

Measuring femicide in France



Femicide

Femicide can be understood as the intentional or unintentional killing of women 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 uniform definition hampers the measurement of femicide, which remains invisible 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) has the first to identify different types of femicide, including:

- murder of women as a result of intimate partner violence;
- system and misogynistic killing of women;
- killing of women and girls in the name of honour;
- targeted killing of women and girls in the context of armed conflict;
- identity-related killing of women;
- killing of women and girls because of their sex-orientation and gender identity;
- killing of aboriginal and indigenous women and girls because of their gender;
- homicide of female and gender-based activists and feminists;
- gender-related mental deaths;
- accusations of witchcraft;
- other types of femicide connected with gender-targeted crimes, drug deaths, human trafficking and the proliferation of small arms.

Femicide in France

There is no definition of femicide in the French Penal Code (4) instead this type of offence may fall under other provisions of French law. The relevant articles for laws defining femicide cases are, inter alia, Article 221-1, 221-2, 221-3, 221-4, 221-6, 221-77 and 221-80 (5).

Article 221-4 - Voluntary murder
The willful causing of the death of another person is murder. It is punished with 30 years' criminal imprisonment.

Article 221-6
Murder that proceeds, accompanies or follows another crime is punishable by life imprisonment.

Article 221-7
A killing committed with premeditation or ambush constitutes a murder. It is punished with life imprisonment.

Article 221-8
Murder is punishable with life imprisonment when committed: (1) against a minor under 16 years of age; (2) against a natural or legitimate ascendant of the adoptive father or mother; (3) against a person whose particular vulnerability due to age, infirmity or infirmity, or faculty physical or psychological disability or to pregnancy, is apparent or known to the perpetrator; (4) by the spouse or partner of the victim or a parent listed in the victim's civil status book; (5) against a person because of a refusal to contract a marriage or to enter into a union.

Article 221-9 - Manslaughter
Manslaughter is punishable with 3 years' imprisonment and a fine of EUR 45,000. It constitutes a homicide in the absence of a particular mitigation of penalties or liability imposed by law or regulation, the perpetrator is sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment and a fine of EUR 75,000.

Article 221-9
Violence resulting in death without intention of killing it is punished by 11 years of criminal imprisonment.

Since 2013 women have been considered an aggravating circumstance for a crime of manslaughter (Article 312-77), in the same way as heterosexuality of victims (Article 312-80) provides for an aggravating circumstance when the perpetrator is a victim's husband or former husband partner.

About the study

Data collection systems vary widely across EU Member States, as they draw on various sources. To improve the collection of administrative data on femicide, EIGE has been working to establish indicators that can harmonise data collection procedures 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 11 indicators with uniform definitions of the multiple forms of intimate partner violence, femicide and rape (6). A detailed report regarding the methodology for the collection, reporting and validation of data, along with detailed metadata per country, has been published (7). The data presented in this fact-sheet refers to indicators of an increase in intimate partner violence (Women at Risk of Intimate Femicide pages 18 and 20), as a share of the various systems of femicide aged 18 and over (8). The data can be accessed through EIGE's Gender Statistics Database (9) (<https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics-database>).

(1) The National Institute of Statistics (INSEE) defines femicide as the intentional or unintentional killing of a woman because of her gender.
(2) European Commission (2016) 'Gender Equality: A European Agenda for Women and Gender Equality 2016-2020', Luxembourg.
(3) United Nations (1993) 'Vienna Declaration and Principles on the Elimination of Violence Against Women', Vienna.
(4) French Penal Code (1994) 'Code de Procédure Pénale', Paris.
(5) French Penal Code (1994) 'Code de Procédure Pénale', Paris.
(6) EIGE (2018) 'Measuring femicide in France: Methodology for data collection', Luxembourg.
(7) EIGE (2018) 'Measuring femicide in France: Methodology for data collection', Luxembourg.
(8) EIGE (2018) 'Measuring femicide in France: Methodology for data collection', Luxembourg.
(9) EIGE (2018) 'Measuring femicide in France: Methodology for data collection', Luxembourg.

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EN (PDF, 559.49 KB)

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Metadata

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