

Combating violence against women: European Union



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EUROPEAN UNION

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 exposes women to harassment, discrimination and violence. In the EU, estimates suggest that one in three women (or 61 million out of 183 million) have experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, since the age of 15 (2).

The EU level of violence against women is difficult to estimate. Violence against women continues to be under-reported and neglected, meaning that actual prevalence is likely higher than the reality. In a survey of public opinion across the EU, 75% of those surveyed said they had a high level of trust in their police (3).

EU's Gender Equality Index (GEI) also found that when people tend to have more trust in justice institutions, levels of declared violence are higher (4). Across the EU, 33% of women have reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence (5).

What are the facts?

Violence against women is the most common cause of death among women aged 15-44 in the EU (6).

According to Eurostat, from 2010 to 2013, an estimated 2.8 per cent of EU people in the EU were registered as victims of human trafficking (7).

In 2014, 50% estimated that (8):

- The cost of gender-based violence against women in the EU amount to billions, but budgets devoted to tackling this crime only amount to millions;
- Spending on specialist services for women represents just 2% of the total cost of intimate partner violence against women;
- The loss to the economy through lost output as a result of injuries is around 12% of the total cost of violence against women victims, regardless of their police or other, but it is around 30%.

The European Institute for Gender Equality has estimated that the cost of intimate partner violence against women in the EU could amount to €109 billion per year (9).

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Further information

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





Downloads



Combating violence against women: European Union

EN (PDF, 277.67 KB)



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