



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women



Informal briefing on UN-Women's work on
ending violence against women and femicide



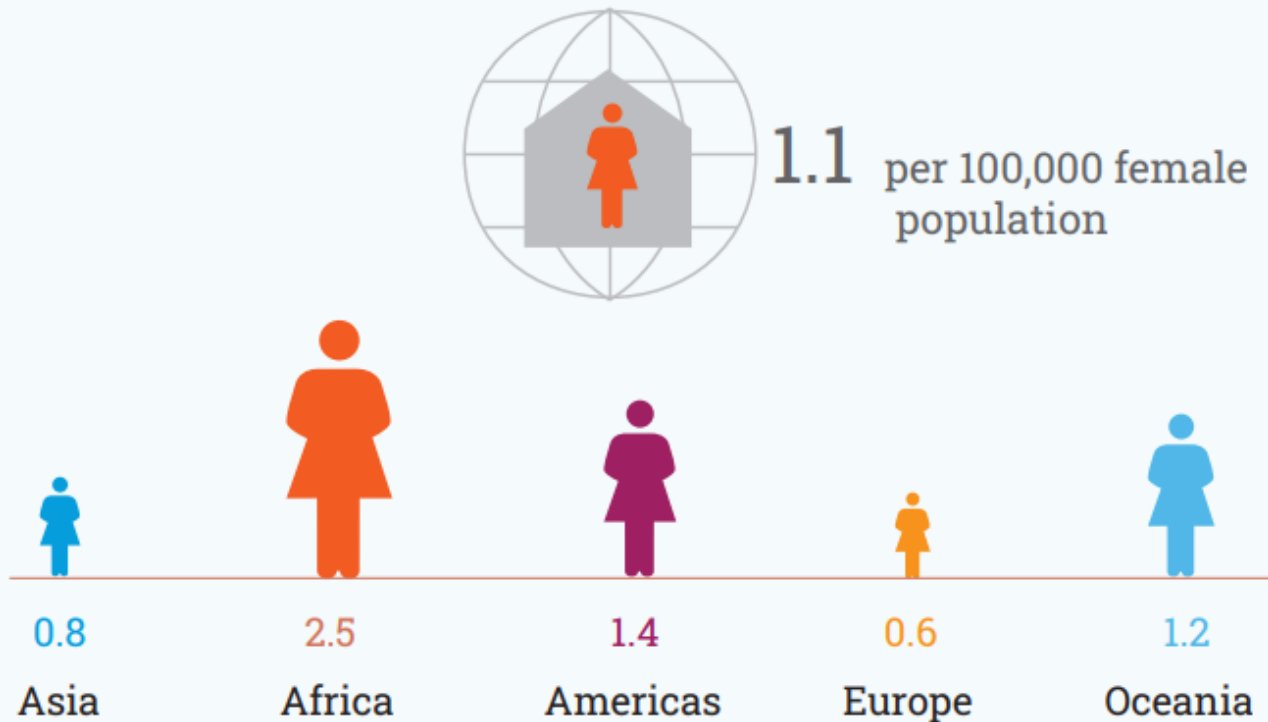
*Executive Board of UN-Women
January 26, 2023*

Global estimates of gender-related killings of women and girls in the private sphere in 2021: Improving data to improve responses (UN-Women and UNODC, 2022)

- ❑ Globally, an estimated **81,100 women and girls were killed intentionally in 2021.**
- ❑ The overall number of **female homicides has remained largely unchanged** over the past decade.
- ❑ Approximately **56% of all female homicides are committed by intimate partners or other family members.**
- ❑ More than **five women or girls are killed every hour** by someone in their own family.
- ❑ **Four in ten female homicides have no contextual information** to allow them to be identified and counted as gender-related. **Data on gender-related killings committed in the public sphere is particularly scarce.**

THE MAGNITUDE OF FEMICIDE

Rates of female intimate partner/family-related homicide per 100,000 female population
2021



Femicide is the extreme end point on a continuum of violence against women

- ❑ **Available figures** are likely to **underestimate the magnitude**. Femicide is a crime that continues to be **under-detected**.
- ❑ Often it is **not appropriately classified** as such by authorities, due to lack of adequate legislation and standards.
- ❑ Data **gaps and inconsistencies** exist in definitions of femicide particularly when perpetrated **outside the private sphere**.
- ❑ **Early intervention and prevention strategies** are critical but often inadequate.
- ❑ Survivor-centered **support and protection** are often deficient as policing and justice services are **not gender responsive**.

