

<b>Forum:</b>	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)
<b>Issue:</b>	Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls
<b>Student Officer:</b>	Modesti Eleni Markou
<b>Position:</b>	Co-Chair

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is Modesti Markou and I am an IB1 student at Psychiko College. This year I will be serving as one of the Deputy Presidents of the 11<sup>th</sup> PSMUN Conference in the Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. I have been involved with MUN for one year and I am glad I was offered a student officer position at the 11<sup>th</sup> PSMUN as it was my first ever conference. Since then, I've gained a more profound understanding of the world and how it may improve. With MUN, I've found a source of inspiration for addressing important issues that affect people all around the world and finding long-term solutions that will benefit future generations.

The agenda of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) for this year allows delegates to be informed and debate upon crucial issues that concern us. Taking action against gender related killing of women and girls is really important as these types of murders have been troubling humanity for centuries. The following study guide will help you gain the fundamental knowledge and will facilitate you with your research, however, all delegates are expected to conduct further research as new information emerges every day, but also in order for you to comprehend your country's policy. Delegates are also expected to propose solutions, collaborate and to debate upon the topic.

I hope you find this study guide to be both useful and enjoyable to read. Should you have any questions or need any clarifications upon the topic, do not hesitate to contact me at [modestimarkou@gmail.com](mailto:modestimarkou@gmail.com)

I am looking forward to meeting all of you!

Best wishes,

Modesti Markou

## TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The persistence and frequency of violence against women has been defined as a "pandemic" by UN Women and a "public health problem of epidemic proportions" by the World Health Organization, affecting between 35 and 70 percent of women and girls globally, according to studies. According to the World Health Organization, violence against women pervades all corners of the globe, puts women's health at risk, limits their participation in society, and causes great human suffering, as more than one in three women (35.6 percent) have reported having experienced sexual or physical violence. Murder of girls and women is often the ultimate action of violence after a cycle of abuse.

There are several characteristics of women's murders around the world.

The first characteristic is that men kill women in disproportionately large numbers. In 2017, the UNODC projected that 87,000 women were killed deliberately. Female homicide was projected to be 2.3 per 100,000 of the world's female population. Males made up roughly 90% of the suspects.



Figure 1: Protesters demand more measures to stop violence against French women<sup>1</sup>

Secondly, the majority of women are killed in personal or family relationships. Six out of ten female fatalities (58 percent) were killed by a male relative or lover. A past or current partner was responsible for one-third of the deaths. In 82 percent of all homicides committed by intimate partners, women were the victims.

In addition to that, femicide victims have been subjected to non-lethal gender-based violence in the past. The great majority of occurrences of femicide happen as a result of interpersonal or domestic violence. Furthermore, femicides are driven by women's social vulnerability, legal inequity, and limited educational opportunities, which result in gender inequality, stereotypes, and social prejudice.

Also, because these cultural and socioeconomic factors fluctuate throughout time, the rate at which women are murdered tends to be more constant than the rate at which men are killed. Last but not least, as the general rate of killings falls, the number of women slain rises. Because femicide is context and gender specific, strategies that

<sup>1</sup>"Protesters demand more is done to stop violence against French women | Euronews, 23 November 2021" <https://www.euronews.com/2021/11/20/protesters-demand-more-is-done-to-stop-violence-against-french-women>

reduce male-to-male homicide are ineffective in reducing femicide. When a result, as the former's rate falls, femicide either stays the same or rises.

The main reasons of gender-related killing of woman and girls are gender inequalities, sexism, misogyny, power imbalances, institutionalized discrimination and religious beliefs.

Gender-related killings of women and girls is an issue of great importance, as it has persisted for centuries. In medieval years, the most occurring gender related killing of women and girls was witch hunting, and today it still appears in many forms such as intimate relationship femicide, lesbicide, racial femicide, honor-related killings, femicide, and dowry-related femicide. It is a major violation of human rights as it is the leading cause of premature deaths of women. In order to solve this, solidarity is necessary as the change comes from the people living in a society.

