

**NON.
NO.
NEIN.**

Say No!
Stop
violence
against
women

Violence against women is rooted in women's unequal status in society, and that status reflects the unbalanced distribution of social, political, and economic power among women and men in society. It is one of the most pervasive human rights violations of our time and a form of discrimination that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women (1). Violence against women undermines women's dignity and integrity and imposes serious harms on families, communities and societies. In the EU, estimates suggest that 1 in 3 women (or 61 million out of 185 million) have experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, since the age of 15 (2).

The full extent of violence against women is difficult to estimate. Violence against women continues to be underreported and stigmatised, meaning that what actually gets reported is only a fraction of the reality. In the Czech Republic, 62 % of the population tend to trust the police (3).

In EIGE's Gender Equality Index 2015 it was found that where people tend to have more trust in justice institutions, levels of disclosed violence are higher (4). It is estimated that in the Czech Republic, 32 % of women have experienced violence, which is about the same as in the EU overall (5).

The European Institute for Gender Equality has estimated that the cost of intimate partner violence against women in the Czech Republic could amount to EUR 2 billion per year. This figure was calculated according to the methodology used in EIGE's 2014 study (6), which Member States can replicate, as done by Estonia in 2016 (7).



What are the facts?

- In 2003, 59 % of Czech women reported having experienced violence at least once in their life ⁽⁸⁾.
- The 2014 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights survey data results showed that 32 % of women in the Czech Republic have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15, and 16 % of people in the Czech Republic said they knew a woman within their area or neighbourhood who has been a victim of domestic violence ⁽⁹⁾.
- During the period 2009—2013, 2 999 cases of rape were recorded, of which 1 867 persons were investigated and convicted ⁽¹⁰⁾.
- In 2013, 21 women in the Czech Republic were killed by their partners or former partners ⁽¹¹⁾.



When trust in police is low, victims are less likely to report violence.



Is violence against women a crime in the Czech Republic?

Domestic violence is criminalised in the Czech penal code and covers cohabiting partners. Rape and sexual assault are also criminal offences. Stalking is also illegal and carries a sentence of up to three years. Sexual harassment is covered by the Anti-discrimination Act of 2009; it guarantees protection from harassment and sexual harassment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation and other protected grounds.

What is being done to eliminate violence against women in Czech Republic?

Recently, the Gender Equality Unit of the Government has focused on prevention of domestic violence, which has included a wide range of activities from preparation of expert analysis, methodologies and brochures, media campaigns, and cooperation and exchange of good practices within a bilateral partnership with the Norwegian non-profit organisation Alternativ til Vold (Alternative to violence). ATV is a professional research and treatment centre which deals with the issue of domestic violence and related aspects. ATV was also actively involved in the preparation of the Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic and Gender-based Violence for 2015—2018. All this was also possible thanks to the Project CZ13: 'Domestic and Gender-based Violence/ Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Promoting Work-Life Balance', financed with Norwegian funds.

In 2012, the Czech government adopted the National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in People in the Czech Republic for the period 2012—2015. Every year the Ministry of Interior opens subsidy programmes for non-governmental organisations

Good practices show the way

In 2012 a national survey on domestic violence was carried out entitled 'Economic Impacts of Domestic Violence', published by proFem, an organisation that works to improve the situation of domestic violence and other forms of violence, especially against women, through lobbying, education, publications and direct support to people at risk of domestic violence or other forms of violence. The survey was carried out with a sample of 3 000 women aged 18—65 in the Czech Republic and the results showed that 40 % of women have experienced domestic violence at some point in their life, and that every year, 400 000 women are victims of domestic violence. The economic impact of domestic violence in the Czech Republic was estimated to be CZK 1 328.2 million in 2010 ⁽¹²⁾.

operating in prevention of trafficking in people. In 2010, CZK 3 832 480 were allocated for the subsidy programme 'Prevention in trafficking in people and help to victims of trafficking in people' (13).

In 2015, the Czech government adopted the Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic and Gender-based Violence for 2015—2018. The implementation of measures stated in the action plan should lead to improvement of the current degree of protection of persons endangered by domestic and gender-based violence (including children in families affected by domestic and gender-based violence), more effective prevention of this type of violence, professional development and training of relevant professionals, and support of systematic work with violent persons. This is the second action plan for the prevention of domestic violence; the first action plan was for the years 2011—2014.

How are women and girls protected?

Women victims of domestic violence in the Czech Republic have legal access to protection measures. An interim civil measure can be imposed by the court for up to one year if the victim's life, health, freedom or human dignity is in danger. Violation of a protection order is a criminal offence. The Police can issue a barring order preventing the perpetrator from contacting the victim and removing them from the household (14).

The Czech Republic signed the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) in May 2016, but has not yet ratified it. The Istanbul Convention is the most far-reaching international treaty to tackle this serious violation of human rights.

What help is available in the Czech Republic?

The DONA helpline (251511313) offers support to victims of domestic violence. The helpline runs 24 hours a day, although local rates apply. It is run by the NGO Bily kruh bezpeci (15).

The Crime Victims Helpline (116 006) is a free of charge victim support service which operates 24/7 (16). In 2015 the helpline received almost 4 000 calls, of which more than three quarters of callers were women (17).

There are four women's shelters for survivors of violence in the Czech Republic. The shelters have a total of 96 places available. In 2014, 122 women and 104 children were accommodated in the women's shelters for a total of 17 668 days (18).



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Crime Victims Helpline (116 006)**



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Endnotes

- (¹) Council of Europe (2011). *Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and its Explanatory Memorandum*. Council of Europe Treaty Series No 10. Available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210>.
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- (⁴) European Institute for Gender Equality (2013). *Gender Equality Index Report*. Publication Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. Available at: <http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Gender-Equality-Index-Report.pdf>.
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- (⁶) European Institute for Gender Equality (2014). *Estimating the costs of gender-based violence in the European Union*. Publication Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.
- (⁷) *Cost of Domestic Violence in Estonia*. Available at: https://www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/content-editors/Sotsiaal/Norra/vagivalla_hind.pdf
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- (¹²) <http://www.profem.cz/shared/clanky/68/profem-studie2b-en-web.pdf>
- (¹³) http://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rovne-prilezitosti-zen-a-muzu/dokumenty/Beijing_Declaration_National_review.pdf
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- (¹⁵) www.donalinka.cz
- (¹⁶) <http://www.bkb.cz/en/>
- (¹⁷) <http://www.donalinka.cz/aktuality/n103-linka-pomoci-obetem-kriminality-a-domaciho-nasili-116-006-za-prvni-rok-existence-prijala-temer-4-tisice-hovoru/>
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European Institute for Gender Equality

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is the EU knowledge centre on gender equality. EIGE supports policymakers and all relevant institutions in their efforts to make equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans by providing them with specific expertise and comparable and reliable data on gender equality in Europe.



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