

Violence against Women (D)

Violence can potentially affect all segments of society and all individuals irrespective of gender. However, women are the most at risk of being victims of violence because historically there have been unequal power relations between men and women. The low social and economic status of women can be both a cause and a consequence of violence against women. Violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace according to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for Equality, Development and Peace (BPfA) 1995¹.

The term 'violence against women' means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. Accordingly, violence against women encompasses but is not limited to the following:

- a) physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;
- b) physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;
- c) physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.

Acts of violence against women also include forced sterilisation and forced abortion, coercive/forced

use of contraceptives, female infanticide and prenatal sex selection.

The absence of adequate gender-disaggregated data and statistics on the incidence of violence makes the elaboration of programmes and monitoring of changes difficult. Lack of or inadequate documentation and research on domestic violence, sexual harassment and violence against women and girls in private and in public, including the workplace, impede efforts to design specific intervention strategies.

Women may be vulnerable to violence perpetrated by persons in positions of authority in both conflict and non-conflict situations. The training of all officials in humanitarian and human rights law and the punishment of perpetrators of violent acts against women would help to ensure that such violence does not take place at the hands of public officials in whom women should be able to place trust, including police, prison officials and security forces.

In addressing violence against women, governments and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes so that before decisions are taken an analysis may be made of their effects on women and men, respectively. In order to address these problems, the following strategic objectives were set and agreed to be implemented by the national governments.

The strategic objectives

- D.1 Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women
- D.2 Study the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures
- D.3 Eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking



Indicators

In 2002, the Spanish Presidency carried out a study² amongst 15 Member States concerning 'Male violence against women' and the Institute for Women prepared the report on the results³.

On the basis of this preparatory work, the Danish Presidency suggested⁴ (in 2002) seven indicators with sub-indicators in the area domestic violence against women and the Council of the European Union adopted the conclusions⁵ and took note of the proposed indicators in December 2002.

Building on this work, in 2012, the Cyprus Presidency has chosen to focus on the issue of support services for victims of domestic violence and to monitor progress by applying the indicators on this issue. In the context of the review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) has prepared a report on "the Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action by the EU Member States: Violence against women: Victim support". The report gives an overview of the current situation as regards domestic violence against women in the EU Member States, and sets out recent legislative and policy measures aimed at tackling the problem and the remaining challenges. The report also includes an in-depth review of the issue of victim support, based on the relevant indicator as established by the Council in 2002. Council of the European Union adopted the conclusions in December 2012.

When the Council of the European Union adopted the conclusions on domestic violence in November 2002, it thus noted that the theme of violence against women could be revisited to deal with other perspectives and other target groups. In 2004, the Irish Presidency carried out a survey⁶ amongst 25 Member States regarding sexual harassment and prepared the report⁷ which was used to draw up indicators in relation to this issue during the Dutch Presidency in the latter half of 2004⁸ and the Council of the European Union adopted

the conclusions⁹ and took note of the proposed indicators in December 2004.

According to the report¹⁰ prepared by the Dutch Presidency, the definition used to develop the proposed indicators only partly encompasses the definition of the BPfA. To be able to build on the information coming from the study of the Irish Presidency, the Dutch Presidency restricted the definition to 'sexual harassment at the workplace' only: 'sexual harassment' was defined as 'where any form of unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature occurs, with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person, in particular when creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment'.

There are limitations to the extent to which EU-wide indicators can be used to monitor progress towards the first and second strategic objectives of the BPfA. Furthermore, no EU-level indicators have been developed to monitor progress towards the strategic objective to eliminate trafficking in women and to assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking.

Indicator D1

Name: Domestic violence against women: profile of female victims of violence

Concept: Domestic violence has been defined as 'any physical, sexual, or psychological violence, inflicted on a victim by a current or former spouse or intimate partner or other members of the family'. It must be emphasised that this definition does not cover all forms of gender-based violence. To be able to target measures to support victims, and end domestic violence against women, it is necessary to have statistics to make a profile of the victims. The list of sub-indicators follows.

