

Measuring femicide in Denmark



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 the EU Member States or around the world. The lack of a uniform definition hampers the measurement of femicide, which becomes 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' Special Representative 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;
- discriminatory killing of women;
- killing of women and girls because of their sexual orientation and gender identity;
- killing of Aboriginal and Indigenous women and girls, typically of their gender;
- female infanticide and gender-based sex-selective feticide;
- genital mutilation related deaths;
- stonings of witchcraft;
- other types of femicide connected with gangs, organised crime, drug dealers, human trafficking and the proliferation of small arms.

Femicide in Denmark

There is no definition of femicide in the Danish Penal Code. However, this type of offence may fall under other provisions of Danish criminal law. The relevant sections for describing femicide cases are, inter alia, Sections 237 and 246 (4).

Section 237 - Homicide
Anyone who kills another shall be punished for homicide with imprisonment from 3 years up to life imprisonment.

Section 246 - Aggravating circumstances for physical assault
If a physical assault covered by Section 245 (physical assault) or Section 245A (sexual genital mutilation) has been of such a serious nature or has resulted in such serious injuries or death as to result in extremely aggravating circumstances, the punishment may increase to imprisonment for 10 years.

About the study

Data collection systems vary widely across EU Member States, as they draw on various sources. To improve the collection of available data on femicide, EIGE has been working to identify 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 designed 13 indicators with various 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 factsheet refers to indicator 1 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 share of the women victims of homicide (aged 18 and over)". However, the data available for Denmark under this indicator is not yet complete. The data can be accessed through EIGE's Gender Statistics Database (7) (<https://gender-eu.ec.europa.eu/gender-eu-database>).

(1) The factbook data was collected before the accession of Poland, the UK and Ireland to EU Member States under the 1992 derogation.
(2) European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), Gender Statistics Database (GSD), Annex 1: Definitions and Data Collection (2022), Gender Statistics Database (GSD), Annex 1: Definitions and Data Collection (2022), <https://gender-eu.ec.europa.eu/gender-eu-database>.
(3) United Nations' Special Representative on femicide, UN Women, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/05/20190501-femicide>.
(4) The report information was published in the Gender Statistics Database (7) (<https://gender-eu.ec.europa.eu/gender-eu-database>).
(5) Detailed report regarding the methodology for the collection, reporting and validation of data, along with detailed metadata per country, has been published(6).
(6) European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), Gender Statistics Database (GSD), Annex 1: Definitions and Data Collection (2022), <https://gender-eu.ec.europa.eu/gender-eu-database>.
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Downloads



Measuring femicide in Denmark

EN (PDF, 603.59 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: Denmark

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

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