Femicide is a complex phenomenon which can be examined and approached from several aspects. It is spread throughout the world and many organizations are involved into solving it, this study guide will delve into said aspects, and examine the ways by which it can be resolved.

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Femicide (or feminicide)<sup>2</sup>

“Femicide is generally understood to involve intentional murder of women because they are women, but broader definitions include any killings of women or girls.”

### Gender-related killings<sup>3</sup>

Gender-related homicides are those that have as their primary motivation or result in gender-based prejudice. Defining such killings has been done with terms like femicide and feminicide, among others.

### Violence<sup>4</sup>

An act of physical force that results in or is intended to result in harm. Violence can cause physical, psychological, or both types of harm.

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<sup>2</sup> “Understanding and addressing violence against women | WHO”  
[https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/77421/WHO\\_RHR\\_12.38\\_eng.pdf](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/77421/WHO_RHR_12.38_eng.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> “Gender-related killings of women and girls | OHCHR”  
[https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/WRGS/OnePagers/Gender\\_motivated\\_killings.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/WRGS/OnePagers/Gender_motivated_killings.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> “violence | behaviour | Britannica” <https://www.britannica.com/topic/violence>

### Victim<sup>5</sup>

Someone or something who has been harmed, destroyed, died, or suffered as a result of someone else's actions

### Abuse<sup>6</sup>

Abuse refers to the wrong use or handling of anything, usually for the purpose of unfairly or improperly gaining advantage. Physical or verbal abuse, harm, assault, violation, rape, unjust acts, crimes, or other forms of hostility are all examples of abuse.

### Gender based violence (GBV)<sup>7</sup>

Any act of gender-based violence, whether public or private, that causes or is likely to cause bodily, sexual, or psychological pain or suffering to women, including threats of such actions, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty.

### Gender Inequality<sup>8</sup>

Gender inequality is when one sex or gender is consistently privileged or prioritized over another due to discrimination based on sex or gender. Gender equality is a fundamental human right, and discrimination based on gender is a violation of that right.

### Sexism<sup>9</sup>

Prejudice or discrimination based on one's sex or gender is known as sexism. Sexism can harm everybody, but women and girls are the ones who are most affected. It's been related to stereotypes and gender roles, and it could involve the assumption that one sex or gender is fundamentally superior to the other.

### Patriarchy<sup>10</sup>

Patriarchy is a social system in which men dominate responsibilities such as political leadership, moral authority, social privilege, and property control.

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<sup>5</sup> "VICTIM | meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary" <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/victim>

<sup>6</sup> "ABUSE | meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary" <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/abuse>

<sup>7</sup> "UNHCR - Gender-based Violence" <https://www.unhcr.org/gender-based-violence.html>

<sup>8</sup> "Gender Discrimination Causes Inequality Between Girls and Boys Around the World | Save the Children" <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/how-gender-discrimination-impacts-boys-and-girls>

<sup>9</sup> "Sexism Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster" <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sexism>

<sup>10</sup> "Patriarchy Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster" <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/patriarchy>

## Misogyny <sup>11</sup>

Experiencing, displaying or being characterized by hostility or bias against women and girls.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The term femicide was first used in the 1800s in the United Kingdom to describe the murder of women. Afterwards, it was used in the 1970s by Diana Russell, when it was developed to raise awareness about the violent murders of women and to refer to the murdering of females by males just because they are females. Following that, "femicide" was described as "the misogynous killing of women by men motivated by hatred, disdain, pleasure, or a sense of ownership over women, founded in historically uneven power relations between women and men" in the first anthology on "femicide" released in 1992. "Femicide" was defined as "the gender-based murder of a woman" in a 2006 report by the United Nations Secretary General.

Note, however, that even though offenders of femicides are men, in some cases women can also be offenders of femicides; sometime acting as "agents of patriarchy".

In 2017, a total of 87,000 women were slain on purpose. Moreover, 64% of the women murdered were killed by intimate partners or family members (50,000 women). In 2017, more than a third of the women killed intentionally were killed by their current or former intimate partner, someone they would usually trust, implying that 137 women around the globe are brutally murdered everyday by a family member.

