

Gender Equality Index 2017: Violence against women - the most brutal manifestation of gender inequality



Violence and gender equality

Eradicating gender-based violence against women is a priority of the European Union (EU) and its Member States. This commitment is affirmed in the main EU gender equality policy documents, most recently by the EU signing the leading regional legal instrument on gender-based violence: the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). EU institutions of the Commission will engage complementarily between national and EU levels for an integrated approach to combating violence against women.

Gender inequalities are both the causal and enabling context of violence against women. Eliminating it is a profound, but also evolving, political challenge that requires addressing the unequal social, political and economic power held by women and men.

Over the past decade, progress toward gender equality in the EU has been rapid. The 2015 average Gender Equality Index score of 68.2 out of 100 in 2015, the EU has largely met its goal (Figure 3). In nearly all Member States, the overall score of progress has risen a better half a score of women's decision-making.

Violence against women is included in the Gender Equality Index as a specific domain. It means that the index for violence does not impact the final score of the Gender Equality Index. However, the index of violence needs to be considered alongside other domains, as violence against women itself is generating inequalities in the fields of work, health, housing, power, education and law. From a technical perspective, the domain of violence does not reduce gaps between women and men in core domains. Rather, it measures and analyses women's experience of violence. Under other domains, the overall situation is not to reduce the gap of violence between women and men but to eradicate violence completely (1).

Figure 3: Scores for the Gender Equality Index, by core domains and their evolution 2015-2016, EU-28

1. Commission Staff Working Document, 'Gender Equality Index 2017', Luxembourg, 2017, p. 10.

Explore the Gender Equality Index at eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index

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Gender inequalities are both the cause and enabling context of violence against women. Eliminating it is a profound, but also evolving, political challenge that requires addressing the unequal social, political and economic power held by women and men.

Over the past decade, progress towards gender equality in the EU has been rather slow. With an average Gender Equality Index score of 66.2 out of 100 in 2015, the EU has large room for improvement. In nearly all Member States, the notable driver of progress has been a better balance of women and men in decision-making.

Violence against women is included in the Gender Equality Index as a satellite domain. It means that the score for violence does not impact the final score of the Gender Equality Index. However, the violence dimension needs to be considered alongside other domains, as violence against women reflects persisting inequalities in the fields of work, health, money, power, education and time use.

Further information

[Report: Gender Equality Index 2017 - Measurement framework of violence against women](#)



[Press release: Gender Equality Index 2017 - We cannot be silent about violence](#)



[Data on violence against women in the Gender Equality Index 2017](#)



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