

Combating violence against women: Belgium



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BELGIUM

NON. NO. NEIN. Say No! Stop violence against women

Violence against women is rooted in women's unequal status in society, and that status reflects the unbalanced distribution of social, political, and economic power among women and men in society. It is one of the most pervasive human rights violations of our time and a form of discrimination that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women (1). Violence against women undermines women's dignity and integrity and imposes serious harms on families, communities and societies. The I12 estimates suggest that 1 in 3 women (or 61 million out of 185 million) have experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, since the age of 15 (2).

The full extent of violence against women is difficult to estimate, as it continues to be underreported and stigmatised, meaning that what actually gets reported is only a fraction of the reality. In Belgium, 77 % of the population tend to trust the police (3).

In DG2's Gender Equality Index 2010 it was found that where people tend to have more trust in justice institutions, levels of disclosed violence are higher (4). It is estimated that in Belgium, 36 % of women have experienced violence, which is 3 % higher than in the EU overall (5).

The European Institute for Gender Equality has estimated that the cost of intimate partner violence against women in Belgium could amount to EUR 2.4 billion per year. This figure was calculated according to the methodology used in EIGE's 2014 study (6), which Member States can replicate, as done by Estonia in 2016 (7).

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Further information

Press release: Lighting the way for change - Ending violence against women





Downloads



Combating violence against women: Belgium

EN (PDF, 412.44 KB)



De aanpak van geweld tegen vrouwen: BELGIË

NL (PDF, 411.56 KB)



Combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes: BELGIQUE

FR (PDF, 416.38 KB)

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