE is responsible for the use that might be made of the following information.

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2018

Print	ISBN 978-92-9470-414-6	doi:10.2839/23261	MH-02-18-163-EN-C
PDF	ISBN 978-92-9470-415-3	doi:10.2839/63016	MH-02-18-163-EN-N

© European Institute for Gender Equality, 2018

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For any use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under EIGE copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holders.



Publications Office