- ❑ **UNGA resolutions 68/191** (2013) and **70/176** (2015): Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls
- ❑ **CEDAW's General Recommendation 35** on gender-based violence against women (2017), updating GR 19
- ❑ **Call by the UN Special Rapporteur** on VAWG, its causes and consequences, to collect data on femicide rates through the establishment of a “femicide watch” and observatories (2015-2016)
- ❑ **Latin American Model Protocol** for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (femicide/feminicide) (2014)
- ❑ **Inter-American Model Law** to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate the Violent Death of Women and Girls (Femicide/Femicide) (2019)
- ❑ **Statistical framework** for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls (also referred to as “femicide/feminicide”), endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission (2022)

(1) STRENGTHENING FEMICIDE MEASUREMENT

*UN-Women worked with UNODC to develop the **Statistical framework for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls (“femicide/feminicide”)** endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2022*

Plans are now underway to pilot the statistical framework at country level. Beyond official data from justice and other sectors, other data sources can help understand the femicide magnitude and associated factors to develop adequate policies and programmes

- Mexico**: UN Women has worked with the Federal Government, the Women’s Ministry, Congress and other key actors since 2007 on a series of research studies and publications on feminicide
- Data from the media**: Interactive map for Albania, Montenegro and Serbia
- Femicide Watch in Georgia**
- Big data in Latin America**: Brazil, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador

(2) PREVENTING FEMICIDE

UN-Women's prevention work focuses on (i) Promoting positive and gender-equitable social norms; (ii) Working with men and boys to transform patriarchal masculinities and practices; (iii) Working with institutions to develop equitable institutional cultures

- ❑ **Mexico: Capacity strengthening of journalists** on gender sensitive communication
- ❑ **Colombia: Improved femicide risk assessments.** Revision of the femicide risk assessment protocol and tools used by prosecutors and commissioners, to better identify women at high risk of femicide and develop safety plans
- ❑ **The handbook on gender-responsive police services for women and girls subject to violence (2021): Addressing institutional social norms**

UN-Women promotes and positions the issue of femicide prevention and redress through all our advocacy work.

(3) CRIMINALIZATION OF FEMICIDES, ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND GENDER RESPONSIVE POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Gender-related killings of women and girls are not inevitable. They can and must be prevented through early intervention, access to survivor-centered support and protection as well as ensuring gender responsive policing and justice services. Introducing femicide as a separate criminal offense into national legislations is a central step towards prevention and access to justice.

- ❑ **Development and operationalization of the Latin American Model Protocol** for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (femicide/feminicide):
 - ✓ Specialist Gender Network of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (REG-AIAMP) to support adoption of the model protocol.
 - ✓ National Protocol for Investigating Femicides and other Violent Deaths of Women and Girls in Ecuador.
 - ✓ First nationwide online platform for implementing the training course on the Model Protocol in Argentina.
 - ✓ Around 1,000 users trained in a self-pace virtual course on the implementation of the Model Protocol.

- ❑ **Adopting the Model Law**
 - ✓ Currently 18 countries from LAC have introduced femicide into national legislation, 12 of them as a separate criminal offense in their penal codes.

- ❑ **Strengthened knowledge and capacities of Public Ministries for the investigation and litigation of femicides**

- ❑ **Reparations in Mexico**

(4) WORK WITH WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

Women's rights organizations can play a crucial role in preventing VAWG, advocating for and securing normative and policy change, monitoring and holding governments to account and in driving reductions in violence.

- Under the Spotlight Initiative, UN-Women allocated 42 percent, or about USD 76 million of funding to civil society organizations.
- UN-Women supported 539 CSOs globally in 2021 under the Spotlight Initiative, among which 76% are either women-led, women's rights or feminist organisations, and 62% are new partners.
- Technical and financial support was provided to women's rights organizations to undertake monitoring of femicides/feminicides e.g. Femplatz and Women's Research Center for Education and Communication in Serbia, Montenegro and Albania.

- ❑ Work with UNODC to strengthen and **standardize femicide data** collection, analysis and use through the rollout of the statistical framework.
- ❑ Strengthen **legislation**, enhance **access to justice** and eradicate **impunity**.
- ❑ **Facilitate learning and exchanges** between regions to promote model law and protocols on femicide developed in LAC.
- ❑ Reinforce **collaborative work with women's and civil society organizations**.