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<sup>11</sup> "Misogyny Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster" <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/misogyny>

<sup>12</sup> "Data collection on femicide | Europa" [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cros/system/files/eige\\_presentationfemicidedatacollection.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cros/system/files/eige_presentationfemicidedatacollection.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> "Global study on homicide-gender related killing of women and girls | UNODC" [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/GSH2018/GSH18\\_Gender-related\\_killing\\_of\\_women\\_and\\_girls.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/GSH2018/GSH18_Gender-related_killing_of_women_and_girls.pdf)

These data reveal that, despite the fact that men are the most common homicide victims worldwide, women continue to bear the brunt of lethal harassment as a result of gender biases and inequalities. Because of their status and role as women, many "femicide" victims are murdered by current and past partners, but they are also killed by fathers, brothers, mothers, sisters, and other family members. The deaths of people killed by intimate partners are frequently the climax of previous gender-related violence, rather than random or spontaneous acts. Among the motivations are jealousy and the fear of abandonment.

### Types of femicides

Femicide is defined by Diana Russell as intimate relationship femicide, lesbicide, racial femicide, honor killing-related femicide, dowry, and other forms of violence against women.



Figure 2: statistics of femicides and men homicides<sup>13</sup>

### Intimate femicide

The first one is intimate partner femicide. This category is currently the most well-documented on a global scale. A woman is killed by her current or former partner, usually after a previous abusive relationship. According to studies, attempting to flee an abusive relationship, as well as pursuing divorce or estrangement, are acts that put a woman at the highest risk of being murdered by an intimate partner. The perpetrator's motivation stems from a sense of ownership over the victim, which is founded on uneven and strict gender stereotypes; in some cases, the perpetrator is also emotionally incapable of imagining life without his partner.

### Non-intimate femicide

The second one is family related femicide. Family relatives (non-intimate) carry out this type of femicide and can be subdivided into other categories:

#### Femicides in the name of honor

"Femicides in the name of honor": when a family believes the victim's behavior has violated strict patriarchal rules in a way that harms the family's honor. Honor killings are frequently done by relatives (including women). The victim is a young woman who refuses to marry

the man her family has chosen for her, or who has had or is accused of having extramarital or premarital affairs. In several cases, the lady killed had previously been raped or sexually assaulted. In nations like Afghanistan, India, Palestine, and Tunisia (UNESCO, 2019), as well as ethnic communities in several European and North American countries, high numbers of femicide instances in the name of honor have been documented. This sort of femicide is frequently undetected and undocumented.

#### Dowry Deaths

“Dowry death”: In India, official figures from 2019 show that the Indian Penal Code documented more than 7000 “dowry deaths” and more than 5 000 “abetments to suicide” against women. The 'dowry' is the money and valuables that the bride's family provides to the groom's family in the social system of prearranged weddings. Dowry deaths are the deaths of married women who are murdered or driven to suicide by their husbands and in-laws due to persistent harassment and torture over a dowry disagreement, making the women's houses the most unsafe place for them to be.

#### Femicide-suicide

“Femicide-suicide”: intentional killing of a woman followed by the murderer's suicide has been documented in practically every European country, as well as Australia, Ghana, Moldavia, Turkey, the United States of America, and South Africa. According to Romanian research, up to 67 percent of all femicide-suicide cases are done by male intimate partners, and up to 97 percent of cases are committed by relatives. Also, over half of the cases are committed in the victim's home after she has divorced her would-be offender. When she has children, 30 percent of the time the perpetrator targets them as well. This type of femicide is underreported, highlighting the importance of focusing on special prevention measures for offenders with mental health issues and adult women leaving violent and abusive situations, when the danger of femicide is at its highest.

#### Human trafficking femicides

Femicide because of human trafficking: This refers to the murder of a woman during the recruiting, transit, and reception of humans using threats, violence, and other aggressive measures, as well as kidnapping, deception, and/or power abuse with the purpose of exploitation. Individuals are frequently trafficked into prostitution or the sex trade business, forced labor, slavery/practices, and other illegal acts, notably women and children.

