

Combating violence against women: Latvia



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LATVIA

NON. NO. NEIN. Say No! 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. In the EU 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 stigmatised, meaning that what actually gets reported is only a fraction of the reality. In Latvia, just over 30% of the population tend to trust the police (3), significantly lower than in the EU (averaging 70%).

In EIGE's Gender Equality Index 2014 it was found that where people tend to have more trust in police institutions, levels of declared violence are higher (5). It is estimated that in Latvia, 39 % of women have experienced violence, which is 4 % higher than in the EU average (5).

The European Institute for Gender Equality has estimated that the cost of intimate partner violence against women in Latvia could amount to EUR 442 million per year. This figure was calculated according to the methodology used in EIGE's 2014 study (4), which Member States can replicate, as done by Estonia in 2016 (4).

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Further information

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



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