

**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 harm on families, communities and societies. In the EU, estimates suggest that one in three 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, as it continues to be under-reported and stigmatised, meaning that what actually gets reported is only a fraction of the reality. In Hungary, less than 60 % 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 Hungary, 28 % of women have experienced violence, which is 5 % lower than in the EU overall (5).

The European Institute for Gender Equality has estimated that the cost of intimate partner violence against women in Hungary could amount to € 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?

- The 2014 European Union Fundamental Rights Agency survey data results showed that:
  - since the age of 15, 28 % of women in Hungary have experienced physical and/or sexual violence, and 12 % of women have been stalked;
  - 25 % of people said they knew someone who has been a victim of domestic violence <sup>(8)</sup>.
- From 2010 to 2012, an estimated 0.8 per 100 000 people in Hungary were registered as victims of human trafficking <sup>(9)</sup>.
- Roma women experiencing domestic or sexual violence face multiple discrimination and further victimisation when seeking justice or redress from the police. The distrust of the police results in a great reluctance by Roma women to report incidents of violence <sup>(10)</sup>.

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



## Is violence against women a crime in Hungary?

Hungary has no consolidated law on violence against women but does criminalise numerous forms of violence. In 2012, the specific offence of domestic violence (*kapcsolati erőszak*) was introduced; a woman must be assaulted at least twice to be protected by this law; in the case of a single assault, the perpetrator can be prosecuted for battery <sup>(11)</sup>.

Stalking (2008), rape and sexual violence (2012), and sexual harassment (2003) are all crimes in Hungary; recent changes to Hungary's criminal code now enable prosecution for rape committed via coercive means <sup>(12)</sup>. Female genital mutilation (FGM) is not a specific crime but is punishable under several articles of the criminal code. Asylum can be granted on FGM grounds, as Article 60 of the Asylum Act (Act LXXX of 2007) specifically names FGM as a form of gender-based persecution <sup>(13)</sup>.

Hungary's criminal code has provisions on trafficking in human beings (*emberkereskedelem*); these were modified in 2012 in order to extend the scope of punishable acts and aggravated cases (the commission of the crime against persons under the age of 18 and 14, respectively) <sup>(14)</sup>.

## What is being done to eliminate violence against women in Hungary?

The Hungarian government adopted the national strategy for the promotion of gender equality — guidelines and objectives 2010—2021 in 2010 <sup>(15)</sup>. The strategy sets out six priorities, including 'Taking measures to efficiently combat and prevent violence, eliminating all forms of violence against women, and taking urgent steps against the violation of women's, men's, girls' and boys' rights to physical and mental integrity.'

The national strategy on combating trafficking in human beings (2013—2016) considers women a high-risk group (especially young women) and links violence against women with human trafficking <sup>(16)</sup>.

### Good practices show the way

Victim rights legislation in Hungary offers a good model. Victims have the right to attend proceedings and examine any procedural documents; make applications and submit observations at any stage in the proceedings; and exercise appeal rights. Victims have the right to use their mother tongue and have the right to interpretation <sup>(17)</sup>.

Hungary signed the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) on 14 March 2014 but has not yet ratified it <sup>(18)</sup>. The Istanbul Convention is the most far-reaching international treaty to tackle this serious violation of human rights.

On 30 June 2015 the National Assembly adopted the 30/2015 (VII. 7.) Parliamentary Resolution on the national strategic goals concerning the effective combating of domestic violence. The Resolution includes commitments to funding services, public awareness campaigns, prevention, professional training, evaluation, interagency coordination and monitoring <sup>(19)</sup>.

## How are women and girls protected?

Women victims of domestic violence in Hungary have legal access to restraining orders for a maximum of 60 days, and orders can be reissued if circumstances warrant <sup>(20)</sup>; women also have access to emergency barring orders prohibiting perpetrators from approaching the victim's home <sup>(21)</sup>. Victims can access legal aid during both investigation and court procedures <sup>(22)</sup>.

### What help is available in Hungary?

Hungary has 16 shelters (15 shelters and the so-called Secret Shelter House) with 140 beds for women and children fleeing violence <sup>(23)</sup>, and helplines for those experiencing domestic violence, trafficking, or sexual violence. Shelters and transitional housing are available for anyone fleeing trafficking <sup>(24)</sup>. The Ministry plans to open two so-called Halfway Houses connected to the Transitory Shelters, to help the victims' reintegration and prevent secondary victimisation.

Victims of trafficking can also access direct information on the website of the RAVOT-EUR project (Referral of and assistance for victims of human trafficking in Europe), which aims to establish a transnational referral mechanism among Belgium, the Netherlands and Hungary, with a special focus on victims of Hungarian origin who have been exploited in Belgium and the Netherlands <sup>(25)</sup>.

Women experiencing domestic violence or trafficking in Hungary can call a Crisis Management and Information helpline (06 80/20 55 20) <sup>(26)</sup>. This number is available 24/7 and can be called for free <sup>(27)</sup>.