### Femicide in war/conflict settings

Femicide in war and conflict settings: The methodical assault of women and mass rape are used to demolish local communities and humiliate opponents during times of war, genocide, and armed conflict. Rape victims may be marginalized and killed as a result of their experience. Femicides have been reported in conflict settings such as Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, ISIS groups, and Rwanda, according to the Academic Council on the United Nations System. "These unreported gender-based killings of women and girls may dramatically increase the global number of victims," according to the UNODC.

### Femicides because of homophobia/transphobia

Femicide of homosexual women: homosexual women are still tortured and murdered. Sometimes, corrective rapes may take place. Corrective rape is a hate crime that involves forced sexual interaction with a homosexual woman. Corrective rape aims to "fix" the victim's sexual orientation and make them heterosexual. In certain situations, this has resulted in death.

Femicide of transgender women: transphobia is one of the most serious obstacles in gathering data on femicide against transgender women. When a transgender woman is the subject of femicide, the case is frequently left unsolved because the authorities prefer to use their birth name rather than their real and chosen names, making identification difficult. This frequently leads to an inability to comprehend trans women's abuse as being motivated by gender and/or gender identity. The lack of legal gender recognition frequently prevents trans women from receiving gender-sensitive assault prevention and reparation measures. The perpetrators often believe that the victim has violated traditional sexual or gender norms.

### Witch Hunting

Witch hunting: Over 200 people, largely women, have perished as a result of witch-hunting in rural Assam (India) over the previous 20 years, according to journalists and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Witch hunts are also carried out in Nepal, the Pacific Islands, and Tanzania, among other places. While men who practice traditional healing are admired, women who practice it may be pursued, eventually facing violence and death. In 2018, the Assam government passed a bill prohibiting witch-hunting, and NGOs currently indicate that the number of deaths is gradually decreasing. Witch-hunting isn't just about superstition; young and older women are also targeted when they buy land or property.

### Femicide because of racism

Femicide because of racism: This describes the murders motivated by hatred or disapproval of a woman's ethnic or racial origins, as well as her genetic characteristics.



### Femicide because of sex work

Femicide in the context of sex work or prostitution: the execution of a woman engaged in sex industry, also known as prostitution. Patriarchy, racism, colonization, and societal stigmatization are some of the important factors that can be used to analyze women's vulnerability to femicide.

### Femicide perpetuated by women

Femicide committed by women: Diana Russell has created a three-category categorization for female offenders of femicide. The first type is a woman acting as a patriarchal agent, which can include dowry-related murders, female infanticide, and deaths caused by genital mutilation. Females who may be operating as agents of male perpetrators, such as accessories in gang-related femicide and 'honor' or dowry-related femicide, fall into the second group. Females acting on their own behalf, such as those motivated by envy, financial, criminal, or ideological actions, are included in the last group.

### Motives in different societies

Femicide is a global issue as it has persisted for centuries, and it is encountered worldwide. In eastern societies, many kids, boys and girls, do not have access to education, thus, the phenomenon is not that easily mitigated. Therefore, change does not take place, and practices that resemble medieval practices take place, such as witch-hunting. In eastern societies, motives are related with the traditional roles that are maintained. Women are often not allowed to receive an education and have trouble being independent and escaping their traditional roles. Women, even by the governmental mechanisms, are considered inferior, and are overlooked many times and do not get the justice they deserve. Also, legal frameworks created do not provide full support and protection to women as loopholes can be found, and do not cover all aspects of femicides. As a result, lack of education and inaccessibility to justice lead to all types of femicide occurring today such as femicides in the name of honor and dowry deaths. Yet, in western societies, women often give up their traditional roles and the majority has access to education. Moreover, in recent years, more governments develop initiatives to eliminate femicides. Thus, practices such as "witch-hunting" do not take place anymore as many women have escaped from their traditional roles.

