

# Measuring femicide in Austria



**Femicide**

Femicide can be understood at 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 elusive 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;
- torture and misogynistic slaying of women;
- killing of women and girls in the name of honour;
- targeted killing of women and girls in the context of armed conflicts;
- identity-related killing of women;
- killing of women and girls because of their sexual orientation and gender identity;
- killing of aboriginal and indigenous women and girls because of their gender;
- female infanticide and gender-based sex selection feticide;
- genital mutilation-related deaths;
- accusations of witchcraft;
- other types of femicide connected with gangs, organised crime, drug dealers, human trafficking and the prostitution of small arms.

**Femicide in Austria**

There is no definition of femicide in the Austrian Criminal Code. However, this type of offence may fall under other provisions of Austria's criminal law. The relevant sections for identifying femicide cases are, inter alia, Sections 75, 76 and 86 (4). Furthermore, Section 73 (killing on request), and Section 74 (killing of a child at birth), are included in the data collection.

**Section 75 – Murder**

Whoever kills another shall be punished with imprisonment from 10 to 20 years or life imprisonment.

**Section 76 – Manslaughter**

Whoever kills another solely in a generally understandable violent emotion and who, neither shall be punished with imprisonment from 5 to 10 years.

**Section 86 – Bodily harm with fatal outcome**

(1) Whoever physically mistreats another person and thereby negligently causes his or her death shall be punished by imprisonment of up to 10 years.

(2) Anyone who injures another person or harms his or her health and thereby negligently causes his or her death shall be punished by imprisonment of up to 15 years.

**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 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 brief refers to indicator 9 on intimate partner violence: Women victims of intimate femicide (aged 18 and over) committed by a male intimate partner (aged 18 and over) as a result of the woman's actions of homicide (aged 18 and over). However, the data available for Austria under this indicator is not yet complete. The data can be accessed through EIGE's Gender Statistics Database: [https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-statistics/database/en/gender-equality-statistics\\_en\\_abbreviated\\_en\\_2023\\_04](https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-statistics/database/en/gender-equality-statistics_en_abbreviated_en_2023_04).

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 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.

## Downloads

Measuring femicide in Austria

EN (PDF, 518.33 KB)

Zahlenmäßige Erfassung von Femizid in Österreich

DE (PDF, 529.77 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](#)



---

## Metadata

**COUNTRY:** Austria

**AREAS:** Providing justice to victims of femicide: country factsheets, Gender-based violence

**ISBN:** 978-92-9482-773-9

**DOI:** 10.2839/850324