**Hungary has 16 shelters (15 shelters and the so-called Secret Shelter House) with 140 beds for women and children fleeing violence.**

**Women experiencing sexual violence can call the Keret Coalition (Coalition against Sexual Violence, for Survivors) helpline (06 40 630 006) <sup>(28)</sup>.**



**The helpline is available Monday (10.00—14.00), Wednesday (14.00—18.00) and Friday (10.00—14.00) <sup>(29)</sup>.**




## Endnotes

- (<sup>1</sup>) Council of Europe (2011). *Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and its explanatory report*. Council of Europe Treaty Series No 10. Available at: (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210>).
- (<sup>2</sup>) European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (2014). *Violence Against Women: An EU Wide Survey, Main Results*. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.
- (<sup>3</sup>) European Commission (2016). *Eurobarometer*. Available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/PublicOpinion/index.cfm/Chart/getChart/themeKy/18/groupKy/88>
- (<sup>4</sup>) European Institute for Gender Equality (2013). *Gender Equality Index Report*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. Available at: <http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Gender-Equality-Index-Report.pdf>
- (<sup>5</sup>) Ibid. The level of disclosed violence in the EU overall is 33 %.
- (<sup>6</sup>) European Institute for Gender Equality (2014). *Estimating the costs of gender-based violence in the European Union*. Publication Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.
- (<sup>7</sup>) *Cost of Domestic Violence in Estonia*. Available at: [https://www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/content-editors/Sotsiaal/Norra/vagivalla\\_hind.pdf](https://www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/content-editors/Sotsiaal/Norra/vagivalla_hind.pdf)
- (<sup>8</sup>) European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (2014). *Violence against Women: An EU Wide Survey, Main Results*. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.
- (<sup>9</sup>) Eurostat (2015). *Trafficking in Human Beings*, p. 23. Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eurostat\\_report\\_on\\_trafficking\\_in\\_human\\_beings\\_-\\_2015\\_edition.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eurostat_report_on_trafficking_in_human_beings_-_2015_edition.pdf).
- (<sup>10</sup>) European Roma Rights Centre (2010). Available at: 'Written Comments of the European Roma Rights Centre Concerning Hungary for Consideration by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women' <http://www.errc.org/cms/upload/media/03/7A/m0000037A.pdf>.
- (<sup>11</sup>) 'Good, but not enough yet', statement of women's NGOs on the new criminal offence of domestic violence, press release 5 June 2013, (*Jó, de még nem elég. Nőszervezetek közleménye a családon belüli erőszak hétfőn elfogadott új büntető tényállásáról*), internet (Hungarian). Available at: <http://noierdek.hu/?p=10579>
- (<sup>12</sup>) Act C of 2012 on the Criminal Code. Available at: [https://www.unodc.org/res/cld/document/hun/1978/hungarian\\_criminal\\_code\\_html/Hungary\\_Criminal\\_Code\\_2012\\_Excerpts.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/res/cld/document/hun/1978/hungarian_criminal_code_html/Hungary_Criminal_Code_2012_Excerpts.pdf)
- (<sup>13</sup>) European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). *Mapping the current status and potential of administrative sources of data on gender-based violence in the EU and Croatia: Hungarian report*.
- (<sup>14</sup>) Act C of 2012 on the Criminal Code.
- (<sup>15</sup>) <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/countries/hungary/laws-and-policies>
- (<sup>16</sup>) 4-Year Plan Document Related to the Directive against Human Trafficking and the European Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings and Replacing the National Strategy against Human Trafficking 2008-2012.
- (<sup>17</sup>) <http://cor.europa.eu/en/documentation/studies/Documents/local-regional-good-practices-victims.pdf>
- (<sup>18</sup>) [https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210/signatures?p\\_auth=j0WpqY2I](https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210/signatures?p_auth=j0WpqY2I)
- (<sup>19</sup>) <http://magyarkozlony.hu/dokumentumok/6ba1f5d065b0b79b0c7cc6ddaa197c6084bf839f/megtekintes>
- (<sup>20</sup>) <http://cor.europa.eu/en/documentation/studies/Documents/local-regional-good-practices-victims.pdf>
- (<sup>21</sup>) WAVE (2015). *WAVE report on the role of specialist women's support services in Europe*, p. 87. Available at: [http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE\\_Report\\_2015.pdf](http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf)
- (<sup>22</sup>) <http://magyarkozlony.hu/dokumentumok/d92cf106432bb5e80d0f582bc31349d79b71de86/megtekintes>
- (<sup>23</sup>) WAVE (2015). *WAVE report on the role of specialist women's support services in Europe*, p. 92. Available at: [http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE\\_Report\\_2015.pdf](http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf)
- (<sup>24</sup>) <http://emberkereskedelem.kormany.hu>
- (<sup>25</sup>) <http://www.ravot-eur.eu/en>
- (<sup>26</sup>) National Crisis Telephone Information Service (NCTIS –OKIT) (<http://www.bantalalmaz.hu>).
- (<sup>27</sup>) [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/citizens-corner-national-hotlines/national-hotlines\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/citizens-corner-national-hotlines/national-hotlines_en)
- (<sup>28</sup>) EWL (2013). *Barometer on Rape in the EU*, p. 39. Available at: [http://eurogender.eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ewl\\_barometre\\_final\\_11092013%20%281%29.pdf](http://eurogender.eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ewl_barometre_final_11092013%20%281%29.pdf).
- (<sup>29</sup>) [http://mona-alapitvany.hu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/help\\_EN.pdf](http://mona-alapitvany.hu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/help_EN.pdf)

## 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.

## Contact details

<http://eige.europa.eu> 

<http://www.twitter.com/eurogender> 

<http://www.facebook.com/eige.europa.eu> 

<http://www.youtube.com/eurogender> 

<http://eurogender.eige.europa.eu> 



European Institute for Gender Equality, EIGE  
Gedimino pr. 16 LT-01103  
Vilnius, LITHUANIA  
Tel. +370 52157444  
Email: [eige.sec@eige.europa.eu](mailto:eige.sec@eige.europa.eu)



Publications Office

Paper	MH-01-16-750-EN-C	978-92-9493-506-9	10.2839/335345
PDF	MH-01-16-750-EN-N	978-92-9493-505-2	10.2839/706482