



**Let's put an end
to gender-based violence**





NON.
NO.
NEIN.

Say No!
Stop
violence
against
women

Foreword

The EU's signing of the Istanbul Convention on 13 June 2017 was a significant milestone during a year of actions focused on combating violence against women. Yet despite this progress, it remains one of the most widespread and damaging manifestations of gender inequality.

By providing critical research and expertise, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is helping the EU and its Member States to understand the scale of the problem and ultimately eradicate it.

This booklet highlights some of EIGE's recent work on violence against women, from insights on the emerging trend of cyber violence, to looking at how far EU laws protect victims of trafficking. We hope that EIGE's research helps to build a Europe where women and girls can live free from violence and abuse.

Virginija Langbakk
Director of the European Institute
for Gender Equality (EIGE)

Gender-based violence — more common than you think

In the European Union, since the age of 15:

1 in 3

women has experienced
physical and/or
sexual violence

1 in 2

women has experienced
sexual harassment

1 in 20

women has been **raped**



1 in 5

women has experienced
stalking

95 %
of victims **trafficked**
for **sexual exploitation** in the EU are women

Sources: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *Violence against women: an EU-wide survey — Results at a glance*, 2014.
Eurostat, *Trafficking in human beings*, 2015.

Image: Margaret Jone Wollman/Shutterstock.com.

Gender-based violence, cause and consequence of gender inequality

The root cause of gender-based violence is the uneven distribution of power between women and men. This is why gender equality is crucial to ending violence against women.

'Gender-based violence' and 'violence against women' are used interchangeably throughout EIGE's work. Men also experience gender-based violence, but the majority of victims are women and girls.



EIGE's role in combating gender-based violence

<http://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence>

Eradicating gender-based violence is a priority of the EU and its Member States, but efforts will only be successful if we have high-quality, comparable data throughout the EU. EIGE's work focuses on that. We provide research and data which, along with insights for policymakers at national and EU level, is the focus of EIGE's work. By working together with the European Commission, Member States, police and the judiciary, we can create better synergies and be more effective in our joint effort to eradicate violence against women.

In June 2017, the EU signed the leading regional legal instrument on gender-based violence, the **Istanbul Convention** (the Council of Europe convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence). This is a major step towards the formation of an integral approach to combating violence against women at national and EU level.

While all EU Member States have signed the Istanbul Convention, not all have ratified it.

Definitions and data collection

Different definitions and collection methods make it difficult to obtain reliable and comparable statistics on gender-based violence.

EIGE works with Member States to identify gaps and provide national recommendations on how to improve data collection by police and the judiciary. This is important because they provide the bulk of information on recorded and prosecuted cases of intimate partner violence.

To help with the collection of data on rape, femicide and intimate partner violence in the EU, EIGE has proposed uniform statistical definitions. Based on these definitions, EIGE has developed monitoring indicators that can help Member States meet the reporting requirements for the Victims' Rights Directive and the Istanbul Convention. A list of definitions can be found in EIGE's online glossary and thesaurus (<http://eige.europa.eu/rdc/thesaurus>).

EIGE's publications

- *Terminology and indicators for data collection — Rape, femicide and intimate partner violence* (2017)
- *Administrative data collection on rape, femicide and intimate partner violence in EU Member States* (2017)
- *Mapping the current status and potential of administrative data sources on gender-based violence in the EU* (2014)

Why do we need better data?

Reliable and comparable data are essential to:

- grasp the full scope of violence;
- understand the consequences;
- assess whether policies to combat violence are working or not;
- monitor and improve the response from police and the judiciary
- inform policymaking.



Need inspiration?

Discover examples of good practices on EIGE's [web-site](#).



Through a gender lens

EIGE took a closer look into the **Victims' Rights Directive** and the **EU Anti-Trafficking Directive**, analysing both from a gender perspective.

Victims' Rights Directive

Launched in 2011, with the aim of safeguarding rights, enhancing support and protecting all victims of crime in the EU.

The directive contains solid measures that focus on victims of gender-based violence, however EIGE's research has also identified some provisions that are counterproductive or cause unintended effects. The study includes suggestions on how to improve support and protection for female victims.

EIGE's publication

An analysis of the Victims' Rights Directive from a gender perspective (2014)

EU Anti-Trafficking Directive

Launched in 2011, with the aim of preventing and combating the trafficking of human beings.

