

# Measuring femicide in Spain



**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 measurement of femicide, which becomes visible 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 Secretary-General's 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 conflict;
- dowry-related killing of women;
- killing of women and girls because of their sexual orientation and gender identity;
- killing of indigenous and religious women and girls because of their gender;
- female infanticide and gender-based sex selection infanticide;
- general mutilation-related deaths;
- accusations of witchcraft;
- other types of femicide connected with gangs, organised crime, drug dealing, human trafficking and the possession of small arms.

**Femicide in Spain**

There is no definition of femicide in the Spanish Penal Code. However, this type of offence may fall under other provisions of Spanish criminal law. The relevant articles for femicide offences are: (see also Articles 158 E, 159, 140.2, 22 and 23 E).

**Article 158 E**  
Whoever kills another will be punished, guilty of homicide, with a prison sentence of 10-15 years.

**Article 159**  
Whoever kills another person with malice, for a price, reward or promise, with cruelty or to facilitate the commission of another crime or to prevent it from being discovered will be punished by imprisonment of 15-25 years.

**Article 140.2**  
Murder will be punished with a permanent maximum prison sentence when any of the following circumstances occur:

1. The victim is under 16 years old or is a particularly vulnerable person because of their age, illness or disability;
2. The act was subordinated to a crime against sexual freedom that the perpetrator had committed as the victim.

**Article 22**  
Among aggravating circumstances are committing a crime motivated by racism, discrimination, the victim's sex, orientation or sexual identity and gender issues.

**Article 23**  
The following circumstances can aggravate penal responsibility: being or having been an injured spouse or person who depends on or maintained a stable relationship ... or being a close relative of first degree (except parents, step or adoptive) by nature or adoption of the offender or their spouse or partner.

**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 data presented in this fact sheet refers to indicator 5 (intimate partner violence "Women victims of intimate femicide aged 18 and over" and not considered by a male intimate partner aged 18 and over); the data can be accessed through EIGE's Gender Statistics Dashboard (<https://data.eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics>).

(1) <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ST/STAT/SER/WID/WID20140101.pdf>, p. 10.  
(2) <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ST/STAT/SER/WID/WID20140101.pdf>, p. 10.  
(3) <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ST/STAT/SER/WID/WID20140101.pdf>, p. 10.  
(4) <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ST/STAT/SER/WID/WID20140101.pdf>, p. 10.  
(5) <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ST/STAT/SER/WID/WID20140101.pdf>, p. 10.

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## Downloads

↓ [Measuring femicide in Spain](#)  
EN (PDF, 595.86 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](#)



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## Metadata

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