

Measuring femicide in Ireland



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 statistics. 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 (2) 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;
- organised 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;
- the killing of aboriginal and indigenous women and girls because of their gender;
- female infanticide and gender-based sex selection practices;
- 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 Ireland

There is no definition of femicide in the Irish legal system. However, this type of offence may fall under other provisions of the Irish Criminal Justice Act. The relevant criminal offences that incorporate femicide laws are, inter alia, as follows (3):

Murder occurs if a person intended to kill, or cause serious injury to, another person who dies as a result.

Manlaughter is an unlawful killing that is not murder and currently consists of two categories: voluntary manslaughter and involuntary manslaughter. Voluntary manslaughter deals with what would otherwise be murder but where there is some excusing circumstance – such as provocation – which reduces the offence from murder to manslaughter.

Involuntary manslaughter currently comprises two sub-categories: first, manslaughter by an unlawful and dangerous act, where the killing involves an act constituting a criminal offence, carrying with it the risk of bodily harm to the person killed. The second subcategory is gross negligence manslaughter, where the death of a person results from an act or omission by the accused involving a high risk of substantial personal injury.

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 (4). A detailed report regarding the methodology for the collection, reporting and validation of data, along with detailed metadata per country, has been published (5). The information presented in this fact sheet refers to indicator 9: 'Women victims of intimate femicide (aged 16 and over) committed by a male intimate partner (aged 18 and over), as a share of the women victims of femicide (aged 16 and over)'. However, the data for Ireland under this indicator is not yet available.

See EIGE's Gender Statistics Database for more information (<https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/database/genderstats>).

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Downloads



Measuring femicide in Ireland

EN (PDF, 614.82 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

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