

Measuring femicide in Cyprus

Femicide

Femicide can be understood as the extreme end of a continuum of violence against women that happens in all European Union Member States ⁽¹⁾. There is no standard agreed definition of femicide among EU Member States or around the world. The lack of a uniform definition hampers the measurement of femicide, which becomes invisible among general homicide data ⁽²⁾. The general concept of femicide refers to the killing of a woman or girl because of her gender. The United Nations Vienna Declaration on Femicide ⁽³⁾ was the first to identify different types of femicide, including:

- murder of women as a result of intimate partner violence;
- torture and misogynistic slaying of women;
- killing of women and girls in the name of honour;
- targeted killing of women and girls in the context of armed conflict;
- dowry-related killing of women;
- killing of women and girls because of their sexual orientation and gender identity;
- killing of aboriginal and indigenous women and girls because of their gender;
- female infanticide and gender-based sex selection foeticide;
- genital mutilation-related deaths;
- accusations of witchcraft;
- other types of femicide connected with gangs, organised crime, drug dealers, human trafficking and the proliferation of small arms.

Femicide in Cyprus

There is no definition of femicide in the Cypriot Criminal Code. However, this type of offence may fall under other provisions of Cypriot criminal law. The relevant articles for identifying femicide cases are, inter alia, Articles 203, 205 and 208 ⁽⁴⁾

Article 203 – Murder with intent

(1) Every person who, with premeditation, causes the death of another through an unlawful act or omission is guilty of murder with intent.

Article 205 – Manslaughter

(1) Every person who causes the death of another through an illegal act or omission is guilty of manslaughter.

Article 208 – Killing due to provocation

When a person who unlawfully kills another under circumstances that, but for the provisions of this article, would constitute murder with intent, the act which causes death in the heat of passion caused by a sudden provocation, in other words an unfair act, insult or irritation of such a nature that deprives a reasonable person of the capacity for self-control, and before the time it would take for the passion of such a reasonable person to subside, such a person is guilty only of manslaughter.

⁽¹⁾ This factsheet includes data collected before the United Kingdom left the EU, so the reference to EU Member States includes the United Kingdom.

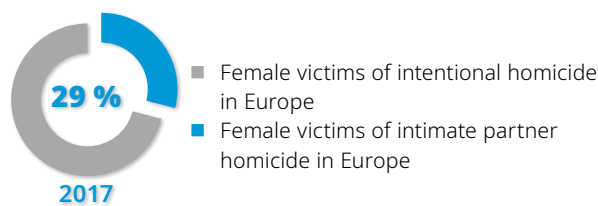
⁽²⁾ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2017), *Glossary of definitions of rape, femicide and intimate partner violence*, EIGE, Vilnius.

⁽³⁾ UN Economic and Social Council (2012), *Vienna Declaration on Femicide*, UN, New York (https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_22/E-CN15-2013-NGO1/E-CN15-2013-NGO1_E.pdf).

⁽⁴⁾ For more information, see indicator 9 of the Gender Statistics Database (https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/indicator/genvio_int_adm_ipv__ipv_indic_9/metadata) and the Cypriot Criminal Code (http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/0_154/index.html).

Intimate partner femicide in Europe

From a statistical perspective, and based on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) highlights that intentional homicide of female victims perpetrated by intimate partners or family members is the most prevalent form of femicide ⁽⁵⁾. UNODC estimates that, in Europe ⁽⁶⁾, about 29 % of female victims of homicide ⁽⁷⁾ are killed intentionally by an intimate partner.



Intimate partner femicide in Cyprus

From a statistical perspective, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) operationalises the concept of femicide as the 'killing of a woman by an intimate partner and the death of a woman as a consequence of a practice that is harmful to women. Intimate partner is understood as a former or current spouse or partner, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim'. In Cyprus, most femicides would be covered by the articles of the Criminal Code identified above. A recent study pointed out that, between 2010 and 2016, there were 40 femicides registered in Cyprus, of which 70 % were committed by current or ex-partners (n = 28) ⁽⁸⁾.



