

Measuring femicide in Italy



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 EU Member States or around the world. The lack of a uniform definition hampers the measurability 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 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, regardless of their gender;
- female infanticide and gender-based sex selection, foeticide;
- genital mutilation related deaths;
- stonings of witchcraft;
- other types of femicide connected with gangs, organised crime, drug dealers, human trafficking and the profession of street selling.

Femicide in Italy

There is no definition of femicide in the Italian Criminal Code. However, this type of offence may fall under other provisions of Italian criminal law. The relevant articles for identifying femicide cases are, inter alia, Articles 575, 576, and 577 (4).

Article 575 - Homicide

Whoever causes the death of a person shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than 21 years.

Articles 576 and 577 - Aggravated homicide

A person shall be punished with life imprisonment if the death, for example, results from sexual violence, or was committed by a citizen against a relative, against an ascendant or a descendant, against a spouse, even if legally separated or divorced, or against a person with whom the offender was in a partnership, whether or not they were living together.

Articles 576 and 577 were modified by Law No 69 of 13 July 2009 regarding the amendments to the Italian Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and other provisions regarding the protection of victims of domestic and gender-based violence (5).

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 shared by all EU Member States.

Methodology for data collection

To address the lack of comparable data on violence against women, EIGE developed 15 indicators with uniform definitions of the multiple forms of intimate partner violence, femicide and rape (6). A detailed report regarding the methodology for the collection, reporting and validation of data using web-based homicide per country, has been published (7). The data generated in this document refers to indicator 10 (intimate partner violence - Women victims of intimate femicide aged 15 and over) controlled by a male spouse/partner (aged 15 and over), and women of the victim's sex of femicide aged 15 and over. The data can be accessed through EIGE's Gender Statistics Database (8) (<http://maps.eu-gender.eu/genderstats/10-femicide>).

(1) The definition includes also children before the age of 16 years. In EU, the reference to EU Member States includes the three candidate countries: Albania, Georgia and Ukraine. (2) The United Nations Vienna Declaration on Femicide (3) defines femicide as the killing of a woman or girl because of her gender. (3) United Nations Vienna Declaration on Femicide (3) (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vienna-declaration/>). (4) Italian Criminal Code (1930/2009), Articles 575, 576 and 577. (5) Law No 69 of 13 July 2009 regarding the amendments to the Italian Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and other provisions regarding the protection of victims of domestic and gender-based violence. (6) EIGE Gender Statistics Database (8) (<http://maps.eu-gender.eu/genderstats/>). (7) EIGE Gender Statistics Database (8) (<http://maps.eu-gender.eu/genderstats/>). (8) EIGE Gender Statistics Database (8) (<http://maps.eu-gender.eu/genderstats/>).

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Downloads

 [Measuring femicide in Italy](#)
EN (PDF, 615.95 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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