

EU-Korea Civil Society Organisation – CSO - Network

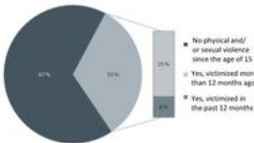
Information sheet on violence against women



Violence against women encompasses crimes that disproportionately impact on women, such as sexual assault, rape and domestic violence. It is a violation of women's fundamental rights with respect to dignity and equality.¹

A few facts and figures²

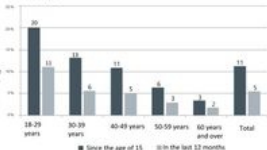
Figure 1: Women experiencing physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15 and in the 12 months before the interview, EU-28(%)



Note: Based on all respondents (N=42,002)

Source: FRA gender-based violence against women survey data set, 2012

Figure 2: Forms of sexual cyberharassment since the age of 15 and in the 12 months before the survey, including unwanted sexually explicit emails or SMS messages that were offensive, by age group, EU28(%)



Note: Out of all women excluding cases where the answer to the question on cyberharassment was not applicable (n=35,820). 6,084 respondents answered 'not applicable' on both items; information on age was missing in 98 cases

Source: FRA gender-based violence against women survey data set, 2012

Violence against women in Europe in 2014³

- 33% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence.
- 55% of women have been sexually harassed.
- 20% of young women have been harassed online.

The EU protects women and girls from gender-based violence through legislation and practical measures on victims' rights.

Main EU legislation⁴

- Directive 2006/54/EC of 5 July 2006 on the implementation of the principle of **equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation**. This directive defines direct and indirect discrimination, harassment and sexual harassment. It also encourages employers to take preventive measures to combat sexual harassment.
- Directive 2011/36/EU of 5 April 2011 on **preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims**. It provides for the approximation of sanctions for trafficking in human beings across Member States and of support measures for victims, and calls upon the Member States to 'consider taking measures to establish as a criminal offence the use of services which are the objects of exploitation [...] with the knowledge that the person is a victim [of trafficking]' in order to discourage demand; it also establishes the office of the European anti-trafficking coordinator.

¹ Source: https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-survey-factsheet_en.pdf

² Source: https://www.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/fragData/studies/ATA/2018/33530/TPRS_ATA201833530_EN.pdf

³ Source: https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2014-survey-main-results_apr14_en.pdf

⁴ Source: <https://www.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/factsheets/fs/chart/53/equality-between-men-and-women>



- Directive 2012/29/EU of 25 October 2012 **establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime**.⁵ It establishes minimum standards on the rights, protection and support of victims of crime in the EU. This directive puts strong emphasis on access to appropriate support, including specialised support for women and children who have been victims of different forms of violence. EU countries are, for example, required to provide appropriate access to shelters for domestic violence victims and emergency support for victims of sexual violence. It also establishes an individual assessment mechanism to determine if special measures are required to protect particularly vulnerable victims during criminal proceedings.⁶
- At the international level, the EU has signed the **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence**, the **Istanbul Convention**. The next step, currently discussed by the Council of the European Union, is ratification.

EU NON.NO.NEIN' campaign – Say NO!⁷

This campaign to stop violence against women was carried out by the European Commission from 2016 to end 2018 with the aim of raising awareness about the issue of violence against women, drawing attention to the work done by a variety of stakeholders across the EU, disseminating good practices and connecting stakeholders across borders. The European Commission provided 15 million euros in funding for Member States, local governments, relevant professionals and civil society organisations across Europe to intensify their actions and campaigns to combat violence against women.⁸

Cyber violence against women (VAW)

To date, cyber VAW has not been fully conceptualised, defined or legislated against at EU level. In order to better understand the nature and prevalence of cyber VAW, **The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)** has conducted desk research that aimed to define certain harmful forms of cyber VAW, identify and analyse existing research and gaps in research, assess the availability of survey and administrative data on the phenomenon, and identify relevant good practices in EU Member States.⁹

In the field of EU external action

- The **EU Guidelines on Violence Against Women** were adopted in 2008 to affirm the EU's commitment to promote and protect the rights of women in non EU countries.
- The EU addresses the issue of violence against women in its specific dialogues on human rights with non-EU countries.
- The EU supports non-EU CSOs' projects to combat violence against women, through several programmes, in particular the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.¹⁰

A few CSOs' work on violence against women

- The **European Women's Lobby (EWL)** is the largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the European Union, working to promote women's rights and equality between women and men and representing a total of more than 2000 associations. It among others produces monitoring publications and lobbying materials on various aspects of violence against women in Europe, with support of the experts of the **EWL Observatory on Violence Against Women** (professionals, women's rights defenders, front-line NGOs activists, etc. from more than 30 countries).
- The **European Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls** is a strategic alliance of around 30 cross-sectoral European NGOs and civil society networks working for social justice and equality in Europe. Addressing the issue of violence against women and girls from different angles, they have joined forces to advocate together for the signature and ratification of the Istanbul Convention by the EU and all Member States and for a meaningful 2017 EU year of focused actions against VAW. They for instance produced a **Joint Factsheet**.

5 Source: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1421925131614&uri=CELEX:32012L0029>

6 Source: https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-based-violence/ending-gender-based-violence_en

7 Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/justice/saynotopain/eu-actions.html>

8 Source: https://europea.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-18-6501_en.htm

9 Source: <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/cyber-violence-against-women>

10 Source: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/human-rights-and-governance/gender_en

- The [Women against Violence Europe Network\(WAVE\)](#) is a network of European women's NGOs with 145 members in 46 European countries working in the field of combating violence against women and children. It among others mapped support services such as helplines, women's centres and shelters available to women survivors in Europe.
- The [European Network Addressing Cyber Violence\(ENAC\)](#) is a project under construction aiming at becoming the umbrella organisation fighting cyber violence in Europe.

For more information

- The [European Institute for Gender Equality\(EIGE\)](#) is an autonomous body of the European Union, established to strengthen the promotion of gender equality, as well as the fight against discrimination based on sex. The EIGE Gender Statistics Database contains data on gender-based violence. It also published a [Report on Cyber Violence against women and girls](#). EIGE has carried out an analysis of the EU Victims' Rights Directive from a gender perspective and an analysis of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive from the perspective of a victim of gender-based violence.¹¹
- The [EU Agency for Fundamental Rights](#) collects and analyses information and data; provides assistance and expertise; and communicates to raise rights awareness. In 2014 it published a very large [Survey on Violence Against Women in Europe](#).¹²

¹¹ Source: <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/analysis-eu-directives-gendered-perspective>

¹² Source: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/data-and-maps/violence-against-women-survey/survey-information>