EIGE has analysed the directive by taking into account the specific needs of victims of gender-based violence, especially women and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced marriage. The recommendations focus on making it easier for victims to access their rights through a gender-sensitive implementation of the directive.

EIGE's publication

Gender specific measures in anti-trafficking action (forthcoming 2018)



Female genital mutilation: is it a problem for the EU?

Yes it is. Female genital mutilation is an extreme form of gender-based violence. 180 000 girls and women in the EU are estimated to be at risk of FGM each year (European Parliament, 2009). However, we still do not have a full picture of the problem because of under-reporting and a lack of data. EIGE aims to fill in data gaps and help policymakers design better prevention and protection measures for girls at risk in the EU. We are using our methodology to estimate the number of girls at risk in Belgium, Greece, France, Italy, Cyprus and Malta. In earlier studies, we estimated the risk in Ireland, Portugal and Sweden.

We all pay the price for violence

The costs of medical care for physical and emotional damage, together with specialised services for victims, put a large financial burden on the economy and on society. EIGE estimates that gender-based violence could cost the EU up to EUR 226 billion a year. Knowing the full cost of violence strengthens the case for prioritising funding for prevention and protection programmes.

EIGE's publication

Estimating the costs of gender-based violence in the European Union (2014)



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EIGE's publications

- *Female genital mutilation: estimating girls at risk* (forthcoming 2018)
- *Estimation of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in the European Union* (2015)
- *Good practices in combating female genital mutilation* (2013)
- *Female genital mutilation in the European Union* (2012)



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Cyber violence: a very real threat

Cyber violence is an increasing concern, especially for women and girls. They are the primary target of severe forms of online abuse, including online sexual harassment and cyberstalking.

EIGE's paper on cyber violence focuses on the need for more data and gives policymakers ideas to tackle this emerging form of violence. Examples include better policy responses, stronger awareness-raising efforts and gender-sensitive training for the police.

1 in 10 women has experienced some form of cyber violence since the age of 15.

Source: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2014.



EIGE's publication

Cyber violence against women and girls
(2017)



A new way to measure violence against women

27.5 — is where the EU stands on a scale of 1 to 100 when it comes to violence against women, according to EIGE's Gender Equality Index 2017. The higher the score, the worse it is. This score shows that violence is prevalent, severe and under-reported.

The intersectional approach of the Index also indicates how women from various backgrounds experience violence.

EIGE's publication

Gender Equality Index 2017 — Measurement framework of violence against women (2017)

EIGE's resources

Gender Statistics Database

<http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs>

EIGE's Gender Statistics Database is a hub for statistical information on violence against women across the EU. It brings together administrative data from the police and the judiciary in one interactive and easy-to-use tool.

Glossary and Thesaurus

<http://eige.europa.eu/rdc/thesaurus>

EIGE's online glossary and thesaurus provides accurate, up-to-date definitions for many terms related to gender-based violence, contributing to a common understanding of key terms across the EU.

Resource and Documentation Centre (RDC)

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

With over 10 000 resources on gender-based violence, EIGE's RDC is the place to go for materials on the topic.

EuroGender

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

EIGE's online platform — a great way to share knowledge on gender-based violence. By signing up, you can engage with policymakers, experts and organisations active in this field from all around the EU.

EIGE's publication

Combating violence against women (2016)

Fact sheets available for each EU country in English and national languages.



United against **gender-based violence**

White Ribbon Campaign

As a part of its awareness-raising work, EIGE contributes to the international White Ribbon Campaign. Men and boys wearing a white ribbon pledge to never commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women.

EIGE has engaged a number of political leaders to take the pledge and strengthen their commitment towards speaking out about violence against women.



16 Days of Activism

16 Days of Activism is a worldwide campaign that runs every year from 25 November — International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women — until 10 December — International Human Rights Day.

EIGE marks the campaign through events, activities and targeted messages, seeking to raise awareness of the urgent need to end violence against women.



EIGE 'oranges the world' to raise awareness about violence against women

EIGE's work on gender-based violence

Milestones



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.

More information on the European Union is available on the internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu>).

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Printed in Belgium on [Mention paper type and weight value] paper.

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PDF ISBN 978-92-9470-298-2 doi:10.2839/006226 MH-07-17-075-EN-N
Print ISBN 978-92-9470-299-9 doi:10.2839/31119 MH-07-17-075-EN-C



Publications Office