### Covid-19 and femicides

Covid-19 has increased Gender Based Violence (GBV) and femicides. Before COVID-19, 35% of women in the world had already experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate relationship or sexual violence from a non-partner. GBV and femicide rates have risen dramatically as a result of the worldwide coronavirus outbreak. Between January and June 2020, GBV incidence in Liberia climbed by 50 %, with over 600 rape cases reported. Similarly, Turkey has declared a "state of emergency" as a

result of the pandemic, with 36 women dead and an additional 11 suspected fatalities in July alone.

One woman is killed by a man every three days in the United Kingdom, a rate of femicide that has remained steady for over a decade. As a result, there is an obvious link between the two, with femicide and GBV rates being exceedingly high and rising since the commencement of the COVID-19 epidemic. The COVID-19 pandemic must not continue to obscure the GBV shadow pandemic, which must be addressed if thousands more women and girls are to be saved.

Women and girls living with the risk of GBV have become more isolated as a result of stay-at-home policies. Women with abusive husbands and relatives were shut off from friends and family when lockdown measures were implemented, trapping them with their abusers. Women have become more vulnerable to violence because of rising economic instability and unemployment rates around the world, as well as rising stress and substance abuse. Abusers likely felt a loss of power as a result of losing their employment and being unable to pay for their families, leading them to use more violence as a means of exerting control and domination. Women who are already more vulnerable to prejudice, such as LGBTQ+ women, Indigenous women, African American women, displaced migrants, and refugee women, have suffered extra hazards as a result of COVID-19, and have faced greater barriers in receiving the aid and resources that they need. Members in the LGBTQ+ group, for example, have the additional barrier of fearing discrimination and skepticism as a result of their participation in the community, while seeking police assistance for domestic abuse. This makes it much more difficult for residents of this community to get the assistance and resources they require to deal with domestic abuse. Domestic abuse is not standard, and this must be taken into account in the fight against gendered violence during the COVID-19 epidemic.

### [Diana Russell](#)

Diana Russell was a feminist writer, activist and one of the first people to use the term femicide. Russell spent two years lobbying other feminists and was eventually successful in establishing the first International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women in 1976 in Brussels, Belgium. 2,000 women from 40 nations attended the four-day conference, which featured individual women from many countries testifying to their personal experiences of various forms of abuse and oppression due to their gender. Russell's study and writings focused primarily on rape and other types of men's sexual exploitation and abuse of women. Russell stated in her book "The Politics of Rape" that rape was a demonstration of socially determined masculinity rather than abnormal social conduct. "Rape in Marriage, Sexual Exploitation: Rape, Child Sexual Abuse, and Workplace Harassment" are among her other works in this field. Russell's book "The Secret Trauma: Incest in the Lives of Girls and Women" was published in

1986. It was one of the earliest investigations of incestuous sexual abuse to be published in a scholarly journal. Her contribution in today's view on feminism was great as she wrote books that helped women find their path in society.

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

### Turkey

Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention jeopardizes women's and girls' basic human rights. Women and girls are deprived of a legal framework that protected them from all forms of violence and stressed the need of prosecution of perpetrators. Turkey notified the Secretary-General of its intention to withdraw on March 22, 2021, and the Secretary-General declared that the denunciation would happen on July 1, 2021. The withdrawal has been condemned both domestically and internationally, notably by the country's opposition parties, foreign governments, the Council of Europe, non-governmental organizations, and social media users. The Turkish Presidency blamed the LGBTQ+ community for the withdrawal from the convention in an official statement, claiming that the Istanbul Convention was hijacked by a group of persons who wanted to legitimize homosexuality, which is incompatible with Turkey's social and family values. As a result, the decision to withdraw was made.

### India

In India, there are several different types of femicide. Female infanticide, the hunger and violence-related deaths of girls under the age of six, the murdering of women due to forced abortions, honor killings, dowry murders, and witch hangings are among them. In India, many femicides are committed against women. Strong patriarchal norms are retained in many sections of the region, despite progressive legal reforms, and help to reinforce women's subjugation. The high value placed on women's virginity and their subordination in society, according to the Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on violence against women, are important causes driving gender-motivated homicides of women throughout Asia. While the Indian Penal Code now expressly forbids dowry, the number of women reported to have died as a result of dowry has nearly doubled from 4,836 to 8,383 in twenty years (1990–2009). The code has also been condemned for having a limited impact on the prosecution of perpetrators, as evidenced by the ten percent conviction rate. Suicide is the primary cause of mortality among Indian women in reproductive age, with factors including marital abuse, forced marriage, widow expulsion, and a lack of property rights. In this setting, young girls and women are rarely accepted and respected, and family support is typically lacking.

