

# Combating violence against women: Netherlands



**Combating violence against women**  
**THE NETHERLANDS**

**SAY NO. NO. NEIN.** 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 EIU 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 under-reported and ignored, meaning that what actually gets reported is only a fraction of the reality. In the Netherlands, almost 80% of the population tend to trust the police (3).

In EIGE's Gender Equality Index 2013 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 the Netherlands, 45% of women have experienced violence, which is 12% 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 the Netherlands could amount to EUR 3.6 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).

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.

## Further information

[Press release: Lighting the way for change - Ending violence against women](#)





---

## Downloads



### Combating violence against women: Netherlands

EN (PDF, 445.13 KB)

---



### De aanpak van geweld tegen vrouwen: NEDERLAND

NL (PDF, 437.64 KB)

---

## Metadata

**COUNTRY:** [Netherlands](#)

**AREAS:** Violence Against Women: country factsheets, Gender-based violence

**AUTHOR:** EIGE

**ISBN:** 978-92-9493-550-2

**DOI:** 10.2839/940080