About the study

Data collection systems vary widely across EU Member States, as they draw on various sources. To improve the collection of administrative data on femicide, EIGE has been working to establish indicators that can harmonise data collection processes across Member States' jurisdictions.

EIGE has collected information from a wide variety of stakeholders through a questionnaire sent to official data providers and an online survey filled in by national experts. The ultimate goal is to identify a classification system of femicide with mutually agreed variables that can be used by all EU Member States.

Methodology for data collection

To address the lack of comparable data on violence against women, EIGE developed 13 indicators with uniform definitions of the multiple forms of intimate partner violence, femicide and rape ⁽⁹⁾. A detailed report regarding the methodology for the collection, reporting and validation of data, along with detailed metadata per country, has been published ⁽¹⁰⁾.

The data presented in this factsheet refers to indicator 9 on intimate partner violence: 'Women victims of intimate femicide (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'. However, the data for Cyprus under this indicator is not yet available. The data can be accessed through EIGE's Gender Statistics Database (https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/browse/genvio/genvio_int).

Collecting administrative data on femicide



What is administrative data? Administrative data is collected for recording, organising and monitoring purposes ⁽¹¹⁾. Administrative data on femicide can be obtained from different institutions, namely those that are involved in criminal investigations, prosecutions, the punishment of perpetrators and victim support – that is, institutions in the **police and justice sectors**. Administrative data might include information about the prevalence and types of femicide, the characteristics of the victim, the perpetrator and their relationship, the characteristics of and motive for the crime, and data about the criminal process.

- ⁽⁵⁾ UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (2019), *Global Study on Homicide – Gender-related killing of women and girls*, UNODC, Vienna.
- ⁽⁶⁾ Data from UNODC includes European jurisdictions other than the EU Member States. There is no estimation of the percentage of female victims of homicide who were victims of intimate partner femicide limited to EU Member States.
- ⁽⁷⁾ The term 'homicide' is used when reporting UNODC data given that it is the term used in the original source (p. 17). The gender-related motivation is not recorded, because of the lack of a standardised definition. However, it is clear from the report that this data quantifies a significant share of all gender-related killings of women and girls.
- ⁽⁸⁾ Kouta, C., Kofou, E. and Zorba, A. (2019), 'Femicide in Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities in Cyprus: a pilot study', *Women's Studies International Forum*, Vol. 77, p. 102-294, doi:10.1016/j.wsif.2019.102294.
- ⁽⁹⁾ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2017), *Terminology and Indicators for Data Collection: Rape, femicide and intimate partner violence*, EIGE, Vilnius.
- ⁽¹⁰⁾ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2020), *Intimate Partner Violence: Data collection methodology*, EIGE, Vilnius.
- ⁽¹¹⁾ UN Women (2020), *A synthesis of evidence on the collection and use of administrative data on violence against women*, UN Women, New York.

In order to help policymakers design effective policies to combat femicide, it is necessary to understand the nature and prevalence of the issue. The collection of comparable administrative data on femicide across Member States is key to gaining this understanding ⁽¹²⁾. It is particularly important that the motive for the killing is established by the police or judiciary and that this is then translated into standardised statistical data. The ICCS is a standardised tool for obtaining comparable

administrative data. However, it lacks a gender-related motive variable. This means that the concept of femicide cannot be properly operationalised, which prevents the collection of data that fully captures the phenomenon. The collection of data on femicide would make the issue more visible, which would strengthen the political will to eradicate it. Administrative data on femicide also enables countries to monitor trends over time and evaluate the effectiveness of measures.

What administrative data on femicide is available in Cyprus?

Definition of femicide and availability of data	
Definition of femicide used for statistical purposes	No
Collection of data on femicide	Yes, official data

Although there is no specific collection of data on femicide in Cyprus, some variables relevant to the identification of femicide are collected or analysed by the Cypriot police ⁽¹³⁾. Where data on femicide in this factsheet is drawn from information

regarding the data collection of this institution, this is indicated by ^(e). There may be other institutions or researchers that collect and analyse data on femicide in Cyprus.