## Greece

The Greek government is facing mounting pressure to make femicide a criminal offense in the country's penal code, following widespread indignation over the rising and unprecedented number of women cruelly murdered by their spouses. According to state-run media, two women were killed by their spouses from 6-10 December 2021, bringing the total number of women killed by their husbands to 17 since January 2021. Both men are accused of telling police that they killed their wives because they were afraid, they would leave them. The severity of the deaths has sparked calls for heavier punishments in Greece to deal with these hate crimes.

## Brazil

Brazil has made significant progress in recent years in combating gender-based violence (GBV) by introducing breakthrough legislation on domestic violence, femicide, and other types of violence against women at the federal level. However, Brazil remains one of the most hazardous countries for women, and much more needs to be done, especially at the subnational level. This infographic looks at state-level measures in the states with the highest rates of femicide to see how different state actors are combating gender-based violence over such a broad and diverse region. The 2006 Maria da Penha Law, which adopted a wide range of measures to prevent and prosecute domestic violence and is likely the country's most sweeping legislative endeavor in the GBV sector, was passed by Brazil's federal government over the previous several years. Since 2006, the government has enacted new legislation, such as the Law of Femicide (2015) and Law 14.188 (2021), which make femicide and psychological gender-based violence illegal.

## United States of America (USA)

When it comes to preventing and reacting to gender-based violence around the world, the Department of State uses a multi-pronged strategy. The Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR) and the Secretary's Policy Guidance on Promoting Gender Equality to Achieve our National Security and Foreign Policy Objectives from March 2012 lead these efforts. The Department of State's efforts to combat gender-based violence in conflict-affected contexts, as stated in the US National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, are likewise aligned with, and strive to enhance, this strategy and implementation plan. The accessibility to guns in the United States has also had a significant impact on femicide, accounting for 67.9% of all deaths.

## United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Education is one of the most effective weapons against violence, particularly in rural communities where women and girls are less likely to disclose acts of abuse against them. UNICEF is a strong supporter of violence prevention education and proactive early intervention to disrupt gender-based violence loops. In humanitarian emergencies, UNICEF strives to prevent gender-based violence and to protect and

advise victims of abuse. Many women and girls are left alone, not only as victims of domestic violence, but also as victims of a court system and a community that fails them due to incapacity or ignorance.

#### United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Gender-based violence prevention and response programming, as well as risk mitigation across all sectors, are life-saving and institutional priorities for UNHCR. They collaborate with partners, governments, and communities to address GBV and deliver high-quality prevention, mitigation, and response activities. Their main goal is to protect the rights and well-being of refugees and other persons who have been forced to escape their homes. Femicides can sometimes be avoided this way. They encourage states to respect their obligations to guarantee that vulnerable persons are safeguarded from GBV. They prioritize two mutually reinforcing aims to address GBV across all of their operations: GBV risk reduction for all persons of concern and to ensure that all GBV survivors have timely and appropriate access to excellent services that fit their requirements.

#### United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime gathers statistics from Member States on intimate partner/family-related homicide as a reference for gender-related deaths of women and the broader concept of "femicide." This indication includes females who have been murdered by current or past intimate partners or other family members. In addition, the UNODC is implementing a number of initiatives in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice around the globe, including trainings for police officers, evaluating proposals, promoting vital services for survivors, and mentoring judges to enhance criminal justice systems.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

<b>Date of Event</b>	<b>Description of event</b>
1801	The term "femicide" was first used in England to describe the "killing of a woman"
1848	The term "femicide" was published in Wharton's Law Lexicon
1976	In 1976, while "testifying in the first International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women in Belgium," Diana Russell published the term at the Crimes Against Women Tribunal.
1993	UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in 1993