D1A — The number of female victims of domestic violence:

- the number of victims according to the criminal statistics;
- the number of victims according to surveys;
- the number of fatalities as a result of domestic violence;
- the proportion of domestic violence as a percentage of all violent crimes.

Any other relevant statistical data concerning female victims and the existence of dependent children (e.g. the number of women seeking assistance in the health system as a likely consequence of domestic violence, the number of victims seeking refuge at crisis centres).

These numbers should appear as both total amounts and as a percentage of the whole female population and as a percentage of the total amount of the victims (m/f).

D1B — Background information on the female victims:

- relation to the perpetrator;
- age;
- marital status;
- citizenship;
- any other relevant background information (e.g. educational background, labour status).

Data source: There is no database including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Published: There are no published data including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Notes: There are no available data for the calculation of this indicator at EU level. Domestic violence includes several forms of violence. However, one form of domestic violence could be covered by the UNECE database in the table 'Victims of homicide by relationship of perpetrator to victim and sex'¹¹. The data about victims of homicide by relationship of perpetrator to victim and sex are available for 17 Member States and it is a compilation of surveys and other data sources, which re-

duces comparability between countries and over time¹².

Indicator D2

Name: Domestic violence against women: profile of male perpetrators

Concept: Domestic violence has been defined as 'any physical, sexual, or psychological violence, inflicted on a victim by a current or former spouse or intimate partner or other members of the family'. It must be emphasised that this definition does not cover all forms of gender-based violence. To be able to target measures addressing the male perpetrator and end domestic violence against women it is necessary to have statistics to make a profile of the perpetrators. The list of sub-indicators follows.

D2A — The number of perpetrators involved in domestic violence:

- the number of perpetrators according to the criminal statistics;
- the number of perpetrators seeking assistance through official or voluntary programmes including, for example, crisis centres;
- the number of perpetrators according to surveys;
- any other relevant statistical data concerning male perpetrators (e.g. the number of men seeking assistance in the health system).

These numbers should appear as both totals a percentage of the whole male population and as a percentage of the total amount of perpetrators (m/f).

D2B — Background information on the perpetrator:

- relation to the victim;
- age;



- marital status;
- citizenship;
- any other relevant background information (e.g. educational background, labour status).

Data source: There is no database including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Published: There are no published data including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Notes: There are no available data for the calculation of this indicator at EU level. Domestic violence includes several forms of violence. However, one form of domestic violence could be covered by the UNECE database in the table 'Victims of homicide by relationship of perpetrator to victim and sex'¹³. The data about victims of homicide by relationship of perpetrator to victim and sex are available for 17 Member States and it is a compilation of surveys and other data sources, which reduces comparability between countries and over time¹⁴.

Indicator D3

Name: Domestic violence against women: victim support

Concept: Domestic violence has been defined as 'any physical, sexual, or psychological violence, inflicted on a victim by a current or former spouse or intimate partner or other members of the family'. It must be emphasised that this definition does not cover all forms of gender-based violence.

This indicator describes the existing range of support for women subject to domestic violence and is both qualitative and quantitative. Qualitatively, the indicator will describe the full range of support options and, quantitatively, the number of options and the actual use of these options. For example, if the existence of crisis centres is confirmed, the number and

the use of these should be mentioned. Furthermore, there should be room for a qualitative description of the quality of the support that these crisis centres are offering. For some of these support options, it will be possible to clarify the extent to which they are used. The list of sub-indicators follows.

D3A — Types of victim support:

- counselling centres;
- emergency services;
- 24-hours hotline;
- women crisis centres, including number of shelters per population, number of requests for shelter, number of refusals, funding of centres;
- guides on the available support;
- special police-units/task forces supporting the victims
- legal advice for the victims;
- official information on the Internet regarding violence against women;
- support/courses for victims to help re-enter the labour-market;
- health protocols for the victims (collected anonymously) e.g. medical care and treatment;
- co-ordination of the public support system;
- special support services for vulnerable groups;
- any other support measures.

This way, the number of stays, length of stay, etc., in the women crisis centres can be accounted for.