Type of data collection	Institution ^(e) Cypriot police
Source of data	Official
Stage at which the homicide is established as a femicide	Police crime records
Stage at which the homicide is registered as a femicide	Not established
Regularity of data collection	Not registered
Network(s) with which information is shared	Continuous
Availability of data to the public	Statistical authority (Statistical Service of Cyprus)
	Data not publicly available

Official sources inform administrative data collection in Cyprus. In line with EIGE's data collection, official administrative data on the total number of female victims of homicide and intimate partner femicide is displayed for 2014–2018. However,

data may be available in Cyprus for other years. Official data from the Cypriot police ^(e) shows that, in 2018, 5 women were killed ⁽¹⁴⁾.

● Official data available ● Non-official data available ○ No data available

Data availability	2014 ^(a)	2015 ^(a)	2016 ^(a)	2017 ^(a)	2018 ^(e)	2019
Female victims of homicide	●	●	●	●	●	○
Victims of intimate partner femicide	○	○	○	○	○	○

⁽¹²⁾ It is important to note that data and statistics should be produced, developed and disseminated in compliance with the principles in the *European Statistics Code of Practice*: Eurostat (2018), *European Statistics Code of Practice*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/4031688/8971242/KS-02-18-142-EN-N.pdf/e7f85f07-91db-4312-8118-f729c75878c7?t=1528447068000>).

⁽¹³⁾ www.police.gov.cy

⁽¹⁴⁾ The offences included in this category are premeditated murder, homicide, killing due to provocation and infanticide. See the database of statistics on the government's website (https://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/cystat/statistics.nsf/populationcondition_27main_keyfarchive_en/populationcondition_27main_keyfarchive_en?OpenForm&yr=2017253116E50D172111DF059D0C7AAAE3E2&n=2017).

Types of femicide	
Intimate partner femicide	<input type="radio"/>
Family-related femicide	<input type="radio"/>
Child femicide	<input type="radio"/>
Prostitution-related femicide	<input type="radio"/>
Robbery-related femicide	<input type="radio"/>
Other types of femicide	<input type="radio"/>

Characteristics of the victim and the perpetrator	Victim	Perpetrator
Age ^(a)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Sex ^(a)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Gender identity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nationality ^(a)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Occupation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Applied for protection order ^(*)	<input type="radio"/>	n/a
Active protection order ^(*)	n/a	<input type="radio"/>
Socioeconomic profile	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recidivist status	n/a	<input type="radio"/>
Alcohol/drug abuse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Victim–perpetrator relationship ^(a)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

(*) Information on protection orders (applied and active) is available only on request.

NB: n/a, not applicable.

Although information on the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is not systematically recorded. This data is not made publicly available.

Contextual variables (*)		Motive for femicide	
Method of killing ^(a)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Variables that indicate gender-related motivation	<input type="radio"/>
Location ^(a)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>		
Suicide of the perpetrator	<input type="radio"/>	Investigating femicide	
Killing of children	<input type="radio"/>	Protocol for investigating femicide cases	<input type="radio"/>
Killing of other persons in the family	<input type="radio"/>		
Children present	<input type="radio"/>	Analysing femicide	
Other killings in connection with the femicide	<input type="radio"/>	Data on femicide analysed	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>		

(*) Information on the suicide of the perpetrator and the killing of children and other family members is also available on request.