2006	Femicide" was defined as "the gender-based murder of a woman" and "the murder of women because they are women "in a 2006 report by the United Nations Secretary General.
November 26 <sup>th</sup> 2012	On November 26, 2012, a conference was conducted at the United Nations Office in Vienna to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.
2015	Law of femicide passed in Brazil, making femicides illegal.
August 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	The United Nations Human Rights Council appointed Ms. Dubravka Šimonovic as Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes, and consequences in June 2015 for a three-year term
2018	Dubravka Šimonovic mandate was extended for another three years
March 2020	GBV and femicide rates have risen dramatically as a result of the worldwide coronavirus outbreak.
March 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2021	Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared his country's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention
July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	The Secretary-General denounced Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan action
January 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	Pakistan passed the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Amendment) Bill, 2022

## PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

### Special UN Rapporteur

The United Nations Human Rights Council appointed Ms. Dubravka Šimonovic as Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes, and consequences in June 2015 for a three-year term (maximum tenure of six years). She began her term on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, and her mandate was extended for another three years in 2018. The Special Rapporteur approaches the elimination of violence from a "comprehensive and universal" perspective, which includes identifying causes of violence in the civil, cultural, economic, political, and social sectors. Governments, treaty bodies, specialized agencies, other special rapporteurs, and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations provide information on violence against women, and the Special Rapporteur makes recommendations to minimize all forms of violence against women at all levels of government. The Special Rapporteur's work is guided by the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. In 2015, Ms. Šimonovic called on all states to combat femicide, or the murdering of women because of their gender. She submitted a report to the United Nations General Assembly on 'Modalities for the establishment of femicides/gender-related homicides' on September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016, and urged that 'Femicide Watches' be established

around the world. Intimate partner and family member femicides, as well as other forms of femicide, would be separated from general homicide data, according to the report. A prototype of such a 'watch' was presented at the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice's 26th session in Vienna, Austria, in May 2017. Georgia started its first European Femicide Watch in November 2017.

#### [Vienna Declaration on Femicide \(E/CN.15/2013/NGO/1\)](#)

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012, a conference was conducted at the United Nations Office in Vienna to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The declaration recognizes that femicide is the killing of women and girls because of their gender, which can include, among other things, the murder of women as a result of intimate partner violence, the torture and misogynist slaying of women, targeted killing of women and girls in the context of armed conflict; dowry-related killings of women, the killing of women and girls because of their sexual orientation and gender identity, the murdering of women and girls in the name of "honor". It also stresses that traditions and culture cannot be used to justify violations of women's human rights, including the right to life and the right to be free of violence.

#### [Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women \(DEVAW\)](#)

The United Nations General Assembly endorsed the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in 1993. Physical, sexual, and psychological violence, as well as violence in the household and in society, are all covered. The Declaration distinguishes three types of violence against women: state-sanctioned violence, such as assault against women in detention, and warfare-related violence, violence by the general population such as rape, sexual harassment, women's trafficking, and workplace intimidation and violence in the family and private level such as incest and selective abortions. Violence against women is based in historically unequal power relations between men and women, according to the Declaration. It goes on to say that violence against women is one of the major social mechanisms by which women are driven into a subordinate position in comparison to men. As a result, UN member states are asked to pass legislation against violence, try to prevent it, and alleviate the position of women who have been victimized.

#### [United Nations Population Fund \(UNFPA\)](#)

UNFPA works in nations all around the world to combat a variety of harmful practices that can lead to gender-based violence. Such approaches necessitate a high level of sensitivity to local cultural, religious, and traditional beliefs and behaviors while never losing sight of the need to adhere to rights-based approaches. Multi-stakeholders in more than 156 countries get technical help and cooperation in this area to aid in the implementation of legislation and programs aimed at achieving long-term gender equality. Some of the countries that benefit from UNFPA are Haiti, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Nepal, India, Central African Republic and Turkey.