Data source: The calculation of the indicator is based on data collected in 2012. The data collection process can be repeated in subsequent years, based on the methodology provided in EIGE report "the Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action by the EU Member States: Violence against women: Victim support", Annex I.

Published: Data are available in the EIGE report “the Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action by the EU Member States: Violence against women: Victim support” prepared during the Cypriot Presidency 2012 (the Annex III).

Notes: The data covering all 27 EU Member States were collected March-April 2012 and reviewed November 2012.

The indicator is objectively verifiable and can be updated using the methodology developed for obtaining the baseline data, as discussed in the EIGE report “the Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action by the EU Member States: Violence against women: Victim support” in Annex I.

Indicator D4

Name: Domestic violence against women: measures addressing the male perpetrator to end the circle of violence

Concept: Domestic violence has been defined as ‘any physical, sexual, or psychological violence, inflicted on a victim by a current or former spouse or intimate partner or other members of the family’. It must be emphasised that this definition does not cover all forms of gender-based violence.

This indicator describes the available options for measures addressing the perpetrator to end the circle of violence. The list of sub-indicators follows.

D4A — Measures aimed at ending the circle of violence:

- counselling;
- psychological/psychiatric treatment;
- re-socialisation programmes in use during imprisonment;
- male crisis centres;
- any other measures.

Regarding the male perpetrator it will be possible — as for the female victims — to create an overview of the measures provided. As for the indicator on support for the victims, this indicator will provide information on the existence of measures addressing the perpetrator.

Data source: There is no database including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Published: There are no published data including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Notes: There are no available data for the calculation of this indicator at EU level.

Indicator D5

Name: Domestic violence against women: training of professionals

Concept: Domestic violence has been defined as ‘any physical, sexual, or psychological violence, inflicted on a victim by a current or former spouse or intimate partner or other members of the family’. It must be emphasised that this definition does not cover all forms of gender-based violence.

This indicator will examine training of professionals and volunteers. The goal of training professionals working in the field of domestic violence against women is to improve the necessary and appropriate support to victims of violence, and promote the cross-sector cooperation. The indicator shall describe the type of training and the target groups. The list of sub-indicators follows.

D5A — Type of training:

- type of education of new personnel;
- type of training of current personnel.

For example, are the professionals trained in cross-sector cooperation, the nature of domestic violence against women, mediation, legislation, etc.?



D5B — Target groups:

- police personnel;
- justice personnel;
- health workers;
- personnel in the education sector, especially teachers;
- any other statutory bodies, such as social workers, interpreters;
- NGOs, including volunteers working at crisis centres;
- any other group.

If Member States have the necessary information, these indicators could also include the percentage of personnel in a specific profession that are trained and the number of training courses available within the specific professions.

Data source: There is no database including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Published: There are no published data including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Notes: There are no available data for the calculation of this indicator at EU level.

Indicator D6

Name: Domestic violence against women: state measures to eliminate domestic violence against women

Concept: The domestic violence has been defined as 'any physical, sexual, or psychological violence, inflicted on a victim by a current or former spouse or intimate partner or other members of the family'. It must be emphasised that this definition does not cover all forms of gender-based violence. The list of sub-indicators follows.

D6A — Legislation and justice:

- current status in the area of legislation;
- legislative changes within the last 5 years;

- number of judgements;
- number of successful recourses to civil remedy, for example, injunctions and exclusion orders;
- number of convictions — specify;
- number of cases dismissed;
- any other measures, e.g. removing the perpetrator from the home, restraining orders.

D6B — Surveys and projects; the indicator shall reflect the scope and the content of the research regarding domestic violence against women:

- Which projects has the State initiated within the last 5 years?
- Which projects have been initiated in other contexts than the State within the last 5 years?

D6C — Policy:

- Has the Government adopted a Strategy on violence against women?
- If so, when?
- What are the themes in this strategy, e.g. targets, time frame?
- Resources allocated for the purpose of implementing this Strategy,
- Does the Strategy include establishing partnerships between government bodies and NGOs?
- Has the Strategy(s) been evaluated — how and when?