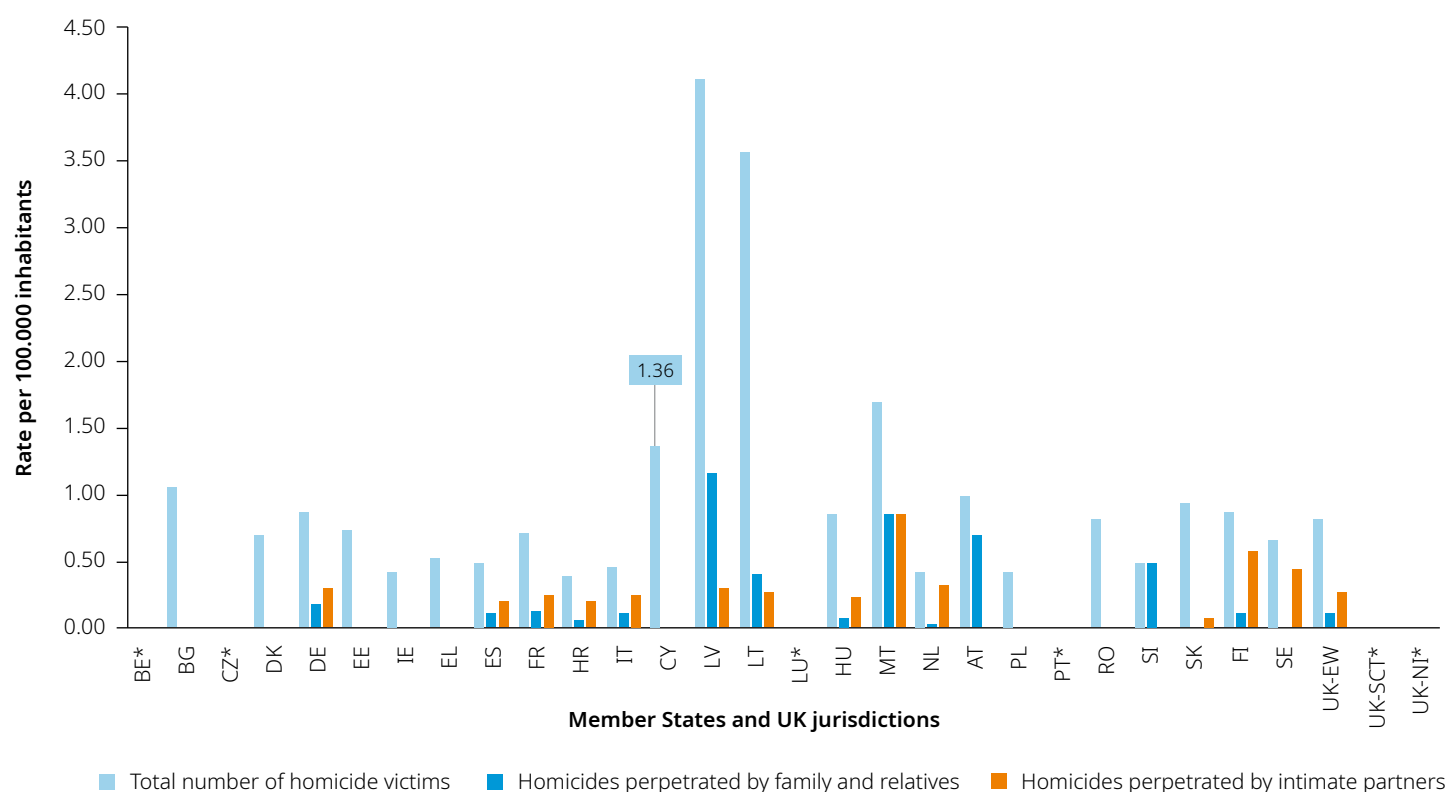
NB: n/a, not applicable.

Female homicide in EU Member States and the United Kingdom (Eurostat)

At the EU level, based on the ICCS, Eurostat compiles data on intentional female homicides, focusing on intimate partner and family-related homicides, disaggregated by age, gender and relationship with the perpetrator. The data from Eurostat presented in Figure 1 reveals that, in 2018, the rate of female vic-

tims of homicide in Cyprus was 1.36 per 100 000 inhabitants, the fourth highest rate among the 24 Member States for which information is available and the United Kingdom. The rates of homicide perpetrated by family and relatives and by intimate partners are not known in Cyprus.

Figure 1: Rate of female victims of intentional homicide in the EU Member States and the United Kingdom (2018)



(*) No data available.