### The Istanbul Convention<sup>13</sup>

The Istanbul Convention, also known as the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, is a human rights treaty established by the Council of Europe to combat violence towards women and domestic abuse. It was opened for signature on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in Istanbul, Turkey. The convention strives to prevent violence, protect victims, and put an end to perpetrator impunity. As of March 2019, 45 countries including the European Union has signed it. Turkey was the first country to ratify the treaty on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012, followed by 34 additional countries between 2013 and 2021.

### European Union (EU) with United Nations (UN)

The European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) have launched The Spotlight Project, a new multi-year worldwide initiative aimed at ending all kinds of violence against women and girls (VAWG). The Initiative is named by the fact that it focuses attention on this issue, bringing it to the forefront and putting it at the heart of efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, as outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. An initial investment of almost EUR 500 million was made, with the EU contributing the majority of the funds. To widen the Initiative's reach and scope, other donors and partners were invited to participate. The delivery method is a UN multi-stakeholder trust fund, which is administered by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office with support from core UN agencies UNDP, UNFPA, and UN Women, and overseen by the UN Secretary-Executive General's Office.

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

### Statistics

To prevent femicide, researchers need comparable statistics to examine and compare what works and what doesn't in different nations. Researchers will be able to recognize patterns and the gravity of the situation when they have better statistics, and they will be able to make accurate policy decisions. Statistical offices such as Eurostat and other organs can help combat femicides and have more and accurate statistics. Furthermore, it is important to raise awareness and advocate for better data collecting in areas where femicide data is scarce. Better training of officials is also needed in order to meliorate documentation od femicides.

### Education

An increasing body of research supports the usefulness of school-based peer initiatives in changing attitudes around gender-based violence and ending violence

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.edf-feph.org/the-istanbul-convention/>



against women and girls. These interventions in schools with boys and girls aim to disrupt socialization procedures in which children witness violence at home, as well as gender stereotypes that normalize violence. They also create areas where girls at danger of femicide or practices that perpetuate it can speak out or be identified and help and protection can be provided.

### Sanctions on nations

Sanctions can be one of the most effective ways to decrease femicides from taking place. Sanctions on nations who have not been bringing enough attention to the phenomenon could help mitigate femicides. This would pressure governments to make initiatives and prevent women murders. These could involve economic sanctions, diplomatic sanctions etc.

### Judicial and Policy reforms

In order to decrease the number of victims, it is necessary to make judicial and policy reforms. It is crucial to improve gender equality in education, governance, labor force participation, and incomes through implementing policies and programs and also to advocate for a zero-tolerance stance on violence against women and girls on a global scale. Moreover, it is necessary to implement measures that increase support and reparation for women and girls who have been victims of abuse and to fight for laws that will allow for the investigation and prosecution of femicide. Femicides could be a separate crime from homicides as they have specific characteristics. The UN could also establish a body which ensures that these reforms take place and that all countries and their institutions adhere by the law.

### Change of social stereotypes

Femicide will only be eradicated once the detrimental underlying norms and mindsets that underpin it are changed. In recent years, local activities and behavior change have received more attention. This indicates a shift in GBV programming, which has previously centered on either responding to the needs of survivors or leading initiatives aimed at lowering the frequency. Social norm-changing programs can take many different forms, from community debate to the provision of safe spaces for girls and women to freely voice their problems and discuss what empowerment means to them. The objective is for a facilitator to gradually educate groups on the negative effects that certain behaviors have on girls' well-being. Community radio and theater are increasingly frequently used to teach new gender-equal perspectives of girls and women. Also, it is important to promote the economic independence of women as it is an important step towards equality.

### Increase access to justice

Processes and mechanisms are strongly important in Access to Justice programs. Following VAWG, initiatives focus on enhancing and expanding opportunities for

people to report and seek legal justice (for example, female-only police stations, additional local courthouses, and police and judicial training). However, delegates should also consider the cultural, economic, and political hurdles that prevent people (mostly women and girls) from reporting and seeking justice. Many of the country's mechanism are male dominated and do not pay enough attention to GBV. Thus, NGO's can play an important role in these societies.

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