

**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 under-reported and stigmatised, meaning that what actually gets reported is only a fraction of the reality. In Slovenia, just over 60 % of the population tend to trust the police, significantly lower than in the EU overall (over 70 %) ⁽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 Slovenia, 22 % of women have experienced violence, which is 11 % 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 Slovenia could amount to € 440 million 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 Agency for Fundamental Rights survey data results showed that since the age of 15:

- 22 % of women in Slovenia have experienced physical and/or sexual violence;
- 14 % of women in Slovenia have been stalked;
- 44 % of women in Slovenia have experienced sexual harassment ⁽⁸⁾.

According to Eurostat from 2010 to 2012, an estimated 2 out of 100 000 people in Slovenia were registered as victims of human trafficking ⁽⁹⁾.



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



Is violence against women a crime in Slovenia?

Slovenia has no specific law on violence against women but does have a law on preventing domestic violence adopted in 2008 and amended in 2016 ⁽¹⁰⁾.

The Domestic Violence Prevention Act defines different forms of domestic violence (physical, sexual, psychological, economic, negligence and stalking) and describes the role of national and local authorities, police, prosecutors and courts, social workers, education, healthcare, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to institute measures to protect victims (including the introduction of protection orders).

The act covers children and young people, stating: “Children are victims of violence, even if they are only present when violence is exerted against other family members, or if they live in an environment where violence is exerted” ⁽¹¹⁾. The act also mandates the adoption of the national programme for preventing domestic violence and violence against women and it prohibits corporal punishment of children) ⁽¹²⁾.

Violence against women in intimate partnerships is covered by the criminal law provisions contained in the criminal code and includes domestic violence, and sexual offences such as sexual assault and rape. Amendments to the criminal code made in 2015 introduced stalking and forced marriage as an offence ⁽¹³⁾. This amendment brings the Slovenian legislation into conformity with the standards of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

The offence of trafficking in human beings incorporated trafficking for prostitution or sexual exploitation as offences into Slovenian criminal law.

Rape is a crime in Slovenia under Chapter 19 of the criminal code (Article 170), including rape within marriage, although in the latter case a victim must want to press charges ⁽¹⁴⁾.

Slovenia has no specific law outlawing female genital mutilation (FGM) ⁽¹⁵⁾.

What is being done to eliminate violence against women in Slovenia?

The national programme on the prevention of domestic violence was a strategic document that stipulated the objectives and the key policy measures for the prevention and reduction of domestic violence in the Republic of Slovenia, for the period 2009 to 2014.

Good practices show the way

Slovenia has made dramatic progress in expanding provision of shelters for those experiencing domestic violence and is now one of only four countries in the EU that exceed the recommended minimum of shelters per head of population ⁽¹⁶⁾.

The document focused on the fact that domestic violence results from the uneven distribution of power between the sexes and considers the special needs of victims, predominantly women, and their personal circumstances. A new resolution, which will also include other forms of violence against women, is currently being drafted.

Slovenia signed the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) on 8 September 2011 and ratified it on 5 February 2015⁽¹⁷⁾. The Istanbul Convention is the most far-reaching international treaty to tackle this serious violation of human rights. In order to establish a coordinated approach and to monitor the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, in 2016 the Slovenian government established an inter-governmental working group consisting of policy-makers and relevant NGOs.

Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual abuse and exploitation is most commonly and distinctly seen as trafficking in women and children, as particularly vulnerable groups. Every two years an inter-governmental working group consisting of policy-makers and relevant NGOs drafts an action plan that defines the activities and relevant actors, primarily in the field of prevention and international and regional cooperation⁽¹⁸⁾.

How are women and girls protected?

Women in Slovenia experiencing domestic or sexual violence have access to emergency barring orders and temporary protection orders. The barring orders issued by the police last for 48 hours and can be prolonged for 15 or 60 days by a court decision. In 2014, 1 046 such orders were recorded⁽¹⁹⁾.

Slovenia has one programme for perpetrators, which is being implemented by the NGO, the Association for Nonviolent Communication, and has links with appropriate women's support services⁽²⁰⁾.

What help is available in Slovenia?

Women experiencing rape and sexual assault and/or domestic violence can access a specialist service for women⁽²¹⁾. The Association SOS Helpline offers psychosocial support to women and children who experience any form of violence⁽²²⁾.

Slovenia also has specialist services for victims of human trafficking⁽²³⁾. Caritas and Ključ association (the centre for the fight against trafficking in human beings) provides crisis accommodation with intensive support, as well as traditional accommodation⁽²⁴⁾.

For those experiencing domestic violence, Slovenia has 16 shelters with 274 beds⁽²⁵⁾.

Slovenia has a national helpline and women victims of domestic violence can also get help via email (drustvo-sos@drustvo-sos.si) and online (www.drustvo-sos.si)⁽²⁶⁾.



Slovenia has a national women's helpline for women and children experiencing violence (080 1155); calls are free⁽²⁷⁾.



The helpline's operating hours are Monday to Friday: 12:00—22:00; weekends and holidays: 18:00—22:00⁽²⁸⁾.

Endnotes

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- (⁹) Eurostat (2015). *Trafficking in Human Beings*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, p. 23. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eurostat_report_on_trafficking_in_human_beings_-_2015_edition.pdf.
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- (¹³) Forced child marriage is criminalised in Slovenia in the penal code in Article 132a. Available at: http://www.vlada.si/en/media_room/government_press_releases/article/government_approves_the_draft_amendments_to_the_criminal_code_53268/
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- (¹⁶) WAVE (2015). *WAVE Report on the role of specialist women's support services in Europe*, p 28. Available at: http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf.
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- (²³) WAVE (2015). *WAVE Report on the role of specialist women's support services in Europe*, p. 47. Available at: http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf.
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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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