

Beijing +25 policy brief: Area D - Violence against women: response and eradication


 Beijing + 25: the fifth review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU Member States
Area D — Violence against women: response and eradication

Introduction

Violence against women (VAW) is rooted in the unequal balance of power between women and men and is both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality. It takes many forms and remains widespread within the EU. One in three women aged 15 and over has experienced physical and/or sexual violence. Nearly one in four women (22%) has experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of a partner since the age of 15, and nearly half (45%) have experienced psychological violence by an intimate partner. Women and girls account for more than two thirds of victims of trafficking in human beings, overwhelmingly for the purposes of sexual exploitation. They can also face other forms of violence, including sexual harassment, cyberstalking, female genital mutilation and forced marriage. Different forms of violence often overlap, amplifying their effects and making them difficult to address and eliminate.

All EU Member States have criminalised some forms of VAW and, together with the EU institutions, have worked to strengthen legal frameworks and better determine the scale of the phenomenon. At EU level, gender-based violence is a policy priority, as reflected in the strategy for equality between women and men (2010-2015) and in the follow-up strategic engagement for gender equality (2016-2019). There have been several important developments in this area since 2013: the EU has taken steps towards ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention); the EU Anti-trafficking Directive has been complemented by the EU strategy towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings 2012-2016 and the 2017 communication stepping up EU actions in this area; and the implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive and the European Protection Order Directive has progressed in Member States. Nevertheless, there remains significant room to further strengthen and harmonise legal frameworks across the EU Member States and to produce more reliable, comparable and high quality EU data on VAW.



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There have been several important developments in this area since 2013: the EU has taken steps towards ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention); the EU Anti-trafficking Directive has been complemented by the EU strategy towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings 2012-2016 and the 2017 communication stepping up EU actions in this area; and the implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive and the European Protection Order Directive has progressed in Member States.

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Downloads



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