

Measuring femicide in Latvia



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 mutually agreed definition of femicide among EU Member States or around the world. The lack of a unique definition hampers the measurement of femicide, which becomes included among general homicide data (2). The gender context 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:

- number of women as a result of intimate partner violence;
- honour 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 conflict;
- sexually-related killing of women;
- killing of women and girls because of their social, organisational or gender identity;
- killing of Aboriginal and Indigenous women and girls because of their gender;
- female infanticide and gender-based sex selection homicide;
- gender-motivation-related deaths;
- abductions of witchcraft;
- other types of femicide connected with gangs, organised crime, drug markets, human trafficking and the proliferation of small arms.

Femicide in Latvia
There is no definition of femicide in the Latvian Criminal Code. However, this type of offence may fall under other provisions of Latvian criminal law. The relevant sections for identifying femicide cases are, inter alia, Sections 116, 117, 118, 120, 121, 122, 123 and 124 (4).

Section 116 – Murder
For a person who commits intentional unlawful homicide (murder) of another person, the applicable punishment is a life imprisonment or deprivation of liberty for a period of 5 years and up to 20 years and with probationary supervision for a period up to 3 years.

Section 117 – Murder committed in aggravating circumstances
For a person who commits murder:
(1) a woman who commits murder of:
(i) a woman who is pregnant, the offender knowing her to be pregnant;
(ii) a woman related to rape;
(2) the applicable punishment is life imprisonment, or deprivation of liberty for a period of 10 years and up to 20 years and probationary supervision for a period up to 3 years, without confiscation of property.

Section 118 – Murder committed in especially aggravating circumstances
Section 120 – Murder committed in a state of extreme mental agitation
Section 121 – Murder committed exceeding the limits of necessary self-defence
Section 122 – Murder committed violating provisions regarding detention of a person
Section 123 – Unlawful homicide through negligence
Section 124 – Leading to suicide
Latvia has conducted a full mapping study to collect data according to the ICCD-OCIS D001 – intentional homicide, ICSS-D002 – attempted intentional homicides. The data also includes intentional infliction of serious bodily injury which, as a result of the negligence of the offender, was the cause of the death of the victim.

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 indicators, reporting and validation of data, along with detailed metadata per country, has been published (6). The data presented in this fact sheet refers to indicator 9 on intimate partner violence. Women victims of femicide (aged 15 and over) considered by a male intimate partner (aged 15 and over), as a share of the women victims of femicide aged 15 and over. The data can be accessed through EIGE's Gender Statistics Database (7), <https://ec.europa.eu/gender-equality/dbase/gender-statistics/>.

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Downloads

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EN (PDF, 599.71 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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