D6D — Awareness raising/preventive measures:

- information campaigns aimed at the perpetrator;
- information campaigns aimed at the victim;
- information campaigns aimed at the professionals working with victims or perpetrators;
- general information campaigns directed at the whole population;
- other awareness raising activities.

D6E — Budget:

- What is the financial budget for the State in order to combat domestic violence against women?

Data source: There is no database including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Published: There are no published data including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Notes: There are no available data for the calculation of this indicator at EU level.

Indicator D7

Name: Domestic violence against women: evaluation

Concept: Domestic violence has been defined as 'any physical, sexual, or psychological violence, inflicted on a victim by a current or former spouse or intimate partner or other members of the family'. It must be emphasised that this definition does not cover all forms of gender-based violence.

In order to be meaningful, the above indicators have to facilitate debate, the exchange of best practices and, perhaps, even changes in policy measures regarding the elimination of domestic violence against women. For this purpose the indicators must be compiled and results evaluated. The list of sub-indicators follows.

D7A — Progress made:

- statistical changes in indicators;
- progress reports on measures taken by the Member States including relevant information, for example, the proportion of those on programmes who have reoffended;
- any other measures to monitor progress or to publish progress achieved.

D7B — Lessons learned:

- efforts/initiatives that have been effective, e.g. campaigns, training programmes, measures addressing the male perpetrator, legislative changes that have improved the victim support or diminished the amount of domestic violence against women;
- efforts that have been initiated but have not had the expected effect, e.g. campaigns or training programs.

Data source: There is no database including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Published: There are no published data including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Notes: There are no available data for the calculation of this indicator at EU level.

Indicator D8

Name: The number of employees who report incidents of sexual harassment at the workplace, as a percentage of the total workforce

Concept: According to the report prepared during the Dutch Presidency, in order to ensure that sexual harassment at the workplace becomes a political agenda item, it is important to show how often sexual harassment at the workplace occurs. To be able to do this, it is important to record statistics of reported incidents of sexual harassment. In addition, it is important to know to what extent employees are able to report work-related sexual harassment.

Data source: There is no database including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Published: There are no published data including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Notes: There are no available data for the calculation of this indicator at EU level. However, the European Working Conditions Surveys (EWCS)¹⁷ could be used to assess harassment at



the workplace. This survey collects information on all forms of harassment and violence at work and data can be disaggregated by gender.

The data tables and figures in this area have been published in the chapter 'Violence, harassment and discrimination in the workplace'¹⁸ and in the Statistical annex¹⁹.

Furthermore, the index 'Subjected to discrimination at work' has been calculated based on that survey. This index includes the discrimination at work linked to age, race, nationality, gender, religion, disability and sexual orientation and is available disaggregated by sex²⁰.

Even more sex disaggregated data are available for different types of harassment at the workplace: verbal abuse at work²¹, threats and humiliating behaviour at work²², physical violence at work²³ or bullying or harassment at work²⁴.

All Member States participated in the survey but sexual harassment can be perceived differently from one country to another depending on culture.

Indicator D9

Name: The number of private and public enterprises which have a preventive policy regarding sexual harassment at the workplace, as a percentage of the total number of employers

Concept: According to the report prepared during the Dutch Presidency, in order to make it transparent to what extent a Member State is taking action to prevent and combat sexual harassment at the workplace, it is important to collect statistical information about preventive policy.

Data source: There is no database including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Published: There are no published data including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Notes: There are no available data for the calculation of this indicator at EU level.

Indicator D10

Name: The number of private and public enterprises which have procedures for sanctions in place for perpetrators of sexual harassment at the workplace, as a percentage of the total number of employers

Concept: According to the report prepared during the Dutch Presidency, in order to make it transparent to what extent a Member State is taking action to prevent and combat sexual harassment at the workplace, it is important to collect statistical information about preventive policy.

Data source: There is no database including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Published: There are no published data including all information at EU level for this indicator.

Notes: There are no available data for the calculation of this indicator at EU level.

More information

Policy documents

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