

# Measuring femicide in Finland



**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 available 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;
- forced and misogynistic slavery of women;
- killing of women and girls in the name of honour;
- targeted killing of women and girls in the context of armed conflict;
- slavery-related killing of women;
- killing of women and girls because of their sexual orientation and gender identity;
- killing of domestic and indigenous women and girls because of their gender;
- female infanticide and gender-based sex selective feticide;
- general mutilation-related deaths;
- abductions of girls/young;
- other types of femicide connected with gender-related crime, drug abuse, human trafficking and the proliferation of small arms.

**Femicide in Finland**

There is no definition of femicide in the Finnish Criminal Code. However, this type of offence falls under other provisions of Finnish criminal law. The relevant sections for identifying femicide cases are, inter alia, Sections 3-9 of Chapter 21 and Sections 5-6 of Chapter 21 in connection with Sections 8-9 (4).

**Chapter 21, Section 1 - Manslaughter**

(1) A person who kills another shall be sentenced for manslaughter to imprisonment.

**Chapter 21, Section 2 - Murder**

(1) If the manslaughter is (1) premeditated, (2) committed in a particularly brutal or cruel manner, (3) committed by causing serious danger to the public, or (4) committed by killing a public official on duty maintaining public order or public security, or because of an official action, and the offence is aggravated also when arrested as a whole, the offender shall be sentenced for murder to life imprisonment.

**Chapter 21, Section 3 - Killing**

(1) If the manslaughter, in view of the exceptional circumstances of the offence, the motives of the offender or other related circumstances, when assessed as a whole, is to be deemed connected under existing circumstances, the offender shall be sentenced for killing to imprisonment for at least 4 and at most 10 years.

**Chapter 21, Sections 5 and 6 - Assault or aggravated assault, in connection with Sections 8 and 9 - Negligent homicide or aggravated negligent homicide**

A person who employs physical violence on another or, without such violence, damages the health of another, causes pain to another or renders another unconscious or in a comparable condition, shall be sentenced for an assault crime to a fine or to imprisonment for at most 30 years.

A person who through negligence causes the death of another shall be sentenced for negligent homicide to a fine or to imprisonment for at most 6 years.

**About the study**

Data collection systems vary widely across EU Member States, as they draw on various sources, so 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 (5). A detailed report regarding the methodology for the collection, reporting and validation of data, along with detailed metadata per country, has been published (6). The data presented in this factbook refers to incidents of 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 femicide aged 18 and over. The data can be accessed through EIGE's Gender Statistics Database ([https://gender.europa.eu/genderstat/data-repository/genderstat\\_db](https://gender.europa.eu/genderstat/data-repository/genderstat_db)).

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## Downloads

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[Measuring femicide in Finland](#)  
 EN (PDF, 549.83 KB)
- 
[Naismurhien mittaaminen Suomessa](#)  
 FI (PDF, 486.42 KB)

## Further information

[Find all country factsheets on measuring femicide in the EU27+UK](#)



[Read our report on measuring femicide in the EU and internationally](#)



[Learn about our classification system for measuring femicide](#)



[Explore our literature review on defining and identifying femicide](#)



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## Metadata

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