NB: UK-EW, England and Wales, United Kingdom; UK-NI, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom; UK-SCT, Scotland, United Kingdom.

Source: Eurostat.

Data information

Eurostat regularly publishes figures on crime and criminal justice. Intentional homicides are recorded by the police in each of the Member States and the United Kingdom. It is not possible to collect information about the gender-related motivation for homicide, the sex of the perpetrator or the age of the perpetrator using this database. Therefore, it is not possible to provide precise data on femicide.

Figures for 2008 onwards are based on the joint Eurostat-UNODC data collection. In this database, homicide is classified by the ICCS.

Data is available on Eurostat's website (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/crim_hom_vrel/default/table?lang=en).

Key findings

- Cyprus does not have a legal definition of femicide. However, the perpetrator may be liable for murder, manslaughter or killing due to provocation.
- There is one main institution that informs the collection of administrative data on female victims of homicide in Cyprus; however, there is no collection of data on femicide. There are non-governmental organisations that collect non-official data.
- EIGE has gathered data on female victims of homicide and intimate partner femicide for 2014–2018. However, data available in Cyprus relates only to the female victims of homicide. Available data includes information about the characteristics of the victim and the perpetrator, and contextual variables.
- The Cyprus University of Technology is a partner of the European Observatory on Femicide⁽¹⁵⁾, a research and advocacy initiative on the prevention of gender-related killings of women. Some research has been conducted that shows that femicide exists in Cyprus; a significant number of cases in relation to the island's population in both the Greek Cypriot community and the Turkish Cypriot community have been recorded⁽¹⁶⁾.

Recommendations

The collection of accurate and comparable data on femicide by the police and justice sectors across Member States helps to increase knowledge and improve responses to prevent femicide⁽¹⁷⁾. It is therefore important to:

- develop a femicide definition for statistical data collection, in order to reflect the specific circumstances relating to the killing of women;
- implement a process of continuous data collection;
- establish comprehensive data collection, adding variables that are important for detecting key aspects of femicide, such as those describing the context and the circumstances of the killing, the gender-related motivation, and the victim and perpetrator characteristics, in order to systematise and harmonise the collection of data for statistical use;

- cross-reference the variables of the victim and those of the perpetrator, and analyse them using an intersectional approach;
- ensure that the gender dimension of homicide data is made visible.

Recommendations for data collection on femicide in Cyprus

To populate EIGE's indicator on femicide (indicator 9) and to improve understanding of intimate partner femicide, it is recommended that information on the sex of the victim and the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator be collected in order to differentiate intimate partners from other relationships that fall within the domestic sphere⁽¹⁸⁾.

This factsheet is based on information from EIGE's study 'Advancing administrative data collection on intimate partner violence and gender-related killings of women' (2021) and has been prepared by the Alternative and Response Women's Association (UMAR). For more information, visit <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/femicide>.

⁽¹⁵⁾ <http://eof.cut.ac.cy>

⁽¹⁶⁾ Kouta, C., Kofou, E. and Zorba, A. (2019), 'Femicide in Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities in Cyprus: a pilot study', *Women's Studies International Forum*, Vol. 77, p. 102–294, doi:10.1016/j.wsif.2019.102294.

⁽¹⁷⁾ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2018), *Recommendations to improve data collection on intimate partner violence by the police and justice sectors – Cyprus*, EIGE, Vilnius; European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2017), *Recommendations for the EU to improve data collection on violence against women*, EIGE, Vilnius; European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (2021), *EIGE's indicators on intimate partner violence, rape and femicide: Recommendations to improve data quality, availability and comparability*, EIGE, Vilnius.

⁽¹⁸⁾ Indicator 9 of the Gender Statistics Database (https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/indicator/genvio_int_adm_ipv__ipv_indic_9/metadata).

European Institute for Gender Equality

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is the EU knowledge centre on gender equality. EIGE supports policymakers and all relevant institutions in their efforts to make equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans by providing them with specific expertise and comparable and reliable data on gender